

DATE: Wednesday, August 24, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, August 24, 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:

Randy Gartner	Ralph Honigmann	Steve Bright	Rod Lebo
Mark Spotts	Jack Morris	Barbara Orth	

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

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

Visitors: Robert Mourlas, Veolia North America.

Darryl Jenkins from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy. Will be taking over for Engineer, Dave Bright starting in October.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, July 27, 2022 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Rod Lebo. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Email with attachments for Veolia presentation, Letter from Joe Brackman, Sylvandale Forestry regarding completed logging by R.R. Logging, Email from Liz Miller, Robeson Borough Secretary inquiring about multiple calls regarding water shut offs (forwarded to Dennis Miller and Chairman Gartner.) Per Dennis, all taken care of.

Sent correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,200,279.97 was approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Steve Bright. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$45,216.22 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Steve Bright. Motion was unanimous.
3. Edward Jones Statement available upon request.
4. PMRS: Received email looking at retirement information. Will complete form and email to board before mailing out.

Visitor: Robert Mourlas, Veolia – recapped his presentation and what they would recommend on asset management for our water tanks. Talked about repainting the tanks. Outside will need to be painted within about a year. Inside within 5 years. Quite expensive but they have maintenance contracts with options. \$325,000 per tank for 3 years.

Engineer's Report:

1. Furnace Hill subdivision (Robesonia): Waiting for the developer/consultant to get back to us.
2. Wawa land development (Robesonia): Waiting for the developer/consultant to get back to us.
3. Zimmerman-Martin project (Womelsdorf): Waiting for the developer/consultant to get back to us.
4. Capital Improvement plan: Met with operators regarding what improvements need to be done. Made recommendations and distributed a list to the board. Discussed each item and the estimated cost for each. Pipe upgrading in Sheridan may qualify for development block grant. They are looking into that. Mark Spotts talked about various costs and needing more money. Due to these projects and tank work, he suggested thinking about raising rates and have a Capital Improvement Fund which Ralph would track. Chairman stated that funding has been coming from logging and interest on accounts. Mark did not think it would be enough. Steve Bright inquired if any streets in the plans are scheduled for repaving? Engineer said no plans and therefore no deadlines to get work completed. This brought us back to the discussion on tank maintenance. Are there other companies that offer these services? Darryl stated there are and he would get information so comparisons can be made. There are new regulations so this will have an effect on paint and perhaps other areas. Solicitor will wait to review Veolia contract until we look at other proposals/options.
If the Authority is looking at first step as recommended to improvement to distribution system then the sooner it is authorized to get into design stage the better because of time for permitting and scheduling. Chairman recommend bringing up again next month.
5. Backflow prevention program: Sending notices to customers was put on hold. Does board want to move forward with regulations now? Yes, board agrees to move forward.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Big Spring Farm water main extension and related issues: Township solicitor, Andy Bellwoar is supposed to draft a contract for us to review. Jes spoke to him and thought since it is their project it would be best for him to draft it.
2. 2022 Timber Project – Tract #850: Project is completed. Board should authorize payment to Joe Brackman in the amount of \$6,828.75 for his work on this project and \$9,105.00 to R.R. Logging for return of the security deposit. Motion made by Barbara Orth to make these payments. Seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.
3. Veolia Tank Asset Management Program: Will wait. If we consider going with them, will contact other solicitors who have dealt with them.
4. National Uniform contract: They do not want to let us out of the contract. Chairman recommends wearing their uniforms when doing their dirtiest work. Contract expires in 3 years. We should decline automatic renewal. Motion made by Steve Bright and seconded by Mark Spotts to have Solicitor cancel the automatic renewal now. Unanimously approved.
5. Meadow Avenue property: The Sanders family owns this property. Solicitor received communications from their attorney, Elizabeth Fiorini regarding water service connections.

Since Willard and Marion Sanders are transferring their remaining property to their daughter, Melani Sanders will they have to connect to municipal water? Chairman Gartner had Robesonia Borough check ordinances. They found a 1979 ordinance which states they must hook up to WRJA water service. Solicitor Payne will contact Ms. Fiorini to advise. This prompted Mark Spotts to comment on another customer, Michael Putt who is hooked up to public sewer but not public/WRJA water. The Robesonia Municipal Authority charges them a flat rate. Mark will talk to the sewer authority. We will sell them a compatible water meter. They could give or sell to property owner. This would enable them to meter usage.

6. 2022 Audit: Nothing yet.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters are read and bills are out.
2. Final restoration done on Lynn, E Ruth and 93 N Sheridan.
3. Working on painting hydrants and fixing meters.
4. Will be fixing a leak tomorrow.

Chairman's Report:

At the last Robesonia Borough meeting they received complaints that trash bill payments were being received late at Diversified Technologies due to poor USPS mail system. They decided to use the postmark date rather than the received date. Chairman suggested we do the same. Glenn stated we give a 10-day grace period now. We can talk about next month.

Other Board Member Comments:

Mark Spotts:

Land issues - nothing

Metering Cost assessments – Recommended Solicitor Payne draft a letter to notify the sewer authorities that they will be charged a \$1.00 fee for using our metering information.

Steve Bright: Will get back on benefits soon.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:28 p.m. by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Pig Roast: Thursday, October 13, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth

Secretary