

DATE: Wednesday, October 26, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, October 26, 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	

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

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

Visitors:

Ryan Lucy - Southern Corrosion regarding tank care. Mr. Lucy distributed packets to board members and made a presentation about their company and a painting and maintenance of our tanks. A budget proposal was developed that includes a detailed schedule of work (by year and per tank), as well as other documents such as client testimonials, a list of references, as well as the Agreement section for review. Southern Corrosion feels they can save the Authority money by doing an overcoat of the tanks. After many questions and much discussion, the board advised Mr. Lucy we will review and get back to Southern Corrosion with follow up questions or a decision. Mr. Lucy said this can be rewarded in 3 ways. Qualified as a professional service, put fully out to bid to ensure competitive biddings or cooperative procurement. Not sure how CoStars will work with their service but thinks it would piggyback with their service.

Chip Bilger regarding Big Spring Farm Project and County ARP Grant. First came as County designation person that created ARP Funds. He is now a Lower Heidelberg Township Supervisor. There is an Imagine Berks Initiative which you will hear more about with multiple municipalities. Solicitor Payne has been corresponding with Lower Heidelberg Solicitor Andy Bellwoar. Mr. Bilger that developer needs public water to go after specific development he's looking for. He needs a will serve letter. He talked about things that still need to be worked out. Need to talk about design...should we combine into one project or 2 separate projects? Do we want to manage project or should the developer? Chairman stated if development is not going in, we do not have a project. We were under the impression that developer was going to do work and our employees would inspect. The loop work will have to be discussed due to prevailing wage issue. Mr. Bilger was able to procure \$250,000 from the developer. He was asking us to take control of design. Solicitor stated we would have an improvement agreement approved by SSM Group. Looping phase (II) will have to be investigated. County money will be used for Phase II. Money is coming to township and township will be reimbursing the Authority.

Mr. Bilger understands we do not want to pay for the developer costs. He wants to hold costs down. He would like to work with Chief Engineer Jenkins on details. Mark Spotts again asked about the original agreement that had 3 phases. Mr. Bilger stated Phase III is off the table because it was not funded. Is the county aware? Solicitor stated if we go forward with agreement that gets us the ARP money, he would include as a condition an opinion letter from Lower Heidelberg Township solicitor and an opinion letter from the Berks County solicitor that the money can be used for the purposes we are using it and it does not obligate the Authority to do anything further including and specifically the interconnection.

Imagine Berks Initiative will have more funding available which the Authority could apply for. Mr. Bilger said labor costs, chemical costs, compliance costs will be increasing, and he recommended looking at WRJA expansion to cover these costs. Chairman noted that Mr. Bilger is looking for money for engineering work, etc. Chairman noted that we already invested money into the project via engineering and solicitor costs and we do not want to spend any more. We already said what we would do and we are still willing to do that but not go any further. Treasurer noted that the generation of water usage consumption is a lot less than the cost to do the project. Mr. Bilger wants to get the developer to spend some money and get this done. Will you require ductile iron or C900? Chairman stated we will talk about with our operators and engineer.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, September 28, 2022 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Steve Bright. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

The Authorities/PMAA dues schedule – gave to Ralph

Thank you card from Dave Bright

Correspondence: via phone – Called Diversified and spoke to Nina regarding changing date of receipt to postmark. Nina stated that this would be almost impossible to do since they receive so much mail (and not all is ours). Then to mark invoices or keep envelopes with the bills would take more work and we would incur additional fees for them to do. She also stated that there are so many options for customers to get payments in for their water service. Lastly, she stated (and Glenn also remarked at a previous meeting) that there is a grace period of 10 days after the actual due date before penalties are applied.

My comment: There are very few other companies that are this gracious with a payment system.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,080,855.44 was approved on a motion by Barbara Orth and seconded by Jack Morris. Unanimously approved.

Bills in the amount of \$40,491.88 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Barbara Orth, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion was unanimous.

Edward Jones statements are available upon request.

Auditor: They are nearing completion.

Engineer's Report:

New items:

1. East High Street Subdivision (Womelsdorf): Received plans and deposit check for \$2,000. Copies of plans were given to operators.
2. Drought contingency plan update: Thank you to Marcie Kunkelman for finding the complete comprehensive plan of 1999. Engineer is working to update. Will review with operators.
3. Available Grant Funding – PA Small Water and H2O Grants: Two funding options – PA Small Water & Sewer Grants for projects less than \$500,000 and the grantee would be responsible for 15% of the project. The H2O grants go up to \$20 million and the grantee would be responsible for 50%. Engineer talked with Glenn about projects specifically the Sheridan project. Chairman recommended going ahead with applying for the Sheridan line. Mark Spotts noted that Newmanstown was willing to except the line if it was upgraded. If we do the updates, wouldn't we want to keep the line? Engineer will investigate.

Ongoing items:

1. Furnace Hill subdivision (Robesonia): Nothing new
2. Wawa land development (Robesonia): Nothing new
3. Zimmerman-Martin project (Womelsdorf): Nothing new
4. Capital improvements plan – reviewed at last months meeting.
5. Backflow prevention program: Will look to get project moving after January 1, 2023.
6. Storage tanks asset management program – Board will discuss

Solicitor's Report:

1. Big Spring Farm water main extension and related issues: Need to make a decision and when ready Solicitor will make an iron clad agreement.
2. Insurance Renewal for 2023: Marcie is talking with Ruth Moraski. We will move forward with their recommendations.
3. Extension of Agreement with Diversified Technology Corp: Chairman will contact Tom Tobin at Diversified at direction of the board.
4. Metering Cost Analysis/Sharing: Letter is fine. Should charge \$1 per customer.
5. Furnace Hill Subdivision (Robesonia) Easement Agreement: NA
6. Tank Maintenance Proposal from Southern Corrosion, Inc: Board should read through the packet. May be a service to bid.
7. East High Street Subdivision – nothing further
8. 2022 Audit: Should be ready next month.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters are read and bills are out.
2. Fixed leak on Front Street.
3. Flushed fire hydrants.
4. Repaired bad meter pits.
5. Finishing up memorial.
6. Successful pig roast. Thank you!!
7. Mark Spotts – Dennis received a phone call from Derek Rose who lives on Treetop Lane. He contacted stating that tree from WRJA property came down on his property. He did not have a complaint and did not want compensation for damages, just wanted to let us know. He asked if we could check another tree. Mark will ask Joe Brackman to evaluate. Chairman also asked Dennis, if they see any trees that look like they are in danger of coming down, have them removed.

Chairman's Report:

Thank you for the pig roast! Dennis, Dustin, Glenn – you did a great job!

Other Board Member Comments:

Mark Spotts... old business:

1. Application for Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission watershed grant (fish nursery): Didn't work out for this round of grants. Could not meet timeline. Will look at for next grant. There is another grant available from PA Fish & Boat coming. Simple process. Will try for that. The nursery will need an electrical quote & PPL.
2. Memorial: Changed direction. Will not get a bench at this time. The plaque is a little more expensive. Will move forward to get project completed.

Steve Bright: Will get together with personnel committee to discuss rates.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:05 p.m. by Barbara Orth, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 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.

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Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2022

Balance AUGUST 31			\$559,377.56
Customer Collections		\$28,717.04	
Cert. Fees		\$ 480.00	
Sewer Shutoffs		\$ 550.00	
Other Receipts		\$ 24.56	
Total Income			<u>+\$29,771.60</u>
			\$589,149.16
Disbursements for September			
Total Disbursements		\$114,837.61	<u>-\$114,837.61</u>
			\$474,311.55
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%	\$105,000.00	
		<u>\$345,000.00</u>	<u>+\$345,000.00</u>
			\$819,311.55
PLGIT		\$ 366,609.47	
Interest	2.61%	+\$785.30	
			<u>+\$367,394.77</u>
			\$1,186,706.32
Edward Jones account value of Sept 30, 2022		\$ 894,149.12	<u>+894,149.12</u>
			\$2,080,855.44