

Towanda Municipal Authority

April 18, 2022

The April meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:03 p.m.

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

ABSENT: 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 March 21, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Angerson and seconded by Ms. Saxon, approved. Mr. Walsh inquired if we have obtained any more quotes on the generators we need; Mr. Strickland stated he received a quote from Brickhouse and they were expensive for the Generac for pump station 8 and they want to look at Hemlock Hills again before they submit a quote on that generator.

Bills:

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

Water:

Ms. Egleston stated that DEP came for the FPPE in February, the exit interview was done on April 12th; they had ten comments for improvement; six of the comments have already been addressed. The plant received a "satisfactory" evaluation; Mr. Casanave stated that 85% of water plants land in the "satisfactory" category, our plant has not been in production for very long so DEP does not have much data on how the plant operates; satisfactory is a good rating. Mr. Strickland stated that they still want the tracer study done on the clear well; it is a comment not a requirement. Ms. Egleston stated we have 30 days to respond to the comments; Mr. Strickland stated we have to wait for the recap of the exit interview before we respond. Mr. Christini wanted to compliment the staff for the work done to get the plant up and operational; Mr. Strickland stated that Mr. Tabor has done a lot with the plant.

Monroeton Water Line Replacement:

Ms. Egleston stated we had our pre-construction meeting with Penn Dot and Continental Construction on April 11th. The construction started this morning, they started with the two railroad bores and then have moved on to Canton Avenue. Mr. Strickland stated Continental found a service line we were unaware of and it was ripped out of the curb stop they did do a temporary repair and will address it tomorrow.

Ms. Egleston stated that we have a Penn Vest requisition for attorney and engineering fees; Mr. Casanave stated the total amount is \$43,707.00; Mr. Angerson made a motion to approve Penn Vest requisition 1 in the amount of \$43,707.00, Mr. Christini seconded, approved.

Small Water and Sewer Grant:

Mr. Casanave stated he is awaiting the PA Steel Certification from LB Water; we have a new representative and it has been difficult to get ahold of him.

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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. The program was definitely popular, the state was allocated \$140 million, and received 1900 applications totaling over a billion dollars. The program will continue for the next 4 years with the allocated funds being reduced. They did suggest we get our local legislators involved; Ms. Egleston stated both Senator Yaw and Representative Pickett sent in letters for our projects. Ms. Egleston stated that the Pratt/William Street is a strong project. Ms. Egleston stated that until they award projects, we will not know what to submit for any future requests, and she does not have a timeline on how long it is going to take to review the current projects that were submitted.

2018 Flood:

Ms. Egleston stated that Sikora Brothers has started back again on the project; they ran into issues at both Paradise and Sawmill crossings; we have met with Penn Dot on the issues; we are going to have to do a directional bore at the Sawmill location; we need to change the location at Paradise from the as-built drawings. Mr. Casanave stated that we will handle both locations as a construction change. Mr. Walsh asked if we will have to ask for additional funds for the changes; Ms. Egleston has contacted PEMA, they have walked Ms. Egleston through the steps to address the change in the project. Ms. Egleston also stated we received notification that this project is within 90 days of being closed out so we are going to have to request another extension. Ms. Egleston does not see an issue with getting the additional funds nor getting an extension to the project. Mr. Casanave stated that Paradise might get completed prior to Sawmill if they are able to obtain materials.

Mr. Casanave stated that Sikora Brothers have completed the Leesway crossing and have asked for substantial completion on that project. Ms. Egleston stated we received an invoice from Sikora Brothers for \$83,714.64, we need to submit to PEMA for reimbursement; Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve the request for reimbursement for the Leesway project in the amount of \$83,714.64, Mr. Angerson seconded, approved.

Sewer:

Ms. Egleston stated that we are having an issue with flushable wipes again. Ms. Egleston and Ms. Schoonover were able to observe the problem firsthand as Mr. Vanderweert took them to Wysox to observe. Mr. Angerson asked if we need to inform the public again; Mr. Strickland stated we can.

Vehicle Replacement:

Ms. Egleston stated we are getting Mr. Miller's vehicle through the borough; we are yet awaiting a quote for Mr. Brassfield's vehicle.

Portnoff Law Associates:

Ms. Egleston stated that Ms. Maynard submitted an updated aging report to Portnoff Law Associates. She did ask Portnoff to waive the \$2000.00 fee due to the amount of accounts we have, they said they will not waive the fee if we do not have 50 accounts. Ms. Maynard stated that we have three delinquent accounts coming off the aging one of Nygren's that sold this week and the Hart property that went at upset sale; we can only pursue our lien for the Hart property, she is in contact with GDDJ to see what that amount is.

Mr. Angerson agreed that at this point with the loss of revenue from the Hart property we need to pursue Portnoff Law Associates for our delinquents. Ms. Egleston stated she will contact Portnoff for

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the next step. Portnoff Law had stated they would review our rules and regulations in order to ensure they are adequate.

Mr. Christini made a motion to enter into agreement with Portnoff Law and Associates

Rural Water Conference:

Ms. Egleston, Mr. Strickland, Mr. Whinnery and Mr. Ackley attended the conference and we brought down our Vac Truck to display. Ms. Egleston stated the conference was very informative.

Rules and Regulations:

Mr. Strickland stated the Board requested he suggest changes to the rules and regulations, he did change what pertained to addressing galvanized piping; Mr. Strickland gave the Board the current rules and regulations and his proposed changes. Mr. Johnson stated he would review the rules and regulations as well and see if he has any recommendations for changes.

Grant:

Ms. Egleston stated the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Small Scale Water Efficiency Project grant is up to \$100,000.00, Ms. McGuire gave Ms. Egleston a list of meters that need replaced we need to pass a resolution in order to pursue this grant opportunity the deadline is the end of April. Ms. Egleston requests a resolution to apply for the grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 we will match \$105,000.00 for the percurent of water meters and possibly radios, the resolution will authorize either Ms. Egleston or Mr. Walsh to sign any documents on behalf of the Authority. Mr. Angerson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-4, Mr. Venezia seconded, approved.

PFA Testing:

Ms. Saxon asked if we have heard anything more on this testing; Mr. Strickland stated yes, the test will be quarterly beginning in 2025, they will send us kits and we will be testing the water plant and Eilenberger Spring at the entry point.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary