

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
DECEMBER 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

The following members were present: Chairman M. Stoudt, Vice Chairman J. Bubacz, Jr., Treasurer P. Bauman, Secretary S. Hall, and member F. Wasowicz. Also present was G. Lloyd, Borough Manager, and L. Lazouras, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Stoudt called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

Section 1: All Reports to be accepted in one motion

A.) MINUTES

The minutes from the 11/7/23 regular meeting and 11/14/23 reconvened meeting were brought up for discussion. There were no corrections.

B.) TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL PAYMENT

P. Bauman read the treasurer's report. Leesa noted that a bill for water from LRM was received for the Taylor Run Upgrade in the amount of \$36,550.07. G. Lloyd said he will verify we have received all the materials we were waiting for from the original order placed in October. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, "That the minutes, treasurer, and bill payment reports be accepted as presented." All in favor.

Section 2: Old Business

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

B.) DELINQUENTS

The report was in the packets. S. Hall noted we were doing good for a while and the numbers are starting to go up again.

C.) INFILTRATION

D.) WATER FUTURE I-99/BUSINESS 15 CORRIDOR

The easements are done and anyone contesting the water line going past their property was notified of pursuing Eminent Domain against them. There is a conference call with RUS and Larson Design tomorrow to discuss the environmental assessment. Since some line locations were changed, they have to do that again.

E.) CASSELBERRY

F.) OLD HOSPITAL

G.) TAYLOR RUN TANK/NEW CHLORINE BUILDING

The Chairman said overall they are 90% completed but are waiting for different equipment pieces that have been ordered. Martz is to be here at the end of this week, and will also address the R&G and getting the control things tied in. Blue Ridge will get hooked up once the pole location is determined. Modern was here to start the pump. It performed well and they witnessed the flows. The tentative date to start up is 1/22. They will have to run the chlorine thru and have the proper residual, and then have DEP come for their approval. Mike is working on getting spare parts to have on hand. They are working on over-the-phone controls.

H.) NEW STP

The members were sent copies of emails from Performance Construction, one dated 11/21, which was sent to Yves. They were notified by the Electrical Prime Contractor that the VFD's will not arrive on the project site until late Dec. or Jan. Tra Electric suggested getting a spare. These are required to correctly run the pumping equipment in the Influent Pump Station which is planned to become active on 12/11/23. The pump station is currently on temporary by-pass pumping and needs to be removed by mid Dec. or additional manpower and equipment costs will be incurred by Performance. Costs going beyond 12/11/23 will include equipment rental, fuel, field labor, overtime, extended general conditions, out-of-sequence work, and office time. Performance would petition for increased contract time to avoid assessment of liquidated damages. They are also concerned about the emergency generator delivery which could impact the full start-up of the plant.

The other email dated 11/30 discussed raising the influent pump station electrical gear located inside to a height above 6 feet. This is due to meeting the 500-year flood plain rules. This could take time and raises concern about extending the bypass process throughout the winter. The main by-pass pump is electric and down in the manhole servicing the station. The backup diesel generator is in an enclosure Performance constructed that is weatherproof with heating in it. They asked the project team to get together and establish a schedule of how long the electrical relocation will take and establish new dates for the start-up of the influent pumping station. George got Yves on the telephone to discuss these items. We have been in contact with Penelec regarding service there. They are to provide power to the pump station within the next two weeks. The

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warranty on these items could also be affected. Our schedule is to be ready at the end of 3/24, and if not, we would have to contact DEP regarding meeting the Consent Order with them. Joe said we need the warranty to protect us with the new plant. P. Bauman asked how USDA and DEP will be if the date has to be extended. T. Wellington from RUS attends all our meetings with the contractors. George has not talked with DEP lately.

Yves said we will not be responsible for the electric gear having to be raised but it will be between them and the contractor. On the exterior of the building will be a platform to have access to electrical service going to the facility. They also discussed renting a temporary generator until the real one comes. Yves said he is always available by phone or can come up. The members thanked him for the call.

I.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

S. Bray is working on getting prices for the media. It was asked when Taylor Run will be ready, and they think after the 22nd. Everything has to be chlorinated properly and working and then DEP will have to inspect. We need the generator as the backup energy source. George said if needed and Taylor went off, we could switch to the Rod & Gun or Bellman.

J.) BR DAM

K.) PAINT BR TANK

George hopes to bid it out in Jan. or Feb. and be done in late spring or early summer.

L.) CYBERSECURITY

Joe reported the initial training is at 75% completion. There was information in the packets of places around the country that suffered security attacks. In Texas one Authority had its operations and phone system disrupted. An Authority in Alliquippa, PA., was attacked by an Iranian-backed cyber group. An alarm went off and the system was disabled and is being operated manually. Joe said our new equipment can be controlled remotely, or manually, so we have to make sure ours is secure. He has talked with CSR about our new equipment safeguards. We will check with Martz to see what their security covers.

M.) GENERATORS

The one for Taylor Run should be here next month. It is a waiting game just like the new stp. We do have the portable generator to take to Taylor Run if necessary.

N.) MURPHY TRAILER COURT

It is for sale and a person called for information.

O.) BLOSS TWP. BILLING

Section 3: New Business

A.) HRG REQUEST-No. 4 USDA

This is from funding grant money. It includes: 1.) HRG, for engineering from 10/2-10/29/23 in the amount of \$8,927.13. 2.) Larson Design thru 11/18/23 in the amount of \$18,728.88. 3.) Performance Construction from 10/1-10/31/23 in the amount of \$1,196,415.33. 4.) Tra Electric from 11/1-11/4/23 in the amount of \$75,136.26. 5.) AFT Mechanical from 10/11-11/14/23 in the amount of \$24,798.22. The total amount for these is \$1,324,005.82. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That we sign Requisition #4 USDA, per their approval." All in favor. S. Hall and J. Bubacz signed this.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY-#71 was received 11/21/23 and direct deposited into the BWC Royalties MMI. The monthly report was received and in the packets. Treasurer Bauman requested to transfer all but \$2,000.00 from the Royalties MMI to the Blossburg Water Co. MMI #6018 to earn the higher interest rate. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, "That the treasurer is authorized to do this transaction." All in favor. He will do this transfer online. The gas market is flooded right now which causes the royalties paid out to be much less.

C.) C&N INTEREST STATEMENTS, CD'S, FCCB

The members were given the statement from C&N and FCCB. The two water CDs were opened at C&N, LPL. The sewer transfer from the RF MMI #7218 to BWC MMI #6018 was done. The treasurer discussed our funds invested at both banks. The sewer will have to start making their payment to RUS in February. He discussed making extra payments on the loan to lower the principal to pay it off quicker. We are earning a high investing interest versus what the loan interest repayment rate will be. He said even the interest rates at C&N, LPL on short term CD's, are a good rate right now. A 6-month CD will earn 5.35% interest and suggests opening a sewer CD. Since we have sewer money in the BWCMMI #6018, he requests we open a 6-month CD at C&N, LPL, in the amount of \$200,000.00. The monthly interest will be deposited to the cash account at C&N. He will transfer funds out of sewer share of money in the BWC MMI #6018, at FCCB, to C&N, LPL and open it. Motion made by J. Bubacz, second S. Hall, "That this transaction be done." All in favor.

D.) 2023 AUDIT GUTHRIE

A proposal was received for doing the 2023 audit, which was in the packets. The total is \$7,500.00 and is to be done by 6/30/24. The 2022 audit was completed in August of this year. Leesa noted there is more to be done since we have projects going in both sewer and water. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded P. Bauman, "That we sign the agreement with Guthrie to complete the audit." All in favor.

E.) AGREEMENT TR ROAD MAINTENANCE-HAMILTON TWP.

A Resolution between us and the Hamilton Twp. Supervisors was in the packets. Taylor Run Road is a public road that Hamilton Twp. has maintenance responsibility for. Per our development of an addition to our water system, DEP established special conditions F&G in PWS Permit 5922503, that we shall complete an agreement to maintain TR Road within Zone 1 with no application or storage of chemicals. We will maintain that section of the road for as long as the facilities are operational, or until such time a subsequent agreement is executed that satisfied the special conditions. George said you are to have about 300 feet around the well to protect the watershed. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That we approve this resolution." All in favor. Steve and Mike signed it. This end of the road is in Hamilton and the other end is in Liberty. It is passable, but not in the best condition. George said you have to use cinders on a dirt road and not salt. Mike talked with Rob Bowens, from Hillside, about the road to the fish nursery and we will take care of that part, which is near our new work at Taylor, and is fine with that.

Section 4: Borough Manager's Report

A) 2024 BUDGETS

George and Leesa worked on the proposed 2024 sewer and water budget, which was passed out to the members. In the sewer he projected the income at the new rates and included more I&I work. He also estimated energy costs for both sewer and water. J. Bubacz said it is hard to project costs for both sewer and water improvements which have been made. He noted that the sewer rate increase letter had been sent in with the September billing. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That the proposed budgets be approved." All in favor.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM, on motion of S. Hall, second J. Bubacz, with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY