

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JULY 2, 2019

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

The following members were present: Vice Chairman J. Bubacz, Jr., Secretary S. Hall, Treasurer J. Eckman and member P. Bauman. Chairman Stoudt was absent as he had to work. Also present was G. Lloyd, Borough Manager and L. Lazouras, Recording Secretary.

Vice Chairman Bubacz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes from the regular 6/4/19 meeting were brought up for discussion. 1.) J. Eckman noted that Vice Chairman Bubacz was present by telephone. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the minutes be approved with the one correction." All in favor.

The minutes from the reconvened meeting held 6/10/19 were brought up for discussion. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Eckman, "That the minutes be approved as read." All in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$22,776.57

Unpaid bills for water \$21,205.32+\$9,264.76 Penn Vest monthly payment

The following discussion was held on the bills: 1.) J. Eckman asked about the bill from L/B water for the saw. George said R. Weed from L/B and a salesman were here and demonstrated this chain saw that can cut pipe. We exercise valves when flushing hydrants. They took the tool to the sewer plant and used it on a valve they have problems with and it worked really well. This will save on a lot of back pressure on the boys when they are doing the hydrants, along with line work. George ordered one and split the cost between sewer and water. 2.) A bill was received from Blue Book for the sewer plant in the amount of \$140.17. (Received after bill list was prepared.) 3.) Interest will be due on our new sewer plant loan, and the statement has not been received yet. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the bills be paid." All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Eckman reported the balance in sewer of \$70,966.45 and in water \$35,797.50. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the treasurer's report be accepted subject to audit." All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE

George reported we had a leak on Davis St. Sunday. Dan was flushing hydrants and a valve slammed shut and broke the pipe. Usually the valves are very slow to turn so they are not sure what caused this. George got a hold of the boys to fix this and the water was off at 3PM and

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back on by 8:30 PM. The line was cracked 3-4 feet so they replaced a 5 foot section and used dresser couplings. They think due to the size of the crack it must have been already started. Two blocks were affected by this. When you repair a leak, you have to put on a Boil Water order and take a sample to the lab and get a good chlorine reading before lifting it. An explanation notice is taken around and put on the resident's doors that will be affected. It also states that we will re-notify them when the order is lifted. George said one fire hydrant was out of commission. The lab called today and the sample was fine, so notices were taken around to those affected.

B.) DELINQUENTS

C. Bubacz put out 48-hour notices and is working on sending more.

C.) INFILTRATION-LETTER TO DEP

A letter was sent a few weeks ago when we had rain totaling 3.4" between 6/16 ad 6/19, having to bypass an estimated 1.57 MG. On 6/18 the 6" pump ran full throttle from 8:30 AM -9:15 AM then idled the rest of the day, idled on 6/19 and was shut off at 12:00 AM on 6/20, as the three pumps handled the rest. Our infiltration work we have done has helped as the 6" pump didn't run as long as it used to with this much water. The new sewer plant will have 2 lines, one for regular and one to hook into a pump so nothing will be bypassed but all go to the plant.

D.) WATER FUTURE I-99/BUSINESS 15

They are in the process of getting information together to send to USDA to see if there is a workable offer of funding by late September.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

George has not talked with Jim but will put a call in to see the status of the Taylor Run wells. J. Eckman asked if he has more testing to do, but that was finished last year. He would have submitted the information and we are waiting for approval.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

George heard a company is interested in buying it and looking for government funding to be used for rehab. J. Eckman said it a solid built building that should be used instead of being torn down. S. Lisowski was called about a blacktopping cost. It was noted that the I&I sewer work has to be done first which would tear up the blacktop already there.

H.) HYDRO APPLICATION WATER WITHDRAWAL-WATER ALLOCATION. BILLED IN JUNE
Payment has not been received yet.

I.) PIPELINE BY TAYLOR RUN

S. Bray is doing the paperwork to submit to DEP. He is combining the new water line to the new tank and the line to the new well at Taylor in one application. They had a meeting a few weeks ago on how to proceed to submit the papers. At DEP they have lost 60% of their personnel through

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I.) retirement or quitting and are interviewing people to fill the positions, so there is a longer than usual wait time on any requests.

J.) INTERNET AND SOFTWARE PAY BILLS ON LINE

George talked with Cheryl and we could be ready in August and be able to pay on line in September. There is one account for all the money to go into, but it has to come out of that clearing account to separate between Boro, water or sewer payments. George is going to check with our auditor on this. J. Bubacz wondered if an automatic transfer could be set up from the clearing account to separate between the three different accounts.

K.) NEW STP

HRG submitted the information to DEP on 6/21. It could take 3-4 months before any comments are received back from them. P. Bauman asked if he had heard Josh Fox say they were a million dollars over the proposed project figure. He did, but said we should be back in line with the other project changes that have been made. The proposed building is bigger than first planned, but that could be looked at again. J. Eckman said you hire a professional based on what you need and they submit their bid for the job to be done. When you do change orders, it can increase costs by 10-12% and we cannot have that much of an overrun. You do not want to cut items to make the plant less efficient either. J. Eckman can remember when we put in the Floe. Building at Bellman we had problems after finding bedrock where the plant legs were to be put. There was a large cost overrun and it took a while to get the matter settled. S. Bray is aware of the entire project and proposed changes and dollar figures.

L.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

S. Bray is looking at this and work on the traveling bridge, but this is on hold for now.

M.) BR GENERATOR

George reported the exhaust is being worked on but there is one part on back order.

N.) BR DAM

S. Bray is working on the sediment pond plans which help keep dirt out of the reservoir.

O.) PAINT BR TANK

Nothing will be done until the new tank is in place. J. Eckman asked if it can at least be power washed and if the boys have time this year they will clean it up. The rust is actually mold.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG REQUEST #9

Request #9 from the line of credit in the amount of \$43,447.89 for the new sewer plant has to be signed and submitted to RUS for payment. This covers 4/29-6/2/19 for engineering. S. Bray has reviewed it already, and it was in the members packets. Steve and Joe noted that on the bottom of the statement it shows an unpaid balance. George said they come in that way and has to do with the process of sending the paperwork back and forth with RUS and getting all approvals before the

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money will be released for payment from our bank. The monthly bill received from them in the middle of the month has to be approved at our next regular meeting. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Eckman, "That this bill be approved for payment." All in favor. J. Bubacz and S. Hall will sign the five copies of the request.

B.) C&N INVESTMENT STATEMENTS FOR 5/19 WERE IN THE PACKETS AND 6/19 STATEMENTS WERE HANDED OUT TONIGHT

J. Eckman noted that we are making much more in interest from the investing we have done. He also saw the interest rates at FCCB were going down a little and will watch them. We can continue to put any excess funds into reserve and into breakable CD's that you can have access to if money is needed. The Royalty money we are receiving is from the Johnson well. We have not received any from the Dorn well yet. They have been working on Dorn's and Joe said they have been hauling a lot of stones, but shouldn't be ready for a few months.

C.) AD FLUSH HYDRANTS

They started flushing a week ago and we placed an ad in the Penny Saver. One person asked why we do this and it was explained that we have to make sure the hydrants are working, and the valves exercised, and this takes dirt out of the lines so it doesn't go back into people's homes. J. Eckman asked if they could use the new tool in Morris Run at the pond and George said they could try it.

D.) The progress report from HRG on the new sewer plant dated 7/1 was given to the members.

E.) J. Bubacz had information overview on cybersecurity and thought it would be helpful for the Boro. It was decided this needs to be discussed and if anyone is interested it could be discussed 7/10 at 4:00 PM. It was noted that Troy Boro in March had their computers infected with a crypto-virus and paid out \$5,000 for the ransom and \$2,400 for technological assistance, which was covered by their Boro insurance. This is happening across the country in places like Baltimore, Allentown and a place in Florida. You should have 3 backups and rotate them, backing up daily and keeping a copy off site.

F.) DAN'S VAN

George reported Dan's van we bought from Bev Jones is starting to need work and thinks we should look for something else. It was noted that Sandy Higgins has a 2006 Chevy van for sale. George also saw a 2010 Chrysler van advertised for sale. We do not have to bid out since we participate in the Costar program. It was asked if we need a van and George said Dan likes it because everything is inside the vehicle. If you had a pickup things get wet in the back unless you have a box. It was also asked if it should be a 2 or 4wheel drive. Dan has to go up the hill in Morris Run in the winter. George will talk with Dan and have more information for next month's meeting. It was asked if we can get rid of it and George said possibly through the State auction. He will look up the bid amount for purchasing. It was decided to leave this meeting open if George gets more information. There being no further business, everyone left the meeting at 7:35 PM.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

