

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
DECEMBER 1, 2020

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, December 1, 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, Jr., Vice Chairman, Treasurer J. Eckman, member P. Bauman and Secretary S. Hall.

Chairman Stoudt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He told the members he would be doing a roll call vote on the meeting discussions. The members had been sent the telephone call in number. This teleconference meeting was based on an order issued by the Governor.

Chairman Stoudt asked for a moment of silence and prayers for all communities at large in dealing with the Covid 19 pandemic. This has created hard times and we wish good thoughts for dealing with these challenges.

MINUTES

The minutes from the regular 11/3/20 meeting were brought up for discussion. G. Lloyd had the following corrections: 1.) Page 1, Old Business, Letter A.) WATER UPDATED. SALL WELL 15.-It should be salt. 2.) Page 2, Letter K.) BR DAM-remove dirty water and replace with sediment and leaves. 3.) Page 5, NEW TANK-Line 4-remove below and above-and replace with- from the new Taylor Run wells and the existing water sources. Add-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. 4.) Discussion on bills-Kappe Associates-they do yearly maintenance. They worked on two Chicago pumps and the comminator, which grinds up the waste at the plant. The three pumps at the pump house pump water across to the stp. 4.) J. Bubacz said the paragraph on Page 3, M.) Cybersecurity - needs to be corrected as follows: 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. There being no further corrections, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the minutes be approved with the corrections." Roll call, all in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$24,602.75

Unpaid bills for water \$38,801.59

*Sewer-Interest new STP loan-new loan documents interest only pay on 1st anniversary date of 8/31/21 at 2.37%.

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The following discussion was held on the bills: 1.) M. Stoudt asked if we are still satisfied with using Fairway for testing, and George said they are working out good. When there was a leak in Morris Run, Dan had to get a sample tested so the residents could be taken off the boil water order, and the results came back quicker than they did with the last company we used. 2.) M. Stoudt asked about the water bill from PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry-Leesa said this is the annual Agreement FM-7272, dated 1/1/89, to obtain water from State Forest land. It is figured at ½ of 1% of water income collected in a year. A page from the audit has to be included with the check. 3.) M. Stoudt asked about the bill from Stuart Lisowski-this was for hay that was mulched for the Taylor Run sand bank and line work. 4.) Leesa said she received more testing bills from Fairway, after her reports were done. The amount for sewer is \$136.00 and for water \$250.00, and need to be added to the list. Today Cheryl emailed the members information for this meeting. 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 of \$66,488.28 and in water \$42,678.46. P. Bauman asked if these balances are after the Boro was paid for the audit findings for the 2018-2019 wages and bills, and Leesa said they are. Sewer bills go out this month and water bills go out in January. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That the Treasurer's Report be approved subject to audit." Roll call, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

George said they fixed a few small leaks in town and in Morris Run. On Taylor St. was a ¾" copper line with two pin holes, which was fixed. M. Stoudt asked if it was corroded, and George said there was a lot of green on it. There has not been much if an increase in consumption to town so there are no major leaks.

B.) DELINQUENTS

George didn't get a printout report from Cheryl. They did put out 10-day notices.

C.) INFILTRATION-LETTER TO DEP

S. Bray had written to them regarding our infiltration work we have completed and asked for 10 new connections. They did not approve 10 but did 3. New connection requests have been received from 2 people in the design phase and 1 waiting to decide what he is going to do. We will try to do more I&I and again have S. Bray request more.

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

Larson Design has talked with UTRA and they are working with RUS to get approval. A funding offer has not been made yet.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

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George got an email from Jim, which he forwarded to the members. Jim was sorry for his slow response but dry weather has kept him busy with field work. This slows after Thanksgiving and he will get both Taylor Run and the Sportsman reports out before Christmas. SRBC sent him an email last Friday asking for a schedule and he promised to upload one this week to the online application place.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

H.) PIPELINE BY TR

The line is installed up to the sand bank. Water was shut off until we start work again in the spring. M. Stoudt told the members they should go up and look at the installation work. Our boys did a wonderful job and on behalf of the Board, he would like to thank George and the boys. J. Eckman also went to the site and was very impressed with the topnotch job our boys did, like they always do and we are fortunate to have them.

I.) NEW STP

Today George got an email from Yves at HRG stating she had talked with Judy at RUS. Judy was preparing a memo to the Program Director advising him of the cost overrun and changes to the previously approved Uniform Environmental Review-enlarging the out fall pipe and the replacement of the existing force main with a larger diameter force main as well as the bypass force main. Judy was concerned that these changes may make the USDA Environmental folks have to update the UER. She did not indicate how long this effort may take. We had hoped we would be ready to bid out this month. George is going to talk with DEP and Erin. We don't know what affect the cost overrun will have on the bids, until we bid it out. It might come in cheaper, so we can only hope for the best.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

The pall test is still going until probably the end of this month. We will then have a meeting with the company rep. and go over all the results. We have been trying different chemicals and testing the results.

K.) BR DAM

DEP said we need a permit number. S. Bray wrote to them with our previous data but has not had an answer. George and Scott will address the matter again this winter.

L.) PAINT BR TANK

M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz said they will have a fourth quarter report conference in a few weeks. They will also discuss year 2021. The Chairman thanked Joe for his involvement in this.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG REQUEST #3-Not received yet. #2 was paid.

George did receive #3 which is in the amount of \$705.00. They talked and both agreed it is such a small amount that it can be added to #4 when any more work is done.

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B.) REPSOL ROYALTY #35-Not received yet. #34 received and statement in packets.

C.) C&N STATEMENT for 11/20-Not received yet.

D.) INTEREST C&N EZ CD'S FOR 11/20-Not received yet.

E.) AGREEMENT MANSFIELD BORO USE EQUIPMENT-Attorneys working on it.

F.) DORN PROPERTY-CHANGE ASSESSMENT NOTICE

When the land was purchased in August, we applied to the County for the Exemption of Real Estate Tax for the two parcels that total about 403 acres. The larger lot was put in Clean and Green but the smaller was not since it is too small to qualify. It is adjacent to the Taylor Run watershed and will be added to and become a part, for a total of about 1,061 acres. Our hydrogeologist has indicated there is a significant water supply available. Income from the property could be the sale of future water and possibly the sale of timber. A letter was received 9/21/20 that our request was approved, and it is effective for the 2021 tax year. We received the change notice dated 11/20/20. This can be removed from the agenda, all in favor.

G.) LOADER

George took the information to Council and they are in agreement, if we are, to purchase and split the cost three ways. It will be less than \$55,000.00 each. J. Eckman asked about the warranty and it has one for 12 months unlimited, which can be extended for three years for the power train and hydraulics. It is a CAT, like the new excavator. It was asked how they want to pay, and will see what we want. It could be this year or wait until next. P. Bauman said we have funds available. J. Eckman said we can take the money out of the Royalties MMI. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That we purchase the loader." Roll call, all in favor. Leesa asked where the sewer share would be taken from and J. Eckman said we do not have money in savings and only one CD that we do not want to use. He said we could borrow from the water and make payments. For example, if split for 12 months, it would be about \$4,500. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Eckman, "That we use money from the Royalties account and sewer will make 12 equal payments back to the water." Roll call, all in favor.

H.) C&N Water CD#2 matured 10/26-J. Eckman talked to Matt Landis. CD#6 matures 12/11/20 Jack also talked with Deb Scott and there are not really any good options at this time. The growth CD's are breakable and FDIC insured. The money right now is in a money market account, earning some interest, until it is reinvested in something with a good rate. Jack also checked with our local institution and they said there really is nothing out there either. We had decided to invest # 2 into a breakable for a 5-7 year term depending upon the interest rate, and he suggests the same thing for #6. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by J. Eckman, "That we leave #6 in the money market until an investment opportunity is found." Roll call, all in favor.

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I.) AUDIT REPORT

The audit report was completed and a copy in the members packets. If a member does not want to keep it they can return it to Leesa for the file. P. Bauman noted that we repaid the Borough for 2018-2019. The report involved more with the additional repayment to the Boro, and the one time set up to meet RUS requirements since we are borrowing from them. All agree this can be taken off the agenda.

BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT

1.) AWOP AWARD

George received a letter from DEP that we received the AWOP award again this year. Dan has to send monthly turbidity data to Denver and we are 1 of 31 Water Companies in the nation to earn this award. The Chairman said this is good news and Dan shows his dedication to us and he is to be thanked and commended for this time consuming work.

2.) J. Eckman had talked with the Chairman since he and Mary Margaret have a health challenge to face now. The Chairman will sign checks since the Treasurer cannot be out and about right now. Jack said if there was something that he really had to sign, we could figure out something. Mike said they are to take care of themselves and hope they will soon be over it.

Everyone was wished a Merry Christmas. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM, on motion of J. Bubacz, seconded by J. Eckman, with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY