

Towanda Municipal Authority

May 16, 2022

The May meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Fred Johnson, Carmen Venezia, Michael Angerson, Kayla Saxon, Michael Walsh, Charlotte Sullivan

via zoom: None

ABSENT: William Shaw, 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 April 18, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Angerson, approved.

Bills:

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

Water:

Ms. Egleston stated that DEP came for the FPPE in February, the ten comments were discussed with the Board last meeting; Mr. Strickland did respond to DEP.

Monroeton Water Line Replacement:

Ms. Egleston stated we had our construction meeting with Continental Construction and Stiffler McGraw on May 5th. 3000 linear feet of pipe along Canton Ave has been installed as of today and tie in at Ames Avenue was done today, and Mr. Strickland stated they are almost to Salsbury Circle.

Ms. Egleston stated we have a Penn Vest requisition for Continental and engineering for work completed as of April 29th in the amount of \$368,704.16. Mr. Angerson made a motion for Penn Vest Requisition 2, Ms. Saxon seconded, approved.

Mr. Walsh asked if the contractor has everything they need for the project; Mr. Casanave stated they are still waiting on the 12" pipe and some fittings.

Small Water and Sewer Grant:

Mr. Casanave stated he was contacted by LB Water representative Mr. Jason Inch, he is researching the steel certification. Mr. Casanave stated we have until June of 2023 to complete this project and if need be, we can file for an extension 6 months prior to June so in December. Ms. Saxon asked if we are looking at a price difference due to the delay; Mr. Casanave stated we were quoted \$50,000.00 for the vault and he won't know until we get another quote if we can provide the steel certification for the vault itself for the Grant.

Local Share Account Statewide Grant:

Ms. Egleston stated we will not hear anything probably until the CFA's November meeting there are 2000 applications that need to be sifted through.

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2018 Flood:

Ms. Egleston stated that we have had to make changes at the Sawmill and Paradise crossings. Ms. Egleston informed the board that she is encountering problems with Mr. Russ Kratzer from PEMA; he is stating that Ms. Egleston is not the applicant agent for TMA, that Mr. Strickland is; we approved Ms. Egleston as our application agent in December. Ms. Egleston stated he approved her quarterly report in January and DAP 9 and we received payment then Ms. Egleston was then told she was not the applicant agent. He will not return any correspondence nor approve our quarterly report we sent in April because Mr. Strickland did not send it in. We have two DAP 9's pending payment. Mr. Strickland has tried to email Mr. Kratzer and has left messages as well. Ms. Egleston stated we need this straightened out as we need to apply for an extension on our project. Ms. Egleston is very frustrated and will try to get this straightened out.

Ms. Egleston stated that we have a pay estimate for Sikora Brothers for \$57,573.65 for the completion of work on Leesway and start up work on Paradise. Mr. Casanave stated that this does not include any work that still needs to be approved by PEMA for the changes needed at the crossings. Mr. Johnson made a motion to pay Sikora Brothers, Mr. Angerson seconded, approved.

Sikora Brothers has asked for substantial completion on Leesway, as it is already in service; Mr. Casanave stated we will have to fill out paperwork to submit the substantial completion papers.

Mr. Walsh asked if Sikora Brothers has all the supplies they need to finish the project; Mr. Casanave stated yes but due the changes we need to do at Paradise and Sawmill more pipe will need to be ordered once PEMA gives us the okay on the change order.

Penn Dot Route 220 Section 223 Project:

Ms. Egleston stated that the waterline needs relocated for the culvert replacement plans are due to Penn Dot in mid-July; this is a 75/25 cost share project. Mr. Casanave stated he checked with the engineer on the project (Newberry out of Harrisburg) nothing has changed from the original documents we were provided to us but they don't plan on bidding project out until December originally it was September. We should have our plans to them soon as we agreed to have them incorporate it in their project due to supply chain issues.

Sewer:

Mr. Strickland stated we are working on getting the flow meter for the UV system operational, it is supposed to ramp down the UV bulbs when the flow drops, but it does not, so it operates on a high electricity level at all times. We have had technicians up over the last couple of years to look at the system. LB Water is coming up to look at the system and make some recommendations.

Electric Rates:

Ms. Egleston stated that our contract with AEP for our transmission expires in December of this year. Ms. Egleston has been shopping for new pricing; she was working with two agencies on pricing. Our current contract is for \$0.061 per KWH; what we have locked in is \$0.071 KWH for two years with AEP again, then we go into a 36-month contract at \$0.061 KWH; that is the best deal we could lock in at this time we were given quotes of \$0.08 to \$0.10 KWH. We need to look at electricity conservation especially at the sewer plant as that is our biggest consumer, this rate is going to hit our budget next year.

Mr. Walsh asked what the electricity is at the treatment plant; Mr. Strickland stated our electricity

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bill is lower than what we had initially thought it would be; but chemicals have taken a 300% to 400% increase and a major shortage on chlorine gas.

Vehicle Replacement:

Ms. Egleston stated we ordered a 2023 Chevy Trailblazer for Mr. Brassfield; we may expect delivery in October but we will see. Our contact went to another dealership so we will probably be receiving the vehicle from whomever he now works for. Mr. Miller's vehicle has been delivered and we are awaiting additional equipment to get it on the road; this was purchased with a USDA Grant that paid for half of the purchase price the other half came from the Borough.

Portnoff Law Associates:

Ms. Egleston stated that Ms. Maynard submitted history reports to Portnoff per their request so they could have their legal team review our documentation. We sent a follow up email but have not heard anything. Ms. Egleston stated we are not under contract with them we are awaiting their confirmation that they want to take us on as a client.

Rules and Regulations:

Mr. Johnson gave the Board his review of the water regulations he made some recommendations and added wording to our existing rules. Ms. Egleston stated she will provide copies of Mr. Johnson's recommendations for review and we need to also wait on Portnoff to change our collection rules

Grant:

Ms. Egleston stated the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Small Scale Water Efficiency Project grant was submitted on April 28th. Mr. Johnson asked who is this grant from; Ms. Egleston stated the Federal Government and they are only awarding 75 projects so we will see.

Penn Vest Funding:

Ms. Egleston stated that Penn Vest will be in charge of the Pennsylvania water and wastewater portion of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) monies; approximately 75 million dollars additional will be put in the program for the next five years. Ms. Egleston stated that Mr. Casanave and Mr. Strickland and herself have started on putting together some projects for these funds. We should see guidelines come up as early as July from Penn Vest.

Executive Session:

Mr. Walsh called an executive session at 5:35 p.m. the Board remained in session until 5:42 p.m. in regards to legal matters to which Mr. Pruyne is to pen a letter to parties involved in said legal matters.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary