

Towanda Municipal Authority

May 20, 2024

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

PRESENT: Michael Walsh, Carmen Venezia, Roger Hatch, Joseph Snell, Mark Christini, Katrina Murray, William Shaw

ABSENT: Fred Johnson, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

OTHERS: Matthew Aikey, Superintendent; Morgan Madden, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw; Erik Berggren, The Daily Review

Visitors: None

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Minutes:

The April 15, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as written with a motion made by Mr. Hatch, seconded by Mr. Shaw, approved.

Bills:

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

Water:

Mr. Aikey stated that the 2-inch main on Berwick Drive in Monroeton was replaced; it was old and leaking. The project was on the list for the water crew to complete and it has been done.

The Williams Street project that was to be started last week has not been started due to personnel issues; it will start soon.

Mr. Aikey stated he did obtain three quotes for the tank inspections and restoration of the Thomas Street Tank. The verbiage in the contracts is basically the same, but he would like someone to look at the contract before we go forward. Mr. Aikey stated at the minimum we need the tanks inspected; Mr. Walsh stated we do need the Thomas Street tank restored. Mr. Aikey stated that our tanks have not been inspected since 2014, that needs to be done.

Mr. Christini made a motion to obtain Complete Restoration LLC to perform the tank inspections and restoration of the Thomas Street tank after the contract is reviewed by Mr. Hatch, Mr. Snell seconded, approved.

Mr. Aikey requested Mr. Casanave explain the Wysox meter; Mr. Casanave stated that Ms. Maynard brought the discrepancy to Mr. Aikey's attention that the meter that bills Wysox for usage is not near what Wysox is billing customers for usage. There is a big discrepancy and it is getting worse. Mr. Aikey stated the design of the fire line and water line that is metered has more to do with what is causing the discrepancy. Mr. Maynard has been looking into the issue, he found that the valve on the metered side only opens 20%. When the booster in Wysox requests water the negative pressure causes the fire line to open which accounts for unmetered water going to Wysox. Mr. Maynard has fixed the valve for the metered water and is seeing better numbers being metered. Mr. Aikey stated that Mr. Maynard has informed the Wysox Board Members of this issue. Mr. Maynard has ordered equipment that will help resolve the issue of the fire line valve opening. The design was done prior to Hamilton Liberty being on line. Mr. Casanave stated that he, Mr. Maynard and Mr. Aikey met on the 8th to discuss the issue and come up with a plan to fix the issue. Mr. Venezia questioned if we are using this discrepancy on our water loss report; Ms. Maynard stated yes, Mr. Strickland would use the numbers for unaccounted water. Mr. Aikey stated we might want to look at changing the whole set up that is why Mr. Casanave was consulted as the meter vault has no room to change anything. Mr. Aikey stated maybe we meter

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at a different spot; Mr. Casanave stated we do have a leak detection manhole DEP had us install because of the river crossing, maybe a meter can be put in that location. Mr. Aikey stated that routine maintenance and exercising the valves needs to be implemented on a regular basis. We will continue to monitor the situation and hope we get it under control.

Sewer:

Mr. Aikey stated that the PLC has been ordered. Mr. Aikey stated that we might want to consider putting the PLC upgrade in the upcoming project that cost is approximately \$78,000.00; Mr. Walsh questioned if it already was; Mr. Casanave stated it was not in the Headworks project; it is included in the process project.

Mr. Aikey stated they ordered a VFD for the centrifuge as it has been out since before, he arrived; they have been only operating with one pump.

Mr. Aikey stated that he is working on stocking pump station parts, apparently the practice of having spare parts has not been practiced in some time, he has ordered spare parts to rebuild the normal wear items. Mr. Aikey stated Pump Station 8 is basically running 24 hours to keep up with the capacity, he ordered enough supplies to rebuild the station and have two spare sets for the other pump stations.

Mr. Casanave stated he received notification that the application for the Headworks project was received and we were notified it was not missing anything, we are now waiting for comments from DEP.

SRBC:

Mr. Aikey stated that Ms. Hotaling submitted the 1st quarter meter change outs and \$107,252.00 was approved for payment and we should be receiving that soon.

Rules and Regulations:

Ms. Madden stated the rules and regulations are done, her legal assistant is out for COVID so she will send a copy to Ms. Maynard and Ms. Hotaling early next week to look them over to ensure the verbiage for the water meter replacement is correct; Ms. Madden stated that she will then disseminate copies of the rules and regulations for review and for approval next month. We will also need to update the fee schedule with the penalty for customers not adhering to our meter change out process.

Executive Session:

Mr. Walsh called for an executive session at 5:33 p.m. the Board remained in executive until 5:55 p.m. in reference to personnel issues.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to have Mr. Aikey look for a contracted Water and Waste Water Treatment operator, Mr. Hatch seconded, approved.

Mr. Aikey mentioned we could also approach Mr. Whinnery to see if he is interested in being our circuit rider for the water.

Meeting Times:

Mr. Walsh stated Ms. Maynard will advertise our meeting time change from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary