

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

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

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

MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting held 5/4/21, were brought up for discussion. There being none, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the minutes be approved as read." All in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$23,529.69

Unpaid bills for water \$24,545.51

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

The following discussion was held on the bills: 1.) P. Bauman asked J. Eckman if he had talked with FCCB about the safety deposit box fee, which he did, but has not heard back from them. There being no further discussion on the bills, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, "That the bills be paid." All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Eckman reported the balance in sewer of \$186,057.29 and in water \$60,804.23. 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 they have been looking for leaks as we are losing between 20-30,000 gpd in Blossburg. A leak was repaired in Morris Run. Leesa placed the ad in the Penny Saver for flushing of fire hydrants between 6/1 to 9/30 in Blossburg and Hamilton Twp. George has been looking for one of the gas companies to purchase water from the salt well but hasn't found one.

B.) DELINQUENTS

George had the report from last month and we are going in the right direction.

C.) INFILTRATION-LETTER TO DEP

A letter was sent to DEP. From 5/3 to 5/8 we received 2" rain. On 5/9 we received another 1.3" on the already saturated ground. The river level rose to 3 feet, and it is normally 1 foot. On 5/10 the 4" pump was started in the morning and was shut off in the evening. We estimated 0.131 MG was discharged. This is a lower amount and we have had 2-3 million gallons over.

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

They are waiting for an offer from RUS. George gave the members a copy of a letter written by Paul Otruba which he sent to the Richmond Twp. Supervisors giving his concerns of the proposed gas-powered electric generation plant in Richmond, and the proposed water line from Blossburg north. The Chairman of UTRA wanted to share this letter with the Authority.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

Jim has been in contact with Repsol about the Authority taking over their monitoring well instead of them abandoning it. He is also working on the Taylor Run paperwork.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

George and S. Nickerson had talked to the guy a month ago and he said they think in 90 days they might get money from the Federal government to start something up there. There are a lot of broken windows, and some have been fixed. Shane has one of the two boys who had broken into the building, working with him doing community service.

H.) PIPELINE BY TR

George is waiting for the permit to be approved. He received an email from Mike Schmidt, Dutchland regarding the budget proposal and drawings. The cost is around \$935,000.00. Their engineering team is reviewing the Geotech to finalize things. All site work is considered to be done by the Authority. George said we are probably looking at a start in August or September to be done before winter. It was asked if there is a breakdown

for our part of the work, but not yet and George will have S. Bray do that. It was asked if we can do our work so it would be ready for them to pour concrete, but we will have to find that out. P. Bauman asked about the interior and exterior coating, and George will ask S. Bray. M. Stoudt asked about the costs for wintertime/cold weather construction. He asked if there is a scope of the work and a time schedule. If it gets too late into winter, would heaters be needed, or how long could the cement sit until the weather gets warmer. Testing will have to be done and it was asked who does that and is there a warranty on it. S. Bray will have to review this letter, which was received today, so it was suggested we leave this meeting open and have S. Bray attend and set up a conference call with Dutchland. It was discussed about filling the tank and how long it would take, and George said we cannot take away too much pressure from town too fast. We have to fill it and the warranty would cover holding water. The road to the tank is in good shape since we had put the water line in. There is a 2-year limited structural warranty and we have the option to upgrade to 5 years at the price of 1.05% of contract value or to 10 years at 1.65% of contract value. There is a minimum compressive strength of precast concrete at 5,000 PSI at 28 days. George will set up the reconvened meeting.

I.) NEW STP-OPEN NEW ACCOUNT

We are still waiting for an answer from RUS. They have an issue with the updated cost from HRG being over our original figure, but changes had to be made to handle the I&I problem, make the plant bigger, and two lines have to be put in across the river to take care of bypassing. It was noted that President Biden is talking of putting out more funding for infrastructure around the country, so we could check into that. S. Hall suggested we set up a separate account with FCCB earmarked for the new stp, since we raised the rates and are on hold waiting for an answer from RUS, instead of leaving it in our money market. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the Blossburg Municipal Authority open a new separate account earmarked for the new sewer plant. The amount of \$150,000.00 will be taken out of the BMA Revenue Fund MMI and invested into an account earning the highest interest return and term available." All in favor. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, "That Treasurer John Eckman is authorized to negotiate with the bank." All in favor. The interest earned is to be put back into the account.

P. Bauman asked if the water company owns the land that we are getting royalty income from, could they sell half the land to the sewer for say a

\$1.00 and split the royalty money. We do not know and would have to ask Lantz. Water can make a loan to sewer, or sewer can to water, but it would have to be repaid and can be a lower interest rate than if you borrowed from the bank. S. Hall said C. Lantz explained that we cannot comingle funds and when the Authority was established it was two separate entities. J. Bubacz said when they went to Wellsboro to sign papers on the new plant, that was discussed.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

We sent away the media (anthracite and sand) from the filter to be tested since that had not been done since 1992. The filter plant is getting toward the end of its life expectancy, so S. Bray wants to know how it is still working. The Pilot Study is finished, and the pall unit will be removed in the next few weeks. S. Bray will check with DEP once we get all the test results back. If we do the pall unit, the waste generated must be disposed of. The easiest way would be to run a sewer line which would be from across Punk Reppard's on S. Wmsn. Rd. up to the Arnot Road. There would also have to be cleanouts every 500 feet. It was asked how long the line would have to be and George said about a mile and a half past the tank. They would estimate a cost for the line versus hauling the waste away. They also would have to know how much is accumulated to include in the formula. J. Bubacz said if a line were run it would be there if Arnot ever wanted to connect on to us.

K.) BR DAM

L.) PAINT BR TANK

M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz reported they met with CSR last week for the quarterly meeting and the firewalls are working well. Mike and Leesa will have to get new computers since they have expired so CSR will be here in a few weeks. Work will be done for the email. Work will also be done on Dan's computer and a docking station. We don't think our Boro is a target for hacking, but Troy Boro didn't either and they got hit. Recently a pipeline company was hit and paid \$4.5 million in ransom. We have a cloud backup with CSR and on site.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG request #4-Not paid yet. Not received #5.

George noted we are at Request Interim #3 since the refinancing of the new stp bank loan started with #1 and #2. #3 we approved for payment last

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month, the paperwork was sent in, but the funds have not been released yet to pay that bill.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY #40-In packets. #41 passed out.

C.) C&N STATEMENT for 4/21-In packets. Statement for 5/21 passed out.

D.) INTEREST C&N EZ CD's 4/21-In packets. 5/21 passed out.

E.) AGREEMENT MANSFIELD BORO-George will check with C. Lantz.

F.) C&N WATER CD#2 + CD#6-Both in MMI until reinvested.

G.) LETTER D. BOGACZYK-B. Stokes talked with him and sent a letter. Nothing more has been heard so it was suggested this be removed.

H.) PVC MARKET-Costs keep going up. It was asked how much pipe is needed for the new tank and George will check with Dutchland. It was also asked how much would be needed for the new stp and if it should be purchased before prices go up again, and George will check with HRG.

I.) THE NEW PA MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITIES ACT BOOK WAS RECEIVED FOR 2021-2022. Additional copies are \$25.00 each. It was decided we keep the one copy in the office should anyone want to look at it and not order more.

J.) REPLACEMENT CHECK TO FORESTRY-DRAW FROM STREAM

Leesa had sent the check in the amount of \$983.82 for our Water Lease Agreement #FM-7272 to DCNR for obtaining water from State Forest land for the year of 2019. This was sent 12/3/20. No reply had been received nor the check cashed. She wrote to the office on 4/29/21 regarding the matter and got no reply. She called and left a message, then got a reply phone call on 5/24. The lady said they are working from home, and she only goes in two days a month. They did not receive our check and letter. They had calls from others with the same problem of not receiving payments. She advised Leesa to resend to a different address and do it by certified mail. The bank charge to cancel a check is \$35.00 and certified mail costs \$7.00. Leesa asked for approval. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That we cancel the check, write a new, and send it certified." All in favor.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

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1.) PARKHURST ST. LOTS

A letter was received from Selina Bogaczyk, 148 Lynd St. who lives on the top of the hill by Parkhurst and Lynd Streets, who is interested in the 8 lots that we own by her home going toward Nevins St. There are 9 lots, one is wetlands that cannot be built on and one is extremely steep. We own 3.08 acres total. The lot is level where the former tank was. We keep these lots should the need arise for more building lots in town. There is no infrastructure there and would be costly to do. There is also a big gas line that goes through there. It was noted that 4-wheelers go through there, so possibly she does not like that. It was noted that a lot more land up the hill behind her is for sale. Currently our focus is on the new stp and the tank. All in agreement that we will take this under consideration.

There being no further business, the Chairman left the meeting open, and everyone left at 8:06 PM.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

