

Towanda Municipal Authority

December 21, 2018

The December meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 12:05 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Abraham Brandt, Ellen Lacek,

OTHERS: Kyle Lane, Manager; Chad Strickland, Superintendent; Jim Pruyne, Solicitor; Bree Ostrander, The Daily Review

Visitors: None

Visitors:

Minutes:

The November 19, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Dewitt and seconded by Mr. Venezia, approved.

Bills:

The November bills were approved on a motion made by Mr. DeWitt and seconded by Ms. Sullivan, approved.

Reorganization/ 2019 Meetings:

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve the reorganization for the Board, compensation for legal and treasurer as well as the 2019 meeting dates, Mr. Shaw seconded, approved.

Reorganization:

Chairman – Michael Walsh

Vice Chairmen – Paul Sweitzer

Secretary/Treasurer – Paul DeWitt

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer – Charlotte Sullivan

Legal Counsel – James Pruyne

Annual Compensation:

Legal \$2,200.00

Secretary/Treasurer \$150.00

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer \$150.00

2019 Meeting Dates:

January 21st

February 25th

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th

December 20th 12:00 p.m.

Towanda Municipal Authority

December 21, 2018

Water:

Mr. Lane, Mr. Strickland and Mr. Johnson met with Stiffler McGraw on the water project last week; the plant and water line plans were reviewed. Mr. Lane stated that Stiffler McGraw suggested that maybe we should consider going out to bid for the project before our Penn Vest award to get things moving forward; we are looking at 8 prime contracts.

The Penn Vest meeting is January 30th; they only had a couple of questions on our application and they were financial questions.

Mr. Lane stated that the flooding in August was declared a disaster for municipalities; Mr. Lane needs a resolution from the Board that appoints Mr. Lane as the applicant agent; Mr. Dewitt made a motion to appoint Mr. Lane as the applicant agent for the Authority, seconded by Mr. Sweitzer, approved. We have 4 creek crossings that need repaired and exposed pipe on the water line also needs addressed.

Sewer:

Mr. Lane informed the Board that chemical tanks at the sewer plant are being retired through DEP, we have not used the tanks since 2013 and they were causing more harm than what they were intended to do which was to lower the phosphorous level; we were doing annual inspections per DEP regulations on empty tanks; it is a process and he has hired someone to do the paperwork which will cost approximately \$1,900.00 to remove them from our system.

Scada:

Mr. Lane stated we lost our Scada system around Thanksgiving; we hired a company out of Vestal that is rebuilding our system. Mr. Venezia asked if that is going to be compatible with our new water project equipment, Mr. Lane stated we will have equipment that is compatible with our current system. We are cloning another hard drive to have as backup in case this happens again.

Budget:

Mr. Lane stated the budget does not show a rate increase for 2019. He is projecting a \$65,000.00 loss in operating.

Mr. Lane moved bulk water sales and realty royalty revenue to the capitol fund.

The budget includes \$45,000.00 to address any water and sewer issues we might encounter when the Borough takes over Poplar Street from the state. \$40,000.00 for meters; we need to work on replacing meters in the Borough. Mr. Lane stated that we also have a new vehicle purchase; Mr. Venezia asked what type of vehicle that we are looking to purchase; Mr. Lane stated something like a F250 to be able to pull our trailers and be used as a backup vehicle in case we have a vehicle out of service.

Mr. Sweitzer made a motion we accept the 2019 budget as proposed, Mr. DeWitt seconded, approved.

C & N Bank:

Mr. Lane stated C & N bank agreed to the increase line of credit with the same interest rate terms.

Workload:

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Lane is he is going to need to have someone to help him with the water project. Mr. Lane stated he thinks he will be okay; Northern Tier stated they would help with the EDA grant and Stiffler McGraw stated they could assist with the Penn Vest requisitions; he might request their help if need be.

Towanda Municipal Authority

December 21, 2018

Ulster Authority:

Mr. Lane was approached by Ulster to see if they can join the municipality; this is not for financial reasons it has more to do with manpower, currently the Board members are the personnel who work on the water system, they have no employees. They have 175 customers. They have \$1,000,000.00 in debt. Mr. Sweitzer and Mr. Walsh stated they would sit down and discuss this with them. If the Board is not interested in having Ulster join the Authority they would still like to see if we would enter into an agreement to provide personnel to work on the water system. Mr. Walsh stated to go ahead and make a date for a meeting; have Stiffler McGraw look at the system. Mr. Venezia asked if we would be incorporating their system to ours; we might need to look into this with SRBC; a management agreement might be better.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sweitzer at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary