

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

The following members were present: Chairman M. Stoudt, Vice Chairman J. Bubacz, Jr., Treasurer P. Bauman, and member F. Wasowicz. S. Hall, Treasurer, had advised G. Lloyd that he would not be in attendance. Also present was G. Lloyd, Borough Manager, and L. Lazouras, Recording Secretary.

George Lloyd, Borough Manager called the meeting to start at 7:00 PM so the election of officers could be done. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by J. Bubacz, Jr., "That the officers remain the same." All in favor.

M. Stoudt read a thank you card from Leesa due to the passing of her sister. He asked for a moment of silence for Wilma Hall, who was Steve's mother and previous Council member.

Section 1: All reports to be accepted in one motion

A.) MINUTES

The minutes from the 12/6/22 meeting were brought up for corrections. There were four corrections.

B.) TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL PAYMENT

P. Bauman read the treasurer's report. He noted that in the water we received a refund from SRBC for the payment for the applications of Taylor Run Well 1 and Taylor Run Well 3. These two wells will be considered as a wellfield, so only one application fee is needed for the groundwater withdrawal. They had sent us two bills in 9/22, so one was refunded. George reported that we paid Carver for work done on the new building at TR, and he will be back next year to finish the job. The balance in the Royalties MMI includes the last check we received from Repsol. Once we get the audit back, we will have to pay Forestry for the annual draw of water from the State streams. This is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of income we collect from our two sources. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That all reports be accepted as presented." All in favor.

P.) WATER RATES

George talked with C. Lantz last week about our discussions on the rates. Chris has some ideas about this. We can call him now and discuss it over the phone, or he would be willing to come to our next meeting. P. Bauman said at our last meeting we had approved raising the sewer rates and hoped the water reduction would help alleviate the burden. A letter will have to be composed to explain this. J. Bubacz said it has to be stressed that it will be

temporary and not permanent. He also said we have discussed a zero bill, a flat percent, or 50%. It was asked how this would affect our sewer funding. It should not, and we are already going to increase our sewer rates to be able to repay our loan for the new plant. F. Wasowicz said for the sewer increase, we have to stress to our customers it is not just our decision, but the State said we have to replace the plant, and RUS told us what was required to be able to get funding for it. The members agreed that we ask C. Lantz to attend our next meeting.

Section 2: Old Business

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

Nothing on the well. Two patches were done on the roads where they fixed water leaks.

B.) DELINQUENTS

Cheryl was out so George did not get her report. Leesa said people have been paying.

C.) INFILTRATION

The boys have been busy with other projects. We had rain 12/22 and 12/23 and had to bypass and it was estimated at 1 MG. We had rain today and there is supposed to be more tomorrow, but we are holding our own right now and haven't had to run the 6" pump yet. F. Wasowicz asked George if they had the sewer line monitors in, but they had been taken out.

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

They are working on the easements. They have more requirements to meet with RUS like the additional things we had to do.

E.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

George talked with Erica, and they accepted the work that was done. M. Stoudt asked George to get a letter or even an email from her that it is accepted, and the work completed for our files.

F.) CASSELBERRY

George talked with Jim the other day and he got a notice from SRBC that they approve the wells at Taylor and he will get back to us in the spring. He is also working with DCNR about the proposed well by House's which is on DCNR land. This will be another source for us. Repsol is involved and will pay for Jim's work and running a line and will hook up by Tom Mahosky's. Mike thinks there is also more water in the Dorn Hollow area which is all in the same valley.

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G.) OLD HOSPITAL

George said they have been working on the roof and it is not leaking like it was. The Codes Office does not have all their plans yet. There is asbestos removal and some demo to be done. There is a hold up now by the buyers but at least the roof will keep it from getting worse

H.) TAYLOR RUN TANK/NEW CHLORINE BUILDING

The roof is on, and the new doors installed so it is secured until work is completed next year. The tank has water in it and S. Bray said it should be after this month or next that we should get the permit from DEP and then use it to be able to fix the Bellman tank.

I.) NEW STP

They have been working and hope to dig the footers for the tanks in February. The ground is now frozen.

J.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

He will finish this up. George noted that S. Bray has retired as of 1/1/23.

K.) BR DAM

L.) PAINT BR TANK

This will not be done until the spring after we receive the ok to use the new tank.

M.) CYBERSECURITY

J. Bubacz said they will be having a meeting this month or next.

N.) TIMBER TAYLOR RUN

George talked with K. Geykis and he like the landing site we made. The company has been doing smaller jobs right now and we have been working on the new building.

O.) NEW BACKHOE

It is ordered and will come in the spring.

P.) SEWER RATES/WATER RATES

Section 3: New Business

A.) HRG REQUEST

George has two bills from HRG for engineering. #1 from 10/3-10/30/22 in the amount of \$19,600.50. #2 from 10/31-11/27/22 in the amount of \$33,387.63, for a total of

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\$52,988.13. A bill was also received from TRA Electric Inc. in the amount of \$23,773.75, which is No. 1 for Contract No. 22-2 Electrical Construction. The total of the 3 bills is \$76,761.88. Cheryl has worked up a spread sheet as to what funds will be used to pay the new WWTP bills. Our initial share of the project is \$400,000.00. RUS has to approve these bills and determine if they are paid out of our share, or from the bank loan. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, "That the three bills be paid." All in favor.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY

The statement for #59 was put in the packets. The check for #60 was received but not the statement.

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

C&N statement for 11/22 was in the packets, and for 12/22 was passed out tonight. A letter was received from C&N saying that in March, they will be using a new broker/dealer called LPL Financial. Pat noted that we had opened the new money market account with C&N on 12/13, and it had earned interest of \$1,201.52 in less than a month. The rate changes every seven days. Having the interest go back in will mean earning interest on top of interest. He said we should keep moving funds into this account. Pat asked about the rates on CD's since we have money to invest from the royalty check. C&N has a 1-year CD at 4.6%. It was asked if he had checked with Heather at FCCB on their rates, and he did not but will call tomorrow. Interest rates are going up and the FEDS meet again on 2/1 with a projected increase. It was noted we will have to pay for the new backhoe in a few months. If FCCB can come close to C&N's rate, we can open the CD with FCCB, which keeps the funds local. The Treasurer said we could take \$146,000.00 out of the Royalties MMI and deposit it into the BWC MMI then take \$4,000 out of the BWC MMI for a total of \$150,000.00 to open a CD. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by F Wasowicz, "That the Water Co. open a one-year CD in the amount of \$150,000, with either C&N or FCCB, depending upon the interest rate." All in favor.

D.) LIBRARY DONATION-ECKMAN

Leesa reported the globe and plaque have been received. Mike said we should do a presentation at the Library. He asked Leesa to find out when their Board meeting will be and ask if we can attend to do this. If it is before our next meeting, Leesa will notify the members when it will be.

Section 4: Borough Manager's Report

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George got a phone call from a man interested in the old case backhoe that is dismantled on the Dorn property we purchased. The man had done work on it originally for Dorn. It is from the 1960's, and in bad shape. George said he does not think we would have to bid it out if we were to sell it or even give it to him. The man will contact George so they can go look at it. Mike said there is a bridge to cross and George said we have a 1" plate that could be put down. Mike said for insurance purposes, possibly a waiver could be signed we will not take any responsibility for taking it out. George said this land is an area where he thought would be a good environmental site for the school to take kids to someday. He noted when we bid out the old blue van, we lost money between the ad costs and removal.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM on motion by J. Bubacz, seconded by P. Bauman, with all in favor.

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY