

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

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

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

MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting held 10/6/20 were brought up for discussion. There being none, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the minutes be approved as read." All in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$23,206.68

Unpaid bills for water \$42,338.38

*Sewer-Interest new STP loan-new loan documents interest only pay on 1st anniversary date of 8/13/21 at 2.37%.

The following discussion was held on the bills: 1.) P. Bauman asked who Kappe Associates is and George said they do yearly maintenance. They worked on two Chicago pumps and the comminutor, which grinds up the waste at the plant. The three pumps at the pump house pump water across to the stp. 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 \$151,824.60 and in water \$39,039.67. J. Bubacz noted that our bills for water are more than what we have. Leesa said the water bills are out and income is being received so we should be ok. P. Bauman noted that we took funds out of the Royalties account last month to pay our bills. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the Treasurer's report be accepted subject to audit." All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

George said things are good. As far as the salt well, maybe eventually there would be some gas company looking to purchase water from there.

B.) DELINQUENTS

George gave the members the list. There is a decline in the over sixty days and 10-day notices were sent out.

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C.) INFILTRATION –LETTER TO DEP

S. Bray sent a letter to DEP asking for 10 more hookups due to the work done on I&I, but no reply has been received yet.

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

Larson Design had a teleconference call with DEP about some questions and are talking with RUS.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

George will text him again for a progress report.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

S. Nickerson talked with the people that bought the building and they are still trying to get government funding for another type of treatment center. J. Bubacz asked about the street light on the corner of Ruah. Since the pole kept getting hit by Dollar General delivery trucks, Penelec moved the standard down toward Stempien's house.

H.) PIPELINE BY TR

George said they have the line installed to the sand bank. It will be shut off since there will be no more work done until next year. They will be mulching the area this week. J. Eckman asked if there was ever a geologist to look at the sand bank since it is about 60 feet high, and it is located that high up on a hill. George said there is sand, gravel and pure sand layers in it.

I.) NEW STP

RUS had written to HRG with questions on the bidding documents. HRG responded to them and the members were given a copy. We would like to get the bids out in November and award the bid in January for a spring start up. There are several items that we can do to help keep the cost down. RUS will go over the responses and we will wait to hear back.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

The Pilot Study is being done.

K.) BR DAM

DEP says we need a permit number for the dam, and S. Bray has our information where it was included in the original permit, and has submitted everything to them. The purpose of the sediment pond is to keep sediment and leaves from going into the main reservoir. If we don't have the pond, we would have to clean the main reservoir out more.

L.) PAINT BR TANK

M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz loaned the Borough a UPS (uninterruptable power source) when our UPS died. The life expectancy of a UPS is approximately 3 years. We have a networkable UPS in the 2021 budget; however, we needed a new UPS prior to that. The Borough found 2 UPS for \$600 and purchased the same. With the new UPS purchased, we may be able to push the purchase of the networkable UPS out another year and then use the 2 that were purchased as backups. A UPS is an electrical apparatus that provides emergency power to a load when the input power source or mains power fails. A UPS differs from an auxiliary or emergency power system or standby generator in that it will provide near-instantaneous protection from input power interruptions, by supplying energy stored in batteries, supercapacitors, or flywheels. He also split the load through two different outlets in the room. The generator we have is natural gas that Williamson Road TV Co. gave to us.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG REQUEST #19-not received yet. #18-not paid yet

#18 was approved for payment but the check has not been written. (This was for final figures and closing of the first loan #69). The approved paperwork has to be sent back and forth between RUS, HRG, and FCCB to deposit the money into the account. George noted that #17 was the last bill from the first loan #69 with the bank, Series 2018. Bill #1 from the second loan #68, Series of 2020, was for the closing fees of loan #69. So Bill #18 is actually #2 from the second loan #68, Series of 2020. The same system will be followed for paying bills from the new loan, and we will borrow as we go.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY #34-Not received yet. They are about a week behind in sending.

C.) C&N STATEMENT for 10/20-passed out

D.) INTEREST C&N EZ CD's 10/20-passed out

E.) AGREEMENT MANSFIELD BORO-Attorneys working on the exchange use of equipment.

F.) DORN PROPERTY-K. Geykis will be back in the fall to go over the land. P. Bauman said there are different types of foresters, depending upon what you want to do with your land.

I.) C&N WATER CD#2-Matured 10/26-J. Eckman talked with Matt Landis. Rates are down and he is looking at EZ versus Flex CD's. You can get a better rate if you go out 5-7 years. P. Bauman noted we laddered these CD's out and CD#6 matures on 12/11. For a longer term there is a bigger pool to draw from as there is more stock available. S. Hall noted that we will need money for the new tank next year, so any funds invested should be in breakable accounts. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Eckman, "That we invest CD #2 into a breakable for a 5 or 7 year term, depending upon the interest rate." All in favor. At our next meeting we will decide how to invest CD#6. Our water money in the Royalties MMI can be accessed at any time. J. Eckman wonders what will happen to the rates following the election.

G.) EXCAVATOR SENSOR-This was repaired.

H.) LOADER

George gave the members information from Cleveland Brothers on a new CAT loader. The list price is around \$163,000.00. A good used piece can cost between \$60-80,000. You can buy or lease the equipment. It would be a 3 way split with the Boro. S. Hall asked when we will have to start paying on the new tank, and George hopes to break ground in April or May of next year. This could be worked into the next budget year.

BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT

1.) STP CREDITS

George said we need to buy nitrogen and phosphorus credits for sewer. The following are where we will purchase them from: 1.) Wellsboro Borough -nitrogen-2,754 credits at \$3.50 per credit for a total of \$9,639.00. 2.) Mansfield Borough-nitrogen-1,393 credits at \$3.50 per credit. Phosphorus credits 61 at \$4.47 for a total of \$5,148.17. 3.) Shamokin Coal Twp.-70 credits at \$4.47 for a total of \$312.90. A grand total for both is \$15,100.07. The sellers had to submit their paperwork to DEP, all parties have to sign and then payment will be sent. There is a list for the State from DEP of where all credits are available. It will be good once we have our new stp and can be selling credits instead of buying. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Eckman, "That we pay the bill for sewer credits when approved." All in favor.

2.) 2019 AUDIT

George reported the audit has been completed and the members were given a draft. The auditors noted that reimbursements (payroll and bills alike) from the 4th quarter of 2018 and through 2019 remained unpaid by the Authority to the Borough. After auditing the Boro books, they asked Cheryl to provide them with a detailed listing of invoices to support the case. This is reported in the audit as balance sheet items against the account Due to Other funds for a total of \$89,667(Water \$34,428.93 and sewer \$55,237.93.) These probably resulted from the Borough experiencing employee turnover and adoption of a new billing software towards the end of 2018.They recommend both entities establish a monthly internal reconciliation process under the due oversight of the Boro Manager to avoid such future issues.

George said when Mary Signor quit as Borough Secretary, he, Jill Nickerson and Jolene Hall tried to keep up the Boro books. The auditor provided a list of all the bills that should have been repaid. They are owed and the Authority will have to pay. The members agree that they should be paid in full and not spread out. The sewer balance is ok, but we will have to take money out of the Water Royalties MMI. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by P. Bauman, "That we repay the Borough bills for 2018 & 2019. The sewer share will be out of our operating account. For the water share we will use funds from the Royalties account." All in favor.

J. Eckman said there is a man that works at the Truck Stop that use to work on the gas wells. He is very knowledgeable and if we ever have questions he would be the person to talk to.

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NEW TANK

S. Hall asked about the timeline for the new tank. George would like to start in April and work on it through next summer. The bids will go through Costars. The tank will be prefab and groundwork preparation done first. S. Bray is working on the drawings and plans. S. Hall asked how the tank will be filled, and with the plumbing it will be from the new Taylor Run wells and the existing water sources. The tank by old Rt. 15 will be the same height. The new water line at the sand bank was connected to a garden hose, which was extended up the bank to determine the height of the Rt. 15 tank.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman J. Bubacz adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM on motion by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY