

NEWPORT BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT – Trevor Kaufman, Penny Frownfelter, John McNaughton, and Jerry Robinson. Harry Fahnestock is absent.

OTHERS PRESENT – Adam Britcher (Solicitor), Robert Hasemeier (Engineer) and Dean Miller (Operations Manager).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – by Chairman Trevor Kaufman at 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

1. CBDG COVID monies – Perry County was allocated funds for the Utility Assistance Program, which will be administered by the Perry County Commissioners Office, but specifics are not yet available.
2. Buffalo Crossing – There was an email from Adam Davis reporting that they will be receiving technical approval from PennDot this week. They will be submitting water line specifications within the next two weeks and will need to coordinate with the Water Authority.
3. PennDot – The Route 22 bridge over Route 34 will have a complete super structure rebuild. The supports will be left in place. The girders and the deck will be removed and they will rebuild the bridge along with a certain amount of roadway. PennDot has been in contact because there are water lines near the northwest side of the bridge. It appears that the lines are outside of the work zone.
4. USDA Meter Financing – Hasemeier was unable to wrap the outstanding invoices into the interim financing loan and so will wait to submit them until after the first two projects are out for bid. He is still working on the specifications for the meter installation and the report for the master meters to be submitted to USDA. The reports will be done by end of February, then go out for bid and could possibly start work by mid-June. The Master Meter brand will have a 30-year life, since the battery can be replaced. The Authority will mail out information regarding the replacement to affected customers. The project will take about six months to complete. The USDA loan will not be completed until the funds from the interim loan have been spent.
5. Well #1 pump replacement – The pump specifications along with a couple of other items are being completed. After paperwork is submitted, the review process will take 6 to 8 weeks and then 3 to 4 weeks for bidding, which will bring the start of construction around the end of May.
6. 2021 engineering rates – The rates are increasing 3 ½ percent for 2021.
7. USDA second loan – Included in the Board packet are projects with capital costs that could be added onto the main loan, as a secondary loan. Membrane replacement, item #6, will need to be done in the next 5 years and the Sixth Street repaving project, item #6, will need to be done next year. The issue is tabled for now.

OPERATIONAL REPORT – Dean Miller

1. Update 5th/6th/Fickes – There are no new complaints.

2. River Plant operation – The plant is continuing to run well, with much more emphasis on cleaning the membranes. The staff are continuing to work in rotation in accordance with COVID protocols.
3. Fairground tapping – Nothing to report.
4. There was substantial time spent working with Hasemeier and his associates on the upcoming projects for Well #1 and the Howe plant.
5. The DEP monitoring calendar has been received for 2021 and is in place. Sampling to meet the requirements has been scheduled.
6. There have been no new breaks this month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Adam Britcher

1. Interim meter loan – The loan paperwork has been approved and is ready for signature by Kaufman and McNaughton. The loan closing is on Feb 11th with Jen Caron and then the first payment will be received in the checking account.
2. Dam sale – Nothing to report.
3. Liens/Sheriff Sales – None this month.
4. Personal Property & Real Estate Claims – It is still to be determined what actions can be taken at this time due to COVID restrictions.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

1. Delinquent Accounts –

Moved by McNaughton, seconded by Frownfelter, to approve the February Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Frownfelter seconded by McNaughton to approve February's bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to approve the February Adjustment Report. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by McNaughton, seconded by Frownfelter to approve the January 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Borough/Sewer usage –

NEW BUSINESS –

1. There was discussion regarding the cyber-attack on a water plant in Florida. Miller commented that the Water Authority plant is not running unless an Operator is on the premises, so the same type of attack could not have happened here. Also, the Water Authority contracts with SelecTech, technology professionals, and they have implemented multiple layers of security to guard against hacking and other data threats.
2. Frownfelter mentioned that there was disinformation on Facebook and Miller suggested posting upcoming projects and estimated timelines on the Authority's website.

BOARD COMMENTS –

1. Robinson will bring in someone to repair the snowblower.

ADJOURNMENT – Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Debra Kunish
Recording Secretary