

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

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

GUEST

Scott Bray, Engineer

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

The regular meeting held 8/2/22 needs to be closed. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the meeting be closed." All in favor.

G. Lloyd asked if S. Bray can be taken care of before the rest of the meeting, all in agreement. He discussed the following items:

2017 Bellman membrane op. cost \$1.2 million

2022 Bellman traveling bridge filter rehab about \$120,000.00 plus tank rehab and pump

2022 Bellman bridge replacement \$450,000.00 304 stainless steel

\$350,000.00 painted like we have now

Bridge projects will require work on the floc tanks and other equipment

The membranes at R&G well will require piloting

Can use ad-edge system without piloting

Ball park totals: membranes \$1.5 Million

Ad-edge \$0.5 Million

Media at the R&G will take out iron and manganese. Scott had talked with the company rep about the Pall and how long we waited for the information. The company has been restructured and it is not working like before. The sales rep had his notes from 5-6 years ago when we first talked. In 2017 we had no money in the checkbook and had to look for funding. Now we have money to use. Scot would like to find a system close by, there are about thirty in the State, that we could visit and talk with the operators. At Bellman at the present time the floc goes into the basement and is recirculated until it can be hauled away. If we change to the pall system, we will need a sewer line. George said we should have three plants so if one is down the others can maintain the demand. He would do work on the Gun Club first because it would be quicker. At Bellman, Dan said it is on its last leg but still puts water out, we are meeting our permit requirements so what he is doing is a credit to us. It was asked what chemicals have to be used at Taylor Run, and only chlorine because the water is that clear. The line is a 10" and there is enough contact time before it gets to the first user. S. Hall asked about the Taylor Run wells being permitted and George hopes by next year. DEP has a timeline and do not respond as fast as the SRBC. Scott did talk to his contact at DEP, and they did get our application and have looked at it. We should rehab the Bellman Run tank next year. For the new TR tank, Saturday they filled it with water from Bellman and the well. It will hold about 860,000 gallons. It is about a million-gallon tank, but with the center column in it you have to take some out. J. Bubacz said we would do the R&G Club first, bring Taylor Run on and wait to do Bellman. Scott said we can get a few years out of Bellman until our other sources carry the load. It will be a few years

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before UTRRA would be put online. Covington is going to have a 600,000-gallon storage tank on East Hill past the Township building. Scott said at Bellman now there are layers of sand and gravel where the water goes on top then passes down through and collects on the bottom of the tank. If it clogs Dan will back flush it out. It needs to be replaced and they have to use a vacuum truck to suck it out since it is a small entryway to get into the tank. The smaller ad-edge is better but there might be something better now. The manufactured media should be changed about every 10 years. There is a reaction process that pulls out the iron and manganese. It is DE, which is a fine material, which is also used at the swimming pool. S. Hall asked when we are looking at doing the R&G and George thinks next year at this time before DEP says we can.

At the new TR tank they did backfill work around the bottom and are careful to stay away from anything with a motor and keep it level.

There being no further questions for S. Bray, he was thanked for the information and left at 7:25 PM.

SECTION 1: All reports to be accepted in one motion

- A.) Minutes of the previous meetings
- B.) Treasurer's Report and Bill Payment

The minutes from the reconvened meeting held 7/19/22 and the regular 8/2/22 meeting were brought up for discussion. There were no corrections.

P. Bauman read the Treasurer's Report. The members looked over the bill list. George had received an email from Casselberry and two bills needed to be added to the water list. Taylor Run Well #1 from SRBC in the amount of \$7,092.00 and Taylor Run Well #3 in the amount of \$7,092.00 for a total of \$14,184.00 which is the application fee for ground water withdrawal. Both are 0.144 mgd. The money has to be paid before they will look any further at the applications. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the reports be accepted, and the bills be paid." All in favor.

SECTION 2: Old Business

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

George said they fixed a leak on St. Mary's St. They had to do 3 patches across there as water was going down behind homes on Morris St. This saved about 20,000 gpd. They are still looking for other leaks as we are using about 30,000 gpd more. J. Bubacz had seen a water puddle in Seymour/Davis Streets. George said it could be on a curb box and they listened but did not hear a leak.

B.) DELINQUENTS

George passed out the report. There are liens on properties that are up for tax sale on 9/30.

C.) INFILTRATION

George said they have not checked any lines since they have been working at the new TR tank.

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

They are still working on getting easements signed.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

F.) CASSELBERRY

George has asked him to start working on the well by Repsol, House and DCNR border.

G.) OLD HOSPITAL

S. Nickerson may be able to start work on the roof in the next few weeks. He has gotten some materials in. The permits have been submitted to the State for review.

H.) TAYLOR RUN TANK/NEW CHLORINE BUILDING

The boys have been working around back levelling it out. They will start work on the chlorine building and George has a person to lay the block and do the plumbing. Seal's is working on the trusses. The balance due to Dutchland to finish the tank is \$13,953.75.

I.) NEW STP

George said he has a paper from HRG for an amendment #3 to the Owner-Engineer Agreement. This is for additional services, modifications to services and modifications of payment. The original agreement we signed with them was 10/2018. Since that time, some Project scope and associated construction timeframe assumptions have changed. Their hourly rates have increased, construction time has increased from 480 days to 600 days, and the Buy America, Build America requirements implemented in 5/22, will now apply. Various additional review and coordination tasks related to compliance similar to the American Iron and Steel requirements has to be met. They anticipated submissions of requisition and certificate payment requests to USDA and now anticipate 20 additional requests. The total requested amount for these items is \$133,500.00. We cannot argue for these additional changes since it has taken so long with RUS, and we want to keep going forward. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That we approved amendment #3 with HRG for the new STP." All in favor.

FCCB LOAN

We have previously approved signing any paperwork that comes in needed for the project. We had contacted Johnathan Cox , in January, from Eckert Seamans, Attorneys to get an extension on the loan with FCCB for at least two years. From our first-time frame, we had hoped to be under construction by now, instead of just being able to award the bids. The loan was coming due last month, and paperwork had been started to extend the loan. We have an amended and restarted legal service agreement with Eckert as Bond Counsel. The original agreement was dated 2018. We also have an amended agreement with C. Lantz since the original was also dated 2018. These papers will be signed. The paperwork with FCCB is being done to extend the loan.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

K.) BR DAM-Clean sediment pond

L.) PAINT BR TANK

M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz said they met with CSR last week. They will set up the training modules soon. He will set up one for the office and then they can do it on their own. The Police Dept. is not on with the Boro original email, and they will need their computer replaced next year.

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N.) LETTER D. BOGACZYK

The DJ found in favor of the Plaintiff, so the matter is settled. All in favor this be taken off the agenda.

O.) TIMBER TAYLOR RUN

George talked with K. Geykis. We have a landing area where the sand was stored. More sand will be used around the tank, and we may have to wait until next year to timber. They did spray a few times. George will keep in touch with Kerry.

P.) NEW EMPLOYEE

We wait and readvertise again since it will be a while before we will start work on the new plant.

Q.) REPLACEMENT OF AUTHORITY MEMBER

Two letters of interest were received from F. Wasowicz and R. Bowens. P. Bauman asked if it would be possible to add another person since two are interested. Leesa said in the Articles of Incorporation it says five members and is what we filed with the State. J. Bubacz said it could be an odd number of members to break a tie, but it would just mean a majority would have to approve something. George can ask Attorney Barrett if the number of members can be increased. It was noted that Frank was a member before. Steve said Rob is a younger person and it is nice to see the interest in our community, as there is a hard time filling any vacancies on Borough Boards. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by P. Bauman, "That we recommend George take to Council next Wednesday, the names of 1<sup>st</sup> F. Wasowicz and 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Bowens, but with the attorney's ok to go to 6 members, we accept both of them. " All in favor.

P. Bauman also wondered about the restriction of keeping the sewer and water money separate. George said with the new stp project we had to provide them with figures for paying back the loan, which is government money. We could find out for future use should other projects arise, and we would want to apply for funding from different sources.

Section 3: New Business

A.) HRG REQUEST #14

We have not received another one. #11,12, and 13 have not been paid yet.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY #56

The check was received but we have not gotten the statement yet. #55 statement was passed out.

C.) C&N INTEREST STATEMENTS, CD'S, FCCB

The C&N 7/22 and 8/22 statements were passed out. P. Bauman had talked with Matt at C&N regarding terms and rates of CD's. The Feds are meeting in another two weeks, and it is anticipated there will be another hike. On a 2-year the rate is 3.45; 3-year 3.5 and 5-year 3.55. With the last royalty check we received we could invest more. With the new CD with FCCB we could withdraw, without penalty, and double our money due to the higher interest rates. Pat said we have one CD that will mature next month with C&N. We talked about doing work at Taylor but that would not be until next year so we can invest for a longer period of time. It was decided to wait to see what the interest rates will be doing again in a few weeks. He will also check with FCCB to see what they can offer.

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Section 4: Borough Manager's Report

A.) George reported on Tuesday, 9/13 there will be a meeting at the Fire Hall regarding the mine acid drainage project. The cost for dinner is \$30.00 which is at 5:30 with the program at 6:30. Should anyone want to attend, please call the office. S. Hall said with the water level so low from lack of rain you can see it draining in by the bridge, on the left side, and on the other side from Taylor Run.

B.) George asked the members to consider purchasing a new backhoe. The old one is a 2002. The cost will be about \$159,950.00. This split 3 ways would be about \$53,317 each. The Boro has put it in their budget for next year. If approved it could be ordered, but we would not have it until next year. It was asked if the old one could be bid out for sale, and George said it could be, or could be used for trade. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by S. Hall, "That if the Borough agrees, we purchase a new backhoe and split the cost." All in favor.

G. Lloyd requested this meeting be left open should we have more paperwork to do with RUS.

The members were given a copy of an article from the paper with problems Lawrenceville Borough's water system has been facing with DEP. We are very fortunate our systems are operating so well and should give credit to all our employees.

C.) S. Hall suggests after S. Bray's presentation, we should get a formal price for doing the work he discussed. It will not get any cheaper and we will have to do it, and with the way things are now, it could take a while to get all the materials needed. All in agreement and George will let Scott know to have the information available for our next meeting.

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman left the meeting open, and everyone left at 7:56 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY

