

DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, February 22, 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	Matthew Miller	Rod Lebo
Mark Spotts	Jack Morris	Barbara Orth	

Chief Engineer, Darryl Jenkins, Solicitor Jestyn Payne, Glenn Eberly and Dennis Miller (Authority Operators) were also in attendance.

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

Visitor : Larry Lloyd, Senior Ecologist from Berks Nature discussed their land conservation easement program. Berks Nature is a 501C3 land trust. Larry works in the Land and Water Protection program. They do a wide variety of easements, have preserves and management plans. Land protection involves the conservation easement and source water protection. Best management practices for forests is where WRJA falls. In the deed of conservation easement the landowner holds most of the rights (hunting, fishing, hiking, business, etc) Berks Nature holds development rights. Within the documents other rights can be stipulated. This deed is recorded with the deed to the property. WRJA has tremendous acreage. Forefathers of this area had good foresight to protect this amount of forest to protect drinking water. The current board might consider protecting it for future generations. This is important to community. When there is an easement, Larry/Berks Nature would contact holder once per year. Within the document there are minimal protection areas (buildings, tanks, etc), medium protection areas and highest protection areas (forests) within the document. The rest of the document is legalese.

Q: Chairman asked about timbering. We are happy with our land manager.

A: Berks Nature would review plan to make sure it is sustainable. PA Bureau of Forestry can advise or talk about things they've seen. WRJA has final say subject to review by Berks Nature. They may advise regarding invasive species management.

Q: If we get cash strapped, could we sell some property?

A: If we sell the Authority the deed would follow the sale. Larry reported there would have to be a title search. Some parcels could be excluded from the easement which could be used to sell in future if needed.

Mark commented on this topic saying we could use SSM to review parcels that could be suited for development and reserve for possible development if we ever become cash strapped.

Q: Right of Way/Eminent Domain?

A: If a right of way (gas, electric) was ever needed, Berks Nature would defend with backing of State & National organization.

Larry would be happy to talk with engineer and solicitor to supply documents. Might be good for the board to form a committee. There are expenses but grant funding is possible to minimize expenses. Berks Nature has a steward fund which can help to offset costs.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, January 25, 2023 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Arc User/Esri magazine (gave to Dennis), certificates of insurance from Rock Road Construction and Kohl Bros., Water World and Excavation Safety magazines (gave to Dennis).

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,243,012.95 was approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Rod Lebo. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$36,493.21 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Rod Lebo. Motion was unanimous.
3. Edward Jones statements are available upon request.
4. Ralph reported that a duplicate payment was made to PA Dept of Revenue due to first payment in wrong quarter. The extra payment will be credited to future payments.
5. We made payment for new health insurance for Dustin today. Dennis opts out.

Engineer's Report:

1. Berks Nature: Engineer believes SSM should already have land information in the GIS system. Would give us a good idea of parcels. Mark asked Solicitor what if WRJA goes away (if someone else buys) what happens to it's assets? Do they revert to the boroughs? Solicitor will research.
2. 2023 Water Main Replacement project update: Well underway. Will meet with Glenn and Dennis on Friday. Restoration scope will talk to borough.
3. Updated front end conditions: Will send new documents to Kozloff Stoult.
4. Big Springs Farms Update: Issued letter of service. Had subsequent conversations with developer. Engineer provided developers a draft agreement to show what their obligations and process will be with WRJA.
5. Backflow Prevention Program Update: Looked back before pandemic and found the board approved letter. Should be put on WRJA letterhead. Need final addresses.
6. DEP and DRBC Reporting: In middle of getting information together.
7. PA DEP Lead Service Line Inventory: Talked to operators about this. By October 2024 DEP requires an inventory of all on their format. They have certain criteria to follow. Will distribute link to board from the DEP website. SSM already has the GIS system and can export to DEP. Lead was banned 1991. If on customer side our obligation to tell them.
8. Water Storage Tank inspections: Spoke to MBA. Should inspect tanks every 3 years. Our last inspection was 4 years ago. Engineer recommends inspection. Motion by Matt Miller to proceed with inspection at a cost of \$8,000. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously approved.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Reorganization Resolution for 2023: Formal resolution signed by Chairman and Secretary.
2. Auditor Discussion re: Edwards Jones Investment Reporting: Spoke with Auditor, Barbara Akins. She explained what she wants to see. Ralph will conform to her requirement.
3. Berks Trail Works Event Agreement (April 22, 2023): Prepared agreement.
4. Metering Cost Recovery Letter: Mark prepared draft letter which Solicitor approved.
5. Jestyn filed statement of financial interests.

6. Proposed corrective language for certain resolutions: Did not see the need.
7. Big Spring Farm: Placed call to Lower Heidelberg Township solicitor to inquire if loop portion of project was dead? He said it is not dead. The supervisors intend to discuss. Their solicitors office will get in touch.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters are read and bills are out.
2. Fixed and replaced problem meters.
3. Blatt & Myers did Thermal scans at all well houses.
4. Fixed heater at Well 9.
5. Cut up trees that were blown down on fire trails.

Chairman's Report:

None.

Other Board Member Comments:

Ralph Honigmann: Tank inspection – we are prioritizing. Engineer will ask them to be on site immediately. Once we have a report, board will be able to make a decision. MBA could write a spec or we could use a maintenance company. Per Ralph, Edward Jones has some items maturing - \$14,000. Will put in short term investments to have available for upcoming tank maintenance bills.

Mark Spotts....

1. Final draft of Metering Recovery Fee Letter for boards review. Should go out February 28th. Will have approximately 6 months to start. We are asking the sewer authority to reimburse us for 21% of our cost.
2. Land Use Issues update: Revisiting after approximately 1 year. Would like to explore recreational use realizing that there is hunting permitted under Pennsylvania laws 365 days per year. Coyote hunting is permitted all year. We have no firearms regulations, for instance target shooting. Rod and Glenn commented you can't target practice per PA State Game Commission which are the rules we follow.

Steve Bright...

401K and Life Insurance items for the operators: Working on life insurance policy. Also the 401K plan. Need to talk to 3rd party administrator.

Lastly, Darryl passed out water usage comparisons and will continue to send out quarterly.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:10 p.m. by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 7PM 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.

P.O. Box 94 Womelsdorf, PA 19567 • Phone: 610-589-2740 • Fax: 610-589-1340

Treasurer's Report JANUARY 2023

Balance December 31 \$547,473.01

Customer Collections	\$86,198.59
Cert. Fees	\$ 270.00
New Service 25 N 4th St	\$ 4,000.00
Shut Offs	\$ 50.00
Other Receipts	\$ 166.59

Total Income		<u>+\$90,685.18</u>
		\$638,158.19

Disbursements for January	\$48,385.49	
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Total Disbursements		<u>-\$48,385.49</u>
		\$589,772.70

Treasury Notes

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		\$ 370,902.93	\$934,772.70
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Interest	4.54%	+\$1,429.99	
			<u>+\$372,332.92</u>
			\$1,307,105.62

Edward Jones account value of Jan 27, 2023	\$ 935,907.33		<u>+\$935,907.33</u>
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\$2,243,012.95