

# Towanda Municipal Authority

March 21, 2022

The March meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Fred Johnson, Carmen Venezia, Michael Angerson, Michael Walsh, , Kayla Saxon, William Shaw  
via zoom: Charlotte Sullivan

**ABSENT:** Mark Christini, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

**OTHERS:** Chad Strickland, Superintendent; Lauren Egleston, Borough Manager; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw; Mr. Pruyne, Solicitor; Phil O'Dell, The Daily Review

**Visitors:** None

## **Minutes:**

The February 28, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Angerson and seconded by Ms. Saxon, approved. The March 7, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Angerson and seconded by Mr. Shaw, approved.

## **Bills:**

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

## **Water:**

Mr. Strickland stated that he and Mr. Tabor met with a local SCADA integrator, Proconex, they need to calibrate our pressure gauges once a year per recommendation of DEP. Mr. Strickland stated they do like them so far; he is contact with them in order to get their pricing and have them look at our current system and see if they can fix some issues we are encountering.

Mr. Strickland stated that Bradford County Planning did their final inspection for storm water on the as-builts on the water project.

Mr. Strickland stated we received a quote on the generator needed for the Hemlock Hills booster station, it was \$25,000.00 from C & H Builders; Mr. Strickland is not happy with the price but that system has 208 voltage coming in and transformer ramps it up to 460, the transfer switch it what is costly on this piece of equipment. Mr. Strickland stated we are awaiting other quotes.

Mr. Strickland stated he spoke with Mr. Shura in reference to the recommendation from DEP that we do not need the CFE turbidity, as we only run one skid at a time, we have been having issues with the combined turbidity since the beginning, we have been getting reading errors; Mr. Strickland request the board do a minor permit amendment for the CFE turbidity; Mr. Strickland stated if we ever were to need it in the future we would have to develop a new water source which would require an amendment to the permit anyways. Mr. Venezia made a motion to do a minor permit amendment for CFE turbidity, Ms. Saxon seconded, approved.

## **Monroeton Water Line Replacement:**

Ms. Egleston stated we are on target to begin this project in late March or beginning of April.

## **Small Water and Sewer Grant:**

Mr. Casanave stated he is awaiting the PA Steel Certification from LB Water.

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## **Local Share Account Statewide Grant:**

Ms. Egleston stated a grant for the Pratt/William Street water line replacement project for \$998,610.00, and the Foster Road water line replacement project for \$400,670.00 were both submitted. Ms. Egleston stated she was going to reach out to DCED to see if they have any questions. Mr. Angerson stated an analyst should be reaching out in the next 2-3 weeks.

## **2018 Flood:**

Ms. Egleston stated that Sikora Brothers has started back again on the project; Mr. Casanave stated that the two wet taps have been installed on the Leesway location and 20 feet of ductile iron pipe was installed, they plan to finish up, perform the chlorine test, while awaiting the results of the chlorine test, they plan on moving to the Sawmill location.

## **Sewer:**

Ms. Egleston stated that the DEP did an inspection on March 2<sup>nd</sup>; they noted a check valve needs to be replaced and we are awaiting a part, the check valve location is off the side of the tank in the pit.

Ms. Egleston stated that we received a quote on a Generac for pump station 8; the cost is \$9,500.00; Mr. Strickland stated that is a more reasonable cost but he met with Brickhouse to get a quote as well.

## **Vehicle Replacement:**

Ms. Egleston stated we are looking at getting quotes in May on vehicle replacements.

## **Portnoff Law Associates:**

Ms. Egleston stated that the committee met on the delinquents and went over the benefits of hiring Portnoff Law Associates to collect on our delinquent accounts. Mr. Johnson asked if Ms. Egleston has spoken to them; Ms. Egleston stated not as of today, she will reach out to them to see if they are willing to come down to speak to the Board. The cost to the Authority is nothing if we are able to give them at least 50 accounts if less than 50 accounts there is a onetime \$2000.00 fee. Ms. Maynard stated we are currently at 47 accounts. Ms. Egleston stated we don't need to make a decision tonight maybe by next meeting. Ms. Sullivan asked if we are going to inform our customers; Ms. Egleston stated we would.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

The Board entered into executive session at 5:20 p.m. and remained in session until 5:53 p.m. in regards to potential legal issues.

## **Rural Water Conference:**

Ms. Egleston, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Whinnery and Mr. Ackley will be attending the Rural Water Conference that starts tomorrow.

## **Grant:**

Mr. Angerson informed Ms. Egleston of a potential grant application we might be interested in, it is out of the Bureau of Reclamation it is a Water Smart Small Scale Water Efficiency Project; it could be used to replace meters; we budgeted \$35,000.00 to replace meters we can use it as a match and double

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the amount we can order. Ms. Egleston will get with Ms. McGuire to get of list of meters that need replaced. The grant is \$100,000.00 with projects in the amount not to exceed \$225,000.00; Ms. Egleston assumes with the difference in amount it is a fund matching grant. The due date is the end of April so we will bring it up at next months meeting.

Mr. Johnson asked if we still looked into getting our reads via towers. Mr. Strickland stated he would like that technology we were quoted \$300,000.00 install cost and \$90,000.00 a year, that was 6 years ago.

## Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*April Maynard*  
Recording Secretary