

DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, February 23, 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, Dennis Miller and Dustin Miller (Authority Operators) were also in attendance.

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

Visitors:

Joe Brackman, Forester for WRJA. Chairman Gartner started with opening the bids for the 2022 Timber Project. RR Logging and Firewood LLC was the high bidder at \$182,100. Approved to go with them on a motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Rod Lebo subject to solicitor's review. Motion carried. Joe Brackman stated he did the last project and did a good job with quality work. RR Logging attended the meeting. A copy of the tally sheet is attached to the minutes.

Lyle MacMullen - Attended to address logging concerns near his property (property owner since 1995.) He commented that he understands the financial reasoning to forest but remembers in years past the oak, walnut, hickory, and chestnut trees were plentiful. Now it seems these hardwoods are no longer seen. He stated that the last time foresting was done near his property lots of trash would come down the mountain from the loggers. He is hoping someone will check on this after the logging is done and address the hardwood situation. Chairman Gartner requested Forester, Joe Brackman to address Lyle's concerns. Joe said that he instituted regeneration and they leave hickory and beech. There are also oak. Poplar trees are main trees in the area behind Lyle's house. Joe stated that after the logging projects he inspected and seeded. He did not find trash. If he would, he would contact the loggers to clean up or take himself. Chairman noted success in that we are now relogging areas that we previously forested. He asked Lyle that if he finds trash or has concerns after this project is completed, to contact us immediately. He agreed the forest is not the forest it used to be but that is typical throughout Pennsylvania. Mark Spotts noted that after the last project near the hatchery, there was no trash.

New Hire: Chairman introduced our new employee, Dustin Miller who came to us from AH Moyer. We welcome him and wish him well.

Memorial: Barbara Orth commented that she contacted Joe Brackman to advise on trees to plant in memory of Bruce Weaver. He recommended going with native trees such as flowering dogwood, American serviceberry, black haw, hawthorn, possibly a couple clumps of rhododendron and/or mountain laurel. With that combination there would be some blossoms visible from early April to almost the end of June. To pick out larger trees he recommends going with sugar maple (friend of lantern fly per Steve), sassafras or black gum. Nearly all these species will bear some form of fruit/mast! There are a few native tree nurseries around. A couple of those species could be hard to find. Octorora Nursery has native trees. Best planting time is April to early May.

Secretary's Report:

1. The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, January 26, 2022 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Spotts, seconded by Ralph Honigmann. Motion carried.
2. Distributed an updated WRJA contact list.
3. Correspondence: Memorial advise from Joe Brackman, PLIGIT- online portal updates, PPL - working on WRJA property, The Authorities - Board member training, Email from Glenn - Government Relations Update
4. Sent Correspondence: Colonial Surety Co - completed status of 2021 Water System Improvement project.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,061,666.64 was approved on a motion by Jack Morris, seconded by Steve Bright. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$91,518.65 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 from treasurer upon request.
4. Health Insurance is ok and in place to start March 1 for Dustin Miller. Dustin is waiting for the cards. Ralph will help with that.
5. Secretary inquired about Treasurer's term. He will check. He believes it expires 1/01/23.

Engineer's Report:

1. 2021 Water System Improvement Project:
Pipes in ground. Second application for payment received and was paid in the amount of \$45,738.90. Final restoration and repaving to be completed in Spring.
2. Furnace Hill subdivision (Robesonia): No update. Waiting for response to comments to letter.
3. Wawa land development (Robesonia): Received copy of plan review letter - distributed to board. Existing services currently there will need to be abandoned. A new and larger service should be put in and a permit will be required from PennDot. Will they do or WRJA? Fire suppression? Tapping fee \$15,875.00.
4. Zimmerman-Martin project (Womelsdorf): No update
5. Dollar General (Womelsdorf): Issued a letter regarding water service.
6. 2021 CCR: Expect to have ready by April.
7. Reading Bakery Systems: They own building next to CW Swimming pool on Freeman Street. They are proposing a new and larger building next to or behind existing building. They are planning to add a new service separate solely for new building. Authority would have to approve having 2 meters on the same property. Glenn Eberly spoke to them, and they will tie into the existing service.
8. Big Spring Farm Commercial water main extension: Lower Heidelberg had intention to apply to county for American Recovery Plan funding to put in water service to proposed commercial development. Proposing to run a water line from 422 down to Wernersville. Engineer called the township manager to explain. Engineer thinks she was encouraged to include in application by executive director Western Berks Water Authority. Waiting to hear.
9. 2021 DRBC water audit and 2021 Chapter 110 reports for the PA DEP: Will be done by end of March.
10. Stonecroft: Engineer had a meeting with representatives of Aqua Water regarding a project in Chester County. They own a small satellite water company. They are looking to unload that system. Engineer wondered if they were looking to unload the Stonecroft system? He sent an email to the rep to inquire. Mark Spotts heard there are issues in Stonecroft and may not be up to standards. Engineer stated one option would be to only sell them water, not take over the pipes. There are approximately 200 homes there. Jack Morris noted water is aggressive and pipes/water heaters seem to go bad more often than they should.
11. DEP Licensing (Dennis): Mark read over language and questioned water capacity. Engineer sent email to certification people in Harrisburg. Why is it considered a 1 million/day plan? Waiting to hear from them.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Reorganization Resolution for 2022: Chairman and Secretary signed.
2. Right-of-way to be granted by the Authority to Raymond Michalowski, Jr.: Easement agreement recorded.
3. Potential litigation with Strickler Corporation with respect to disputed claim: Ongoing.
4. Development of a policy pertaining to the expenditure of funds and the awarding of contracts which are below the official bid limit of \$21,900: Tabled. Will look up amount we agreed on for now.
5. Event Permission Agreement with Berks Trail Works: Thank you Mark for doing the leg work. Revised the agreement. If Berks Trail Works is in agreement, motion to execute was made by Steve Bright, seconded by Mark Spotts. Unanimously approved.
6. Declaration of Taking of West Road: Solicitor requested a \$250 check from Treasurer payable to Kozloff Stoudt to put in escrow.
7. Statement of Financial Interests: Sent to secretary.

Operator's Report:

1. Meters: A 4-6 apartment unit would like to handle each unit separately. How to handle? Put meter on each unit? We should not get involved. Owner should put a meter on the backside.
2. Firewood at shop: Bruce's brother-in-law cuts firewood up there. Does he need permission due to new rules? Should an agreement be signed? Are they cutting dead trees that are already dropped or are they cutting trees that are standing? There are other people that cut up dead trees too. May need to create an agreement. Rod Lebo stated that in Sullivan County State Forest you are required to get a permit. Good for 30 days and it costs \$10. He will get one to share with the board.
3. Meters are read, bills are out.
4. Municibid - Hydra Valve Turning Machine was purchased.
5. Contribution from John F Martin for Water Main Project: Glenn asked them if they would consider helping with the cost of the 422 Water Main Project. They will contribute \$5,000.
6. Repaired service leak at 404 S Freeman Street.
7. AH Moyer has project all done except for final restoration.
8. Repairing meters for meter readings.

Chairman's Report:

None

Other Board Member Comments:

Mark Spotts:

1. Land use rules: Second generation sign now includes a scan code which will take you to our website with up-to-date rules, regulations, etc. Mark is waiting for price.
2. Metering: We read the meters and give this information to the sewer authorities for free. It costs us \$4.71 to read each single residential meter (\$41,519/year). Why don't we charge the sewer authorities? Mark distributed metering cost assessment and recovery fee cost basis breakdown worksheets to the board. He is proposing charge the sewer authorities \$1 per residential meter read. Would like board to review to discuss next month. He did not do a spreadsheet for businesses yet.
3. Security Cameras: He received an invoice from Smrtguys. They are asking for 50% upfront before starting project at barn. Board discussed and decided to ask to do 10% upfront. Mark will contact them to negotiate. Smrtguys said everything has skyrocketed. He thinks prices will come back down so is advising to wait to order.

Executive Session: Went into executive session at 8:26 PM and came out at 8:38 PM. No other business was discussed.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:38 p.m. by Mark Spotts, seconded by Jack Morris. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Orth

Barbara Orth
Secretary

WOMELSDORF-ROBESONIA JOINT AUTHORITY
2022 Timber Project

TALLY SHEET
February 23, 2022

	BIDDER	BID AMOUNT	NOTES
1.	R.R. Logging and Firewood LLC 490 Sportsman Road Denver, PA 17517	\$182,100.00	
2.	Lapp Lumber Co. 1640 Mine Road Paradise, PA 17562	\$154,855.00	
3.	Luft Logging LLC 4509 Sefranka Road Temple, PA 19560	\$152,843.00	
4.	KT Zimmerman Lumber & Logging 21 Zimmerman Lane Pine Grove, PA 17963	\$130,000.00	
5.	King's Sawmill LLC 200 Joss Lane Spring Glen, PA 17978	\$121,900.00	
6.	Peachey Logging 268 Shadesville Road Dalmatia, PA 17017	\$92,068.00	

Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority

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

P.O. BOX 94 Womelsdorf, PA 19567 ♦ Phone: 610-889-2740 ♦ Fax: 610-889-1340

Treasurer's Report JANUARY 2022

Balance December 31			\$484,862.99
Customer Collections		\$54,058.98	
Cert. Fees		\$ 260.00	
Dollar General deposit		\$2,000.00	
Other Receipts		\$15,948.73	
Total Income			<u>+\$72,267.71</u>
			\$557,130.70
Disbursements for January		\$171,833.07	
Total Disbursements			<u>-\$171,833.07</u>
			\$385,297.63
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>
			\$730,297.63
PLGIT		\$ 364,593.91	
Interest	0.04%	+\$12.72	
			<u>+\$3,364,606.63</u>
			\$1,094,904.26
Edward Jones account value of Jan 28, 2022		\$ 966,762.38	
			<u>+966,762.38</u>
			\$2,061,666.64