

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Please be advised that to assist the Secretary in the preparation of minutes, the Secretary records the meeting. The recording is deleted after the minutes are prepared and no permanent recording is kept by the Secretary.

The following members were present:

Ralph Honigmann

Steve Bright

Rod Lebo

Mark Spotts

Jack Morris

Barbara Orth

Randy Gartner was absent.

Engineer David Bright, Solicitor Jestyn Payne, Dennis Miller and Dustin Miller (Authority Operators) were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag of the USA.

Visitors: Kennon Rice – Adjacent landowner to WRJA property. He stated concerns with mountain bike trails for upcoming Berks Trail Works mountain biking event. One main trail coming onto their property. Some riders tend to go off trail. Other neighbors also concerned (Terry Groff). Mike & Terry Groff had contacted Womelsdorf Borough President, Bruce Edwards who in turn, contacted Solicitor Payne. Mark Spotts recommended getting surveyor there to mark exact property lines. Steve Bright made a motion to hire SSM Group to survey. Ralph Honigmann seconded. Motion carried. Will survey properties adjacent to WRJA noted as Rice, Kurtz, Groff and any others in question.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, February 23, 2022 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Memorial – I checked at Rose Joelle Nursery in Myerstown for prices on trees and shrubs. Reported to board. Glenn, Dennis and Dustin will pick an area and make a plan for planting. Will report back to board with decision on choices and amount.

Correspondence:

1. The Authorities: Spring Meeting April 2 & 3, PMAA Management Workshops April 14
2. PA One Call 2021 refund \$206.54. Treasurer commented it is a credit to the account.
3. JF Martin check - \$5,000 contribution for tie in under Route 422.
4. Certificate of Insurance from Ditchcreek Utilities

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,055,383.19 was approved on a motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$61,029.21 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo. Motion was unanimous.
3. Monthly statement from Edward Jones is available upon request from Treasurer.

Engineer's Report:

1. 2021 Water System Improvement Project, including possible paving-related change order and agreement with Borough of Womelsdorf: Final restoration needed. Council member, Talon contacted engineer and Glenn to inquire - rather than have UGI and WRJA do repaving we would pay Womelsdorf Borough and they would reconstruct in Penn Hill Park. Engineer recommends waiting for definitive proposal. In the meantime, would there be temporary paving? Will AH Moyer consent? Engineer said should not be a problem. Steve Bright motioned to give the Vice-Chairman authority to work with engineer and Womelsdorf Borough to do temporary paving. Ralph Honigmann seconded. Motion carried.
2. Furnace Hill subdivision (Robesonia): No change. Waiting for revised drawing.
3. Wawa land development (Robesonia): No change. Waiting for response to plan review letter.
4. Zimmerman-Martin project (Womelsdorf): Waiting for response to address comments.
5. Dollar General (Womelsdorf): Also waiting for response to address comments.
6. 2021 Consumer Confidence Report: Should have ready next month.
7. Reading Bakery Systems: Putting up new warehouse. They are planning to tap in to their existing service. Waiting for revised drawing. Should have next month.
8. Big Spring Farm Commercial water main extension: Forwarded to board the Lower Heidelberg Townships proposed application to the county seeking grant money to provide water service to that site as well as connection of Wernersville Water Authority to WRJA's system. There was talk about a meeting, but no one has contacted engineer or anyone from WRJA. Engineer thinks West Berks Water Authority wants to sell water. Does this proposed project benefit us? Phase I and Phase II would benefit us in getting new customers, but Phase III would have no benefit. No decision to be made on this at this time.
9. 2021 DRBC water audit: Done
10. 2021 Chapter 110 reports for the PA DEP: Done
11. Stonecroft: Satellite community water system owned/operated by Aqua Water. Wrote to their staff in February about conveying system to WRJA. No response.
12. Capital improvements plan: Want to get together with operators regarding tank repainting and backflow prevention plan.
13. Robesonia projects: Received a list of street projects from the Robesonia Borough secretary for the coming year. Do we have any upgrades we want to do? Maple Alley - 400 feet of old 4" cast iron pipe should be replaced. Dennis and Dustin think they can do. It was consensus that WRJA can do, and that Glenn can try to get pipe. Motion by Rod Lebo and seconded by Steve Bright. Unanimously approved.
14. UGI is planning to go ahead to replace their facility on High Street and also the facility going out 2nd Street. Glenn had talked about authority replacing its pipes on that stretch. According to PennDot permitting office, if there are two utilities doing projects in same street the first should finish their job before second utility comes and does theirs. This avoids disputes on any damage. PennDot may not require us to get permit.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Timber Project: Moving along. Treasurer has received a check for \$45,525 representing 25% of purchase price. Received insurance certificates. Still need balance of purchase price and a performance bond or cash security deposit 5 days before RR Logging and Firewood LLC project begins.
2. Potential litigation with Strickler Corporation with respect to disputed claim: Went into executive session to discuss at 8:00 PM motion by Morris, seconded by Bright. Out of executive session at 8:05 PM motion by Morris, seconded by Bright. Motions carried.
3. Metering Cost Assessment: Mark Spotts has been investigating. It is recommended by the board for Mark to move forward. Engineer thought by reading we don't design by

residential, commercial, industrial. Keep it simple. Solicitor would like to look at law with Mark.

4. Event Permission Agreement with Berks Trail Works: In light of our visitor and conversation, solicitor would like to add a paragraph about trespassing on private property.
5. Declaration of Taking of West Road: Treasurer gave a check of \$250 which was put in court for 6 years. If not claimed, that money will go to Harrisburg.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters are read and bills are out.
2. Valve exerciser works nicely. They are cleaning out a lot of valve boxes.
3. Talked to Joe Brackman. Not sure when project will start. Will let Mark know so can put info on website.
4. Correlator: Does not work and can't get parts. It is a key piece of equipment. New costs \$13,500 to \$14,000. Got 2 quotes. Solicitor asked if they could get one more quote. Glenn is at conference and is looking at correlators. Making good contacts.
5. Fixed water leak on East Ruth Ave.
6. Well #1 surge protector fixed.

Chairman's Report:

None – Chairman absent

Other Board Member Comments:

Old Business

Mark Spotts:

1. Security camera system update at barn – 10% down payment was ok. Should start soon.
2. Summary/discussion of Authority's costs associated with reading or water meters. No Notebook needed.

Went into executive session at 8:22 PM motioned by Bright, seconded Honigmann to discuss personnel issues. Out of executive session at 8:25 PM motion by Honigmann, seconded by Bright. Motions carried.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:26 p.m. by Orth, seconded by Spotts. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth
Secretary