

Towanda Municipal Authority

October 15, 2018

The October meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:07 p.m.

PRESENT: Michael Walsh, Paul DeWitt, Paul Sweitzer, Charlotte Sullivan, Abraham Brandt, Carmen Venezia, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

ABSENT: Ellen Lacek, William Shaw

OTHERS: Kyle Lane, Manager; Chad Strickland, Superintendent; Eric Cassanave & Brian Shura, Stiffler McGraw; Coy Goble, The Daily Review

Visitors: None

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Minutes:

The September 17, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. DeWitt and seconded by Ms. Sullivan, approved.

Bills:

The September bills were approved on a motion made by Mr. Sweitzer and seconded by Mr. Venezia, approved.

Water:

Mr. Lane stated we received our EDA Grant for 3,000,000.00 this is to be used for the building of the treatment plant.

The Penn Vest application is due by October 31st. Mr. Cassanave stated that the Penn Vest award will not be issued until January so at that time we would start the bidding process for the project(s). Mr. Shura thinks bids would go in February and bid opening in April.

All permits and ancillary approvals are on hand

Mr. Lane stated that since we are a municipality we will have four separate contracts for each trade for the project. Mr. Shura stated we can combine projects to have a contractor work on separate phases of the project but only deal with one contractor instead of for example 2 different electrical contractors; we can hire one contractor who would do the different electrical work at the different sites. Stiffler McGraw will set up the bid documents and check with Mr. Lane to see what his ideas are on breaking up the project or letting one contractor do the phase work keeping in mind the time constraints of when each phase needs completed; Mr. Shura stated we can instead of splitting or combining the different work we can also request an option for a combined pricing from the contractors so you can evaluate the different pricing scenarios; usually the combined bid is lower and you can look at your options.

Mr. Lane stated before the meeting Mr. Shura, Mr. Cassanave and himself discussed the interim funding that may be needed for the project, Mr. Lane stated he will contact Mr. Unkovic for what may be needed. Mr. Shura stated that they will have a draw schedule so we will know what amount we need to carry. Mr. DeWitt asked if Mr. Lane can contact our local banks; Mr. Lane stated he did consider making request to our local banks but he will contact Mr. Unkovic first to get more direction.

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Mr. Sweitzer asked Mr. Lane if he needs assistance in the project as a whole; Mr. Lane stated Northern Tier has offered to take care of the EDA Grant and he will inform the Board if he needs assistance.

Mr. Lane stated Mr. Strickland passed his water test; it might be a year before we will be able to remove Mr. Johnson's license and replace it with Mr. Strickland license.

Mr. Lane stated he received a letter today from Bradford County Commissioners requesting permission to maintain their well on the property; they are citing NFPA guidelines and want it for a backup water system. Mr. Shura thinks the tank would be sufficient. Mr. Cassanave asked if it is for fire protection would the well be hooked up by their fire system, the Board thinks it won't just be for fire protection but to service the building. Mr. Williams stated we might want to research the actual guidelines as NFPA is used unnecessarily in some instances. Mr. Sweitzer made a motion to accept the County's request to maintain a private water source as long as wording is place in the agreement on backflow prevention, Mr. DeWitt seconded, approved. Mr. Pruyne suggested that Mr. Cassanave review the agreement; Mr. Lane stated we will contact Mr. Cassanave.

Mr. Lane stated we have not heard anything from FEMA on the flood damage; we can no longer wait our pipe is exposed and needs to be encased for protection. One of the crossings Penn Dot is going to encase; Mr. Lane told the engineer to contact Mr. Cassanave; Mr. Cassanave stated he has not been contacted. Mr. Sweitzer made a motion to repair our damaged pipes, Mr. Venenzia seconded, approved. Mr. Lane stated he might have to hire someone to perform this work.

Mr. DeWitt mentioned in the past we had an active program for detecting water leaks, Mr. Lane stated we have not continued the program but we are going to have a make a formal plan on water loss.

PA Small Water and Sewer Grant:

Mr. Lane stated that we did not receive the grant. We will do the Thomas Street pressure reducer valve and vault project regardless.

Sewer:

The insurance check for pump station 9 arrived. We are waiting for Environrep to repair what was damaged. The old/new Leroy's restaurant has a sewer issue we are going to have to be plugged the building is not in use but we are having sewer issues. Mr. DeWitt asked who is responsible, Mr. Lane stated that that is the problem we are going to plug the sewer and see if we can correct the issue.

Union Negotiations:

The Union contracted approved for another 3 years.

USDA Loan:

Mr. Lane stated the backhoe is arrive the end of November.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sweitzer at 6:15 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary