

DATE: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robesononia Joint Authority was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021 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
Mark Spotts	Jack Morris	Barbara Orth

Rod Lebo was absent.

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

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

Visitors: Dustin and Monica Riegel – attended to dispute the water bill for a rental property she owns at 49 N. Church Street, Robesononia. Mrs. Riegel presented her documents and information for review to dispute water and sewer bills. \$1400 sewer bill and \$1500 water bill. Solicitor let her know that we only handle water, and that Robesononia Municipal Authority handles the sewer. WRJA bill with adjustment is \$596.03, sewer bill is \$829.34 and lawyer fee of \$1,512.00. Chairman Gartner explained that our operators went out to the property and found that the meter had been installed backwards. That was our mistake, and the correct bill is \$596.03. We (WRJA) do not know how the water was turned on because it was noted in our system as being turned off. Mrs. Riegel was unaware of any water bills. There is money in escrow for potential settlement of this situation. She is asking for lawyer fees settled and water bill resolved. The Board went into Executive Session at 7:11 PM to consult with the Solicitor regarding potential litigation arising out of this matter. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:23 PM. In addressing Mrs. Riegel, the Solicitor acknowledged that the situation is complicated but that the Authority can do nothing with respect to sewer charges. The Solicitor advised Mrs. Riegel that by way of settlement, the Authority would be willing to reimburse Mrs. Riegel for her legal fees in the amount of \$1,512 but that Mrs. Riegel would have to pay for the water used at the property in the amount of \$596.03. Mrs. Riegel agreed to this settlement proposal. A motion was made by Ralph Honigmann and seconded by Jack Morris to proceed with this settlement proposal and to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the necessary settlement document. The motion was unanimously adopted. The Solicitor stated that he would send a copy of the settlement document to Kathy Halbeisen at Signature Abstract (where settlement proceeds are being held in escrow). The Solicitor indicated that the Rules of Professional Conduct also required that he forward a copy of the settlement document to Mrs. Riegel's attorney, Eden Bucher, Esquire.

Procedures of water shut offs have been changed to avoid this situation going forward. Any properties where water is shut off the meter will still be read. It will show on Diversified's site that water is turned off. A bill will not be sent, it will be backed out of the account because it is shut off. This should help to determine if water is running perhaps, due to a leak or other issues.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, May 26, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Correspondence: PMAA notification of voter delegate (only if attending conference), emails regarding SB597. I sent emails to our representatives. Argall said he is not in favor.

Created correspondence: Letter of employment for Glenn Eberly

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,080,896.25 was approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Jack Morris. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$44,251.89 were presented for payment, which was approved on motion by Honigmann, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion was unanimous.
3. Received planned membership status from PMRS. Statement for 2019. Then could submit the Act 205 Planned Declaration which was approved. This is to be sure all pension plans meet requirements. Done every 2 years.
4. Strickler Corporation: Bid on patching North Robeson Street and 6 or 7 street cuts. All work was listed on the quote. 3 bids were received at \$13,000, \$19,000 & \$30,000. Strickler was low bidder. Operators and Steve Bright reviewed the bid. They think the estimator forgot to fill in quantities with unit prices. We received a bill of \$14,375.90 which we paid because we thought that was the total. We then received another bill for \$13,000. more. We should push back. Solicitor will contact Strickler.
5. Sunoco escrow - The Authority is holding for \$1,175. Treasurer will charge an administrative fee to resolve. Take money into the general fund for administrative expenses. Motion to proceed made by Barbara Orth, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report:

1. 2021 Water System Improvement Project: Bids were opened June 17. A H Moyer was the low bidder for both base bid for installation of loop across 422 at Mill Road and replacement of water main and services on Locust Lane at Penn Hill Park. They were also low bidder for the alternate bid for the first 2 items above and the installation of loop at the west end of Penn Hill Park and West Road for \$211,692. Engineer recommends accepting pending approval of easement and review by Solicitor. Motion by Steve Bright, second by Jack Morris. Motion carried.
2. No movement from projects for Tower Health, Keener/Furnace Village Phase II, Zimmerman/Martin.
3. Irish Creek has completed work done at P&J Pizza.
4. Rate fees: Need to change tapping fees on website from \$2000 to \$2250 per EDU.

Solicitor's Report:

1. West Road Project: Resolution – need to file eminent domain. Steve Bright made a motion to have Atty John Muir file the eminent domain to proceed with the easement. Seconded by Barbara Orth. Unanimously approved. Chairman to sign and we will then own the easement right. Court will set amount that will go into escrow which we will not get back.
2. Lebanon Federal Credit Union: Marcie Kunkelman contacted them. We can put money there up to \$250,000 that is protected (goes by EIN). The rate of interest is .2 or .25%. A 5-year CD is .9%. PLGIT is .01%. Perhaps we should look at other credit unions. Perhaps having an advisor talk to us would be good. Solicitor will find out.
3. Recreational Use signs: Mark Spotts will get 10 metal signs. He went to Quality Signs and didn't receive a good response. Steve Bright recommended Miller Municipal Signs by calling Gary at 610-678-8207.
4. Letter of Employment for Glenn Eberly: Solicitor will change wording to state "terminable at will" rather than 60 day notice.

Operator's Report:

1. Tested well meters. All good. We dug out a ditch along the lane at Well #2 at reservoir and put rocks in it to help drain the wet areas.
2. Met with the guys that are looking for water service to the land across from L&B Dodge.
3. Tower Health tie in – waiting for valves.
4. Work at P&J Pizza. Will do a check in there.
5. Currently painting hydrants.
6. Dead tree branch at fish hatchery. Will get it checked.

Chairman's

Report:

None

Other Board Member Comments:

Steve Bright: Glenn's phone – recommends he keeps as long as working part-time.

Mark Spotts: In preparation for creating website Mark needs contact info so Mark created a Gmail account. wrijauthority@gmail.com Mark and Barb have the password. All ownership information for the new website account will be tied to this email address, which is registered to WRJA at PO Box 94, Womelsdorf, PA

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7 PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:22 PM by Jack Morris, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth
Secretary