

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JANUARY 4, 2022

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

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

GUEST: Mike Hale, Forestry and Kerry Geykis, Dave Bogaczyk

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Since this was the reorganizational meeting, G. Lloyd called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Election of Officers has to be done. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That the officers remain the same." All in favor.

Chairman Stoudt took over the meeting and advised the members that our Solicitor is Chris Lantz. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That we continue with C. Lantz." All in favor. He also advised the members that Scott Bray is our Engineer. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Bubacz, Jr., "That we continue with S. Bray." All in favor. J. Eckman asked how they are paid, and they both charge hourly by the job.

QUESTS

K. Geykis and M. Hale were here to discuss our timber sale. There was an Addendum to the timber contract which everyone got a copy of. Should the construction of the 1-million-gallon tank not be completed by 10/1/22, the Buyer shall refrain from harvesting timber on the Seller's property until the construction has been completed. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That we approve the addendum. Our Chairman will sign this and K. Geykis will get it to Cummings Lumber for their signature. Kerry will then get a copy to us." All in favor. P. Bauman had asked how Kerry bills for his work, and he charges per hour. We had paid his first invoice for work done for the sale and he will be there when the spraying is done and the logging. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S Hall, "That we pay K. Geykis by the hour." All in favor. M. Hale had presented his agreement for the herbicide application, and the members had been given a copy. He discussed the process and what chemicals will be used. There is a 50-foot radius around the saved trees. P. Bauman asked how long the application lasts and it is good for one grow season. M. Stoudt said we have to protect the trout stream and fish nursery. A motion was made by J.

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Eckman, seconded by P. Bauman, 'That we accept M. Hale's agreement for the herbicide application." All in favor. The Chairman and M. Hale signed the agreement. They were thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:25 PM.

D. Bogaczyk was present to discuss his utility bills for his 220 Main St. office with an upstairs apartment and his mother's home at 210 S. Wmsn. Rd. He had received a letter regarding the nonpayment of a bill for his mother's water bill. George said there has been correspondence to him and copies of bills sent, and payments received that he is questioning. He pays by the year and doesn't think he owes. J. Eckman noted that we only do the water and sewer, and the Boro does the garbage. He also questioned billing for when his apartment was vacant. George said we had also contacted B. Stokes regarding the matter and have copies of that correspondence. Mr. Bogaczyk said he has retired from being a lawyer. George said we have previously asked for meetings to go over all his bills with him. The Chairman said he would be willing to sit down also with George and Cheryl to go line by line over his accounts. George asked him to give his number to call and pick out a couple dates and times he can be here. Dave said we should also have time to get our information together. Our information is on the computer, and we have all his information in a file already. George asked if toward the end of the month would be enough time to get his files together, and he said yes, and gave George his number. He would like to get this resolved if he owes money, but thinks he overpaid. George said we can do it here or go to Court to get it done. He questioned service termination when a bill is in dispute, and George said he does not like to do shut offs in the winter due to freezing. He was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:45 PM.

SECTION 1. All reports to be accepted in one motion

- A.) Minutes of previous meetings
- B.) Treasurer's report and bill payment

The minutes from the regular meeting held 12/7/21 were brought up for discussion. J. Eckman had the following corrections: on Page 1, Section 2, Letter A-it saved 20,000-should have "gallons a day" added. On Page 4, Section 4, Letter B-get a new-should have "one" after it. There were no further corrections.

P. Bauman read the Treasurer's Report. He asked Leesa if the Royalty balance included the check received yesterday, and it does.

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Leesa noted on the water bill list is the annual bill from Comm. Of PA., DCNR for a pipeline right-of-way that goes along with the FM-7272 Forestry agreement we send payment for yearly. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That the minutes be approved with the additions and all reports be accepted." All in favor.

SECTION 2: OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

Nothing on the well. We have no leaks currently and the system is tight for now. There will always be some leaks and we will not be at 100%.

B.) DELINQUENTS

The members were given the list. The numbers are going down slowly. George said a lot of people are paying online, and due to Covid a lot of people are home. There are programs people can apply for aid in paying bills. A letter was printed from the PA. Dept. of Human Services regarding taking part in the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program that begins 1/4/22. You must do a Vendor Agreement. It was suggested asking C. Lantz what has to be done, but we do not want to pay to participate. J. Eckman said to ask if other Authority's use this method.

C.) INFILTRATION

They used the sewer came on the west side of N. Wmsn. Rd. and had pictures for the members to see where work needs to be done. We do not have a sewer cleaner. George got a quote from Insight Pipe Contracting and their cost is \$365.00 per hour and a cost of \$600.00 for mobilization to and from town as they are in Harmony, PA. George figures on 4500 feet, taking 2-3 days and the total would be about \$15,000.00. George will call Scott Boyce from Wellsboro about their cleaner. MU has one that uses a magnet system for removing manhole covers.

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

RUS is reviewing UTRA's information, and they hope to bid out in the summer. They are still working on easements.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

George will call him.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

There was an arson fire there, with several fire departments called. S. Nickerson contacted the owners. The Police put up some motion activated cameras to see if they can catch anyone going in and out of the building. The Fire Marshall has not sent his report to Chief McCurdy yet.

H.) TAYLOR RUN TANK

A change order was received from Dutchland regarding performance bonds in the amount of \$17,500.00. George will call S. Bray about this. We would like a detailed description for this. J. Eckman hopes there will be no more changes.

George said the trees are being trimmed along the road where the trucks will be able to turn around. This will allow more sun light in and help dry things up. George said Ray had the tandem truck there and had no problem with hitting tree limbs.

I.) NEW STP

George got an email from Alyssa that it has to be reviewed and approved for the corrections made to the environmental. The NOA will have to be published in the paper again. That requires a 14-day comment period and the FONSI must be published. It will still be a little longer. We would like to get ready by summer. HRG is ready. In the bill from HRG there is a line item and if we could hire our own inspector, it would save money. Ron Weed, a former employee of ours, who works in sales for L/B Water, is planning on retiring in March and he would be interested in doing this. Ron lives in Mansfield. He could be on site when construction is going on which would free up George's time. He would report to HRG's manager and us. J. Eckman said he would not be an employee of ours but like a Clerk of the Works. It was suggested talking with C. Lantz about this and if a contract would have to be drawn up. On site meetings would be set up during construction with HRG and us. J. Eckman said we should have on site photo documents and George said he can do along with Matt using our camera equipment. S. Hall asked how long the project will take and George thinks about 2 years total. He wondered what rate would have to be paid and Mike and George will check into what other places are paying for this service.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

George will ask S. Bray to call the man that did the Pilot study.

K.) BR DAM

L.) PAINT BR TANK

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M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz had a report from CSR which was given to the members look over. They discussed training, protection against malware, upgrades, laptop encryption, network UPS replacement, new sewer plant future needs, desktop replacements, backup cellular internet, and a chart regarding the equipment and warranties. There is malware daily on the firewall, but the system is doing its job. There is a fee for license security that is paid for by the year and split with the Boro. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by S. Hall, "That we pay our share of the fee." All in favor. The Chairman thanked Joe for his report.

SECTION 3: NEW BUSINESS:

A.) HRG REQUEST

Request #6 was received in the amount of \$11,765.50 from 11/1 to 11/28/21. S. Bray has reviewed this. After going over the request, a motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That this bill be approved for payment." All in favor. J. Bubacz and S. Hall will sign the papers and will be returned via email.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY-#48 was received and put in the packets. J. Eckman said unit prices are supposed to stay up all season and there have been slight increases in the amounts.

C.) C&N INTEREST STATEMENTS, CD'S, FCCB-Statements for 12/21 were passed out. P. Bauman said rates are still down so there has been no cash movement. J. Eckman said he checked rates and if you invest for a long time, you will get better return.

D.) AGREEMENT MANSFIELD BORO-Nothing further so it was suggested removing this item from the agenda, with all in favor.

E.) LETTER DAVE BOGACZYK

The members had been given a copy. The Chairman said when we hear back from him, he will be available and if anyone else is interested we can advise them when we will meet to go over his accounts.

F.) TIMBER TAYLOR RUN

J. Eckman is comfortable with both K. Geykis and M. Hale for our project.

The first check from Cummings was received and Leesa asked where to deposit the money. All in agreement that we put it into our water general income. M. Stoudt said it is to be earmarked for timber work in the future. We can pay for Hale's work out of this money.

SECTION 4. BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

A.) George had received an email from S. Bray, which had also been sent to other places he works with, saying that he was going to start getting ready to retire and close his office. He will continue working with municipalities currently under agreement for 2022. He would continue with "day to day" items and other short term needs. He will not commit beyond the end of 2022. It was asked if he would be willing to be kept on retainer, and George will talk to him as all in agreement that we are satisfied with his work and would like to keep him as long as possible. It was asked if he had any suggestions for a replacement. About five years ago was a person that would do a good job, but he got a promotion to a better job with DEP.

B.) George said the price to run water to the PennDOT yard off of new 15 would be over \$100,000. He has talked again with Neil about this. There would have to be a meter pit. Where there is open construction, a metal plate has to be placed over it. This could cost about \$3,000.00 to buy but possibly you could rent one. It was asked if possibly PennDOT already has these plates somewhere and George will ask Carl Olson.

C.) Leesa reported that if a customer pays their utility bills on line, If you use a credit card you are charged \$3.00. If a bank debit card is used it is a flat fee of \$1.50 between the customer and FCCB. We do not pay anything to use this service, the customer pays.

D.) Financial interest statements were passed out to the members and Leesa asked that they be returned for the file.

E.) Chairman M. Stoudt thanked the members for their confidence in him to continue as Chairman and he really appreciated it.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM on motion by J. Eckman, seconded by J. Bubacz, with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

