

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
MARCH 5, 2024

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

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

GUESTS

S. Bray, Engineer, Jason and Dave from L/B Water Service, and Ashley Kohler, from the Tioga County Leadership Development Program to observe the meeting.

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

A presentation had been made before this meeting by L/B Water Service regarding new water meters, remotes, and readers. The members thanked L/B for attending and they left the meeting.

Section 1: All reports to be accepted in one motion

A.) MINUTES

The minutes from the 2/6/24 meeting were brought up for discussion. F. Wasowicz noted he had been at the Babb's Creek meeting, not the TC meeting. There were no further corrections.

B.) TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL PAYMENT

Treasurer Bauman read the treasurer's report and bill list. Leesa had no more bills to add to the list. On the sewer list, J. Bubacz asked about the bill from Tra Electric in the amount of \$2,773.04. George said they shut off electricity to demolish the old pump house building. For the new pump house, Penelec sent the new service bill to Tra Electric instead of to us. This bill covers 12/19/23-2/6/24. Penelec has been notified to send future bills to us, so it is possible there will be one or two more bills sent to Tra we will have to repay. P. Bauman asked about the bill from Sterling and George said this is for polymer chemicals for the BR filter plant. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That the minutes, treasurer, and bill payment reports be accepted as presented." All in favor.

Section 2: Old Business

A.) WATER UPDATE. SALT WELL 15

George said they are looking for leaks in town and Morris Run. Morris Run is using more, and Dan has found a few spots to check. We are listening to hydrants and will be checking on Davis and Granger if the weather cooperates.

B.) DELINQUENTS

Cheryl sent out 10 48-hour stickers, and 3 or 4 have been in already. S. Hall noted the numbers are up for over 120 days in both sewer and water. Report in packets.

PAGE 2
REGULAR MEETING BMA 3/5/24

C.) INFILTRATION

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

They are waiting for the ok from RUS to bid out and there were some changes with Larson Design. They are looking for any Federal grant money and are going to contact the politicians.

E.) CASSELBERRY

Last week Jim finished his work on trying to locate an additional source in Arnot. They decided to wait a year before considering going on with us based upon his findings.

F.) OLD HOSPITAL

They did clean up the mess out front.

G.) TAYLOR RUN TANK/NEW CHLORINE BUILDING

The plan is to start the generator on Thursday, and Cummins and Martz are working together. When ready, S. Bray will contact DEP to come inspect. We will have to submit a \$50.00 check to go with the certificate. The field rep. came to check the generator, and the damage was just cosmetic on the outside shell, but the inside is fine. We made sure that the full warranty stands, and the dent outside was noted. We also have propane tank fuel. Scott asked if the check can be prepared so it can be put with the application, and all agreed this be done. He will send Leesa a copy of the paperwork.

K.) PAINT BR TANK

Scott received 3 bids: 1.) \$280,000.00-Amstar of Western New York, Inc.; 2.) \$382,187.00-Nostos SS Contractors, LLC, and 3.) \$650,000.00-Brave Industrial Paint LLC. All three had 10% Bid Bonds. We used Penn Bid and 42 companies took documents, but only 3 bid. They send out the bid notice to everyone they think might be interested. P. Bauman asked about the bid completion date, since it cannot be done until we have the new Taylor Run tank working. The old tank will have to be emptied. Scott said that is included and will be in the fall. It was asked how long the tank will be down, and it should be 4-6 weeks. A motion was made by P. Bauman, seconded by S. Hall, "That we accept the low bid from Amstar, pending S. Bray's approval." All in favor.

I.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION-The filter media for the Rod & Gun Club cannot be done until we have Taylor Run online, and Scott has been in contact with Continental. Mike asked if full power will be needed, as they need to replace a transfer switch and will have the new generator. Scott said we will work with them on this.

There being nothing further, S. Bray was thanked for attending and left the meeting at 7:26 PM.

H.) NEW STP

PAGE 3
REGULAR MEETING BMA 3/5/24

They have been working with Penelec. Instead of this month it will be in April before they will be supplying power for the new stuff. We have a generator we rented until we get the new one, which is not part of the big project. LRM will set up the new for call outs when there is high water.

FENCE BIDS NEW STP

George received 3 bids for the fence: 1.) Cochran, from Roaring Branch-\$44,875.00, 2.) Tension, from Mansfield-\$47,000.00 and 3.) Kriger from Williamsport-\$48,000.00. It was noted that Tension did the fence at Taylor Run and did a good job. It was asked how deep the posts will be and set in concrete. George will have to check. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, "That we do not exceed spending \$48,000.00 pending a vendor's review by G. Lloyd, Borough Manager." All in favor.

J.) BR DAM

L.) CYBERSECURITY

The first quarter training will be finished this month. They discussed with Martz the new equipment at Taylor Run, and their security. At some point CSR should go on site to review all the systems and operations. They also discussed the use of an iPad and telephones and security.

M.) GENERATORS-Discussed

N.) BLOSS TWP. BILLINGS

Discussed. If they put in another well, it will be close to their existing one, and cheaper than running a line up from Blossburg. They are to drill this summer.

O.) METERS

Discussed. A remote has to be outside a home where the water line goes into it. L/B total cost for 800 meters is about \$278,000.00. We would not put them in all at once and split it out for 3-5 years. It was asked if there is a benefit to buy them all now or how much more they would cost down the road. What is the shelf life before being installed, is there is a warranty, and how long would the plastic components last. George will get more information.

Section 3: New Business

A.) HRG REQUEST-No. 7 USDA

This is from funding grant money. It includes: 1.) HRG, for engineering from 1/1-1/28/24 in the amount of \$14,437.25. 2.) Larson Design thru 2/17/24 in the amount of \$17,025.96. 3.) Performance from 1/1-1/31/24 in the amount of \$276,811.32. 4.) Tra Electric from 2/1-2/29/24 in the amount of \$271,582.74. 5.) AFT Mechanical from 1/9-2/13/24 in the amount of \$89,180.63. The total amount is \$669,037.90. A motion was

PAGE 4
REGULAR MEETING BMA 3/5/24

made by S. Hall, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That we sign Requisition #7 USDA, per their approval." All in favor. S. Hall and J. Bubacz will sign the paperwork. George said Performance work is starting to slow down, but Tra Electric has a lot left to do. Cheryl told George the money left in the grant to use is \$4,527,561.91 thru #7 of grant requisitions, and there is nothing left in the loan to use. S. Hall asked if there is paving work to be done, and the fence, per our contract. These items would be our expense and not the contract. S. Hall asked if anything is going to be torn down from the old plant. The pump house on this side of the river was replaced. There is still sludge in both clarifiers. There are new drying beds. Scott said there might be some use with the existing tanks. On the top they look bad, but underneath is in good condition still.

B.) REPSOL ROYALTY

#74 was received 2/21/24 and direct deposited into the BWC Royalties MMI. The monthly report was received and put in the packets. The Treasurer requested to transfer all but \$2,000.00 from the Royalties MMI to the BWC MMI#6018 to earn the higher interest rate. Instead of making this request every month, he asked permission to be able to transfer Royalty Payments monthly when received, instead of waiting until our next meeting, so we would earn even more interest. A balance of \$2,000.00 will be left in the account to avoid a bank charge. A motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That the Treasurer is authorized to do the transaction monthly once the Royalty money is received, online." All in favor.

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

The statements were in the packets. There will be CD's coming due in April.

NEW WWTP LOAN REPAY TO RUS-REPAYMENT #1

The first loan repayment to RUS in the amount of \$150,771.00 will be automatically withdrawn from the Sewer Project Account #5812 on the 24th of February. Funds have to be transferred into that account before the withdrawal is made. The second loan repayment for this year will be done again on the 24th of August. The two payments total \$301,542.00 per year, on the same dates, for 40 years. After the withdrawal is made out of the Revenue Fund MMI #7218 to pay the monthly bills due, the Treasurer will transfer funds to earn higher interest by depositing sewer funds into the BWC MMI#6018. From sewer funds that were deposited into the BWC MMI#6018, will be transferred to the Sewer Project Account #5812 to make the RUS payments in February and August of each year.

Section 4: Borough Managers Report

A.) A letter was put in the packets from DEP dated 3/1/24, that our Water Treatment Plant was chosen to undergo a Filter Plant Performance Evaluation on 4/8 and 4/9. They are required to conduct this on a routine cycle. The FPPE program assists systems with violation prevention, plant optimization and information sharing. They will schedule an exit meeting within a 4-5 week span to share the results. Their goals are more stringent than current requirements of the PA. Safe Drinking Water Regulations.

PAGE 5
REGULAR MEETING BMA 3/5/24

George said Dan has been getting a better turbidity reading than distilled water and has always been very conscious in running the plant correctly.

B.) George reported they check vehicles for sale under the Muni bid auction plan. There is a 2006 F350 XLT that is on good shape, located at the New Freedom Borough, in PA. The bids are up to \$8,200.00 and he thinks it will go higher. This would be used by Matt Grinnell for going back and forth to the sewer plant. It has a snowplow hook, but the plow is not included. Steve looked it up online to see the features.

Matt and Chad have been going to the Canton Boro to see how they operate their plant.

A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by F. Wasowicz, "That we authorize G. Lloyd, to bid up to \$15,000.00." All in favor. If we get the bid, it will be paid for out of the BWC MMI #6018 account.

C.) George noted that we have to look toward the future of finding good sewer and water operators for when our employees will be retiring. It will be impossible to replace Dan Grinnell with all his knowledge and experience, as he is in his early 60's. M. Stoudt said he is our chief operator, and the others are underneath him. He will now be taking on another responsibility with the new TR. It was noted we do not have a large turnover, so our employees have lots of experience. It was asked how long it takes to get certified, and you have to have experience at the plant, pass tests and two years to move forward with getting your licenses. You then have to continue taking courses for credits.

D.) George reported they are pouring the footers on Island Park for the new restroom to replace the clivus one.

Our visitor, Ms. Kohler thanked the members and noted she works at the school with programs and can report back on the need for operators should a student be interested in this field. She asked what is needed, and George said good math skills and chemistry.

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

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY