

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 7:00 PM. Due to the Covid Virus 19, the meeting was done by teleconference with the members from their homes. George and Leesa were in the office. Those available were M. Stoudt, Chairman, J. Bubacz, Vice Chairman, Treasurer J. Eckman, Secretary S. Hall and member P. Bauman. Engineer S. Bray was also in on the discussion from his home.

Chairman Stoudt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He asked everyone for a moment of silence for the world during this difficult time with Covid 19. He told the members he would be doing a roll call on the meeting decisions. The members had been emailed with a phone number to call into to get on the connection. He asked if this was on an open line for public comment. The number was not published but instructions were given if you wanted to join the conversation. Pat said it was on Facebook as his wife Melissa saw it. The main phone is in the office so we know when someone comes on, and no one else has.

MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting held March 3, 2020 were brought up for discussion.1.) J. Eckman said he had some reservations on the bids for our projects due to the situation in the world if work would be able to be done with the restrictions on everything. We do not know if work has to be put on hold if we would be penalized for not completing our projects. S. Hall also said we do not know how it will affect fuel, labor and supplies and if cost figures would be higher than a month ago. George said we got excellent bid prices for the stp culvert. There being no further discussion on the minutes, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the minutes be approved as read." Roll call, all in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$36,373.74

Unpaid bills for water \$60,962.69+\$9,264.76 Penn Vest final payment

*Sewer-Interest new STP loan-when received monthly

2/20, 3/20, 4/20 Health Insurance-bills are higher this month to repay the Boro since there are three months of insurance to pay. Leesa asked Cheryl if this could be done monthly instead of for three months due to the way our income comes in from the billings sent out. Included in the water list is \$17,932.50 for the new truck. *Additional bills received: Sewer-\$65.00 from Pace for testing. Water-\$2,063.77 from Watson Diesel for Dan's new truck; \$415.00 from LRM-part for Bellman and STSD for Liberty Plant. We had approved buying Dan's new vehicle in 2019 using Royalty monies, and the bill is for the utility box. Leesa noted that water bills will be sent out this month. There being no further discussion on the bills, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the bills be paid." Roll call, all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Eckman reported the balance in sewer \$98,055.81 as of 4/3/20. Water \$36,719.71+\$2,877.85 deposits =\$39,597.56. Leesa noted that we will be short in the water and asked if we can take money out of the Royalties account or hold off paying all owed to the Boro until we receive income at the end of this month. In the past we have taken out of that account to pay bills. J. Eckman said we can take out what we need and pay all bills. . A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S.

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Hall, "That we withdraw funds from the Royalties account to pay our bills for water." Roll call, all in favor. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted subject to audit." Roll call, all in favor.

GUESTS

STP CULVERT BID

S. Bray said we received 2 bids for the new STP Drive Box Culvert bid. 1.) Keystone Concrete Products from New Holland, PA. \$99,200.00; 2.) Glen Hawbaker, Montoursville, PA. \$119,000.00. The bids were broken down between Precast RCB and Precast RC Wingwalls. These bids were lower than we expected. The Chairman asked if we would be doing work for this, and we will do the prep work so they can come in and set this in place. S. Bray has worked with Keystone before and they are excellent. S. Bray said contractors are looking for work right now. J. Eckman asked if the crew can come in and work with the Covid situation. Scott said we will issue a notice the bid was accepted and then the company will have to prepare their bonds and return for review, then we would send a notice to proceed. They will have to prepare their shop drawings which will have to be reviewed. So this will take until probably the middle of June before being here to work. Mike said since the STP is an essential service, there might be some leeway on construction work being allowed by the State. It will be months before things get back to normal due to Covid. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That we accept the culvert bid from Keystone Concrete in the amount of \$99,200.00." Roll call, all in favor. Mike asked if the old culvert will be removed but Scott's opinion is it can be left there.

NEW STP

George said we received an email from Josh Fox at HRG regarding the new STP following the discussion George and Scott had with them. RUS has to review the Contract Documents and they will contact DEP with an update on the schedule after receiving an updated review schedule from RUS. This will probably be toward the middle of May before we hear anything. We had discussed reducing the construction costs and work that can be done by us. They discussed putting in alternatives for the bid so with things itemized you can pick and choose. J. Eckman said this is a good idea, but we also have to have figures for our expenses for doing work ourselves versus a bid amount. George and Scott talked with Stuart Lisowski about one bid item that can be done for much less money. Mike asked if RUS is ok with us doing work, and we are checking with them now. If there are good savings we can get it done within the proposed budget.

PILOT STUDY BR

Scott has the draft proposal to submit to DEP on what we want to do. DEP is also closed, but there is a woman assigned to the project and he has a good working relationship with her. There is a \$750.00 application fee that will have to be sent in.

CHAPTER 94

Following our last letter from them with questions, Scott is preparing a more formal corrective action plan and will get it to the members for review. The deadline is 5/20. Dan, George and Scott have worked on this.

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There being nothing further to discuss with Scott, J. Eckman thanked him for his work, and he got off the phone at 7:47 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE

The boys are looking for leaks around town, but there is nothing major. Friday night in Morris Run there was a leak and the boys fixed it Saturday morning. Their consumptions are going down where they should be. Dan still looks around town for small leaks.

B.) DELINQUENTS

The members were given the report showing the figures declining so we are going in the right direction. At this time with the Covid, we will not shut anyone off, and work with people having trouble paying their bills.

C.) INFILTRATION-LETTER TO DEP

We are looking for more I&I as time allows. The work we did last month should really help and we should not have to pump as much. It could have cut out 50-100,000 gallons on the system. We have not seen the results yet because we have not had a huge rain event.

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

RUS is reviewing the environmental impact and should hear by next month. They hope to bid out and start in late summer.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY-George will call him again.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL-Nothing. M. Stoudt said it is in bad condition and possibly can be torn down under the Blight rules. The Police are checking on the building. It is wide open with windows broken and there could be the concern of rodents so something will have to be done soon with it.

H.) PIPELINE BY TR

We have done work for it. A permit has to be received from DEP and it was suggested having S. Bray check on this project.

I.) NEW STP-Discussed

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

K.) BR GENERATOR

Hunter Lomison is working on new read outs for the output.

L.) BR DAM

S. Bray was waiting for information from Duane Wetmore.

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M.) PAINT BR TANK

Not do until new TR tank installed. S. Bray is working on the new tank and our boys did prep work. We will screen sand from our bank to use as fill around the water pipe so we do not have to buy 2A stone.

N.) CYBERSECURITY

A meeting had been scheduled with them to discuss progress, but will be done by conference call now.

O.) DAN'S VAN, TRUCK-FINAL PAYMENT FOR TRUCK BED TO WATSON DIESEL-PAY OUT OF ROYALTIES

P.) DEP LETTER WTP ALARMS-NOTICE OF VIOLATION-SENT LETTER 12/16/19

We will ask S. Bray who can be contacted to check on the status.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG REQUEST #17-Nothing

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY #27-Received today and amount dropping. Fuel prices are also dropping considerably. #26 was received and the report was put in the members packets.

C.) C&N STATEMENT FOR 3/20

Treasurer Eckman discussed our investments and we are really in good shape from the Royalties money. He wondered if the members would like to consider doing something for our customers during this Covid Pandemic. He noted that some insurance companies are giving their customers refunds as there are fewer accidents with people staying home. M. Stoudt and S. Hall said they would like to wait to see if this is going to turn into something long term and we can discuss it again. We did say we will not do shut offs, we can suspend late notices and will work with anyone having problems paying.

J. Eckman asked if there are any people in town with the Virus. S. Hall said due to HIPPA regulations, they can do the test but cannot put the results out. If an individual wants to put the information out there using social media, the person would have to say they have it, but no one else can release the information to the general public. According to the news as of last Wednesday night there were 10 cases in Tioga County.

D.) CHAPTER 94-Discussed

E.) FIDELITY INVESTING. C&N INVESTING. FCCB-LETTER

A letter had been sent to FCCB requesting a better return than an ordinary Money Market account. We would like to invest in an account for 2-3 years with an interest rate of 2.5% or more, with FDIC guarantee. We would like to withdraw after one year with no penalties. A reply letter was received that they have a 30 month breakable CD for 12 months, with an interest rate of 1.1%. . It can be broken one time, penalty free until maturity. The market is not favorable for interest rates and the best they can offer is 15 points above current rate.

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The money we had planned to invest at C&N is being held in a money market right now earning some interest, until the market increases and they will then invest it in something earning a better rate. At this time we will leave our money where it is with FCCB until rates get better. Jack was thanked for his work on this.

F.) RESOLUTION EXTEND TERM OF EXISTENCE-TO COUNCIL-ANOTHER 40 YEARS

This has to be done for the length of our RUS loan. George said it will be discussed at Council's meeting tomorrow night.

G.) INTEREST C&N EZ ACCESS FLEX CD'S-3/20 statement to members.

H.) CORONAVIRUS

George reported we are working through it and doing split shifts. M. Stoudt said we have to practice social distancing, hand washing and use gloves and masks. If going into a person's home, sanitary procedures have to be followed. It was asked if we have all the necessary supplies and we do. Dan and the boys already use things when at the plants.

I.) PENNVEST LOAN PAID OFF 4/1/20, CLOSE ACCOUNT

Leesa emailed Penn Vest for final payment information. A letter will be given to the bank to close out the automatic withdrawals made by Penn Vest and the money market account. Any balance left will be deposited to our regular money market account. This will give us more money to work with for water.

J.) PROPOSED AGREEMENT MANSFIELD BORO-SHARED EQUIPMENT

This is relating to joint and shared services. If the Authority and Council are receptive to the idea, it can be sent to the Solicitor for review. It was asked what equipment they have and they have a vacuum truck and other things we could use instead of renting or having to buy. We already have an agreement with Wellsboro on the sewer camera. The term would be for one year right now and automatically renew for each calendar year unless terminated early pursuant to the agreement. The members think this is a good idea, and will wait to hear from Council and the Solicitor.

k.) Leesa noted on the repaying of insurance to the Boro, it is split between the three departments and the employees doing the work for each.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM, with the motion by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

