

DATE: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, October 25, 2023 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:

Steve Bright                      Ralph Honigmann                      Mark Spotts

Jack Morris                      Barbara Orth

Matthew Miller and Rod Lebo were absent.

Engineer, Darryl Jenkins, Solicitor Jestyn Payne, and Dennis Miller (Authority Operator) were also in attendance.

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

### Visitors:

**Berks Trail Works** – Mountain bikers/Kory Kohler attended meeting with concerns regarding riding on WRJA property. Chairman and WRJA board highly recommended they do not ride from October to January except for Sunday's due to hunting season. Same recommendation for hikers and other users. Reminder not to build ramps, etc on WRJA property. William Hawk also commented to state he is a cyclist, fisherman, etc and hunter and doesn't agree that it's any more dangerous with hunters in the woods. He appreciates the usage of WRJA property. He wondered what would change. Chairman and Solicitor both stated that we want to make property available for as many people as possible while keeping everyone safe. William mentioned about seeing all the old tree stands. Mark mentioned we have a program in place to tag and remove them. (Same policy as Pennsylvania Game Commission). Bikers offered to help remove. Michelle Baer works in municipal government and appreciates the time put in writing the rules and regs. She wanted to say thank you for allowing people on our property. It is beautiful. She encourages us to continue to work with bikers to use property.

**Joe Brackman, Forester:** Open bids. We received 7 bids. Wagner Hardwoods LLC was the largest bid at \$232,624.07. Motion to accept highest bid subject to solicitor review was made by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried. Joe said Wagner Hardwoods are a good group out of Owego, NY.

Elmer owns White Oak Sawmill and was in attendance with some of his crew. They were doing a private logging job off Flint Lane. They encountered trouble getting logs across RR tracks getting their timber out. Joe Brackman talked with them and although it is not WRJA responsibility there is a landing at the top of our property they may be able to use. Asking for boards permission for temporary access. Chairman stated we must be careful in setting precedence other than for WRJA projects. Mark Spotts made some assessments and felt it was not a good idea. If we did allow, it would have to go through solicitor. Overall, the board thought not a good idea. Unfortunately, White Oak seems to be in the middle of an access dispute.

Lastly, Joe Brackman recommended not letting bikers remove tree stands. It could cause problems.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, September 27, 2023 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.  
Correspondence: Colonial Surety Survey – gave to engineer

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,029,438.31 was approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$54,242.97 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion was unanimous.
3. Edward Jones statements are available upon request.
4. Transferred \$50,000 from PLGIT to checking to make payments on bills.
5. Insurance renewal info sent to Marcie Kunkelman. Courtney from Zigmund wondered if they can put out for bid? Would cost approximately \$1,000. Good idea to do every few years. Ralph Honigmann made the motion to put out for bid, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion carried.
6. In preparation for tank project – the Edward Jones account has approximately \$140,000 maturing by February. Will not renew and will put into PLGIT for easier access. Motion made by Barbara Orth, seconded by Steve Bright to move forward with this plan. Unanimously approved.

### **Engineer's Report:**

1. Gold Spring/Furnace Creek Tanks Grant Application: Preparing for the Local Share Account grant for painting tank(s). On a motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Mark Spotts for SSM to submit the Public Water supply permit application. Motion carried. Engineer noted that we likely won't hear until the summer of 2025 if we have been approved. Cannot have started construction on the project until then. Therefore, we can do 1 tank and then follow up with 2<sup>nd</sup> tank using the grant.
2. 2023 Water Main Replacement Project - Review and take action on Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$74, 848.13 to AH Moyer. Was on the bill list. ??
3. Backflow Prevention Program: Sent 10 letters to operators to review. If ok, will mail out next week.
4. Well No 1: Last week the operators sent me a copy of the attached price quote to repair the pump in Well No. 1. The quote is reasonable based on the amount of work to be performed and is similar to pricing that we have seen for other clients for the same type of work. A new well pump and motor would be double the cost of performing this level of maintenance, so we believe that proceeding with the work scope proposed by Kohl Brothers is the best path to follow. Additional info in the Operators Report.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

1. 2023/2024 Timber Project: Looks like an excellent bid. Will review.
2. Lower Heidelberg Township Agreement: Forwarded to board a copy of the submission draft of agreement. They appointed Attorney, Mahlon Boyer who made many comments. Ad hoc committee reviewed comments. Solicitor Payne will reach out to him to inquire reasons for changes. Then will begin negotiations. WRJA board will make final decision.
3. 457(b) Plan: Cannot go forward with this plan. Cost to administer is too expensive. Chairman will talk with personnel committee about another plan and upcoming raises.
4. Annual Pig Roast to be held tomorrow evening, October 26, 2023 at 5pm at the Barn.

### **Operator's Report:**

1. Meters are read and bills are out.
2. Fixed problem meters
3. Changed chlorine lines and serviced injectors.
4. Started flushing hydrants.
5. Maintenance on Well 1 Pump: Sent a copy to board with estimate from Kohl Brothers in the amount of \$64,820.00 (co-stars bid). Engineer said it is a good price. Do this one this year and have them come in to let us know which one to do next. Best time to do is when colder. Dennis talked about having another Paper Chart recorder. We have one on Well #2 but do not have on the other end. Would be easier to monitor if we had. Engineer will research. Motion to proceed made by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Jack Morris. Unanimously approved.
6. Dennis Miller applied for his Chief Operators license. He applied for background checks. Will review with Darryl to be sure everything is in place. Dennis will pay for everything and then ask WRJA for reimbursement when all is complete.

### **Chairman's Report:**

1. Authority Magazine: Big companies buying small authorities. Dennis stated Myerstown was approached.
2. Chairman Bright represented WRJA at the MOU draft meeting with the Friends of The Robesonia Furnace, POSA and the Borough of Robesonia. Chairman reiterated that we bought the property to protect watershed, not preserve history. Liability is a major concern. No obligation.
3. Robesonia Municipal Authority approached Chairman Bright. Dave Hannigan of RMA is interested in using our GIS. Will talk to RMA and report back to board.

### **Other Board Member Comments:**

Mark Spotts: For next meeting – Equine access.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:14 P.M. by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, November 21, 2023** at 7 P.M. at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Orth*

Barbara Orth  
Secretary

# Womelsdorf - Robesonia Joint Authority

A WATER AUTHORITY — SUPPLYING WOMELSDORF, ROBESONIA AND SHERIDAN, PA.

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## Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2023

Balance AUGUST 31	<del>\$3,459.82</del>	31,459.82	
Customer Collections		\$27,823.25	
Cert. Fees		\$ 390.00	
Other income:		\$ 5,351.00	
PLGIT TRANSFER		\$50,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>			<u>+83,565.14</u> <b>\$115,024.96</b>
<b>Disbursements for SEPTEMBER</b>		\$95,985.25	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			<u>-95,985.25</u> <b>\$19,039.71</b>
<b>Treasury Notes</b>			
Expires 02.15.27	2.250%	\$100,000.00	
Expires 08.15.28	2.875%	\$140,000.00	
Expires 05.15.29	2.375%	<u>\$105,000.00</u>	
		\$345,000.00	<u>+345,000.00</u>
PLGIT		\$ 790,902.97	<u>\$364,039.71</u>
Transfer to Checking		-\$ 50,000.00	
Interest	5.50%	+\$3,500.71	
			<u>+744,403.68</u> <b>\$1,108,443.39</b>
<b>Edward Jones account value; August 26- Sept 29, 2023</b>			<u>+920,994.92</u>
<b>Amount in cash \$ 2,393.93</b>			<b>\$2,029,438.31</b>