

# Towanda Municipal Authority

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May 21, 2018

The May meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Michael Walsh, Paul DeWitt, Charlotte Sullivan, Carmen Venezia, Paul Sweitzer, Abraham Brandt, William Shaw

**ABSENT:** Ellen Lacek, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

**OTHERS:** Kyle Lane, Manager; Jim Pruyne, Solicitor; Fred Johnson, Superintendent (ret); Eric Cassanave, Stiffler McGraw; Chad Strickland, Superintendent; Matt Hicks, The Daily Review

**Visitors:** Gerrie Daly Finnegan

## **Visitors:**

Ms. Daly Finnegan stated she wanted to see if the Board would grant forgiveness on her property at 101 N. Main St.; no one lives at the property and she is receiving the base charge; she received the shut off notice and did not pay it so now the billing is over \$100.00; she has contacted her son to pay the bill. The property is both in the name of her and her son. Ms. Daly stated there is no meter and pipes are broken. She cannot afford to pay the bill. Mr. Johnson stated the base charge is billed no matter if the property is occupied or not water service is available to the property.

The Board will discuss Ms. Daly Finnegan's concern; Ms. Daly Finnegan wants the decision in writing to give to her son what is due in the account; Mr. Walsh stated that Mr. Lane and Mr. Strickland will compose a letter to Ms. Daly.

## **Minutes:**

The April 16, 2018 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Shaw, approved.

## **Bills:**

The April bills were approved on a motion made by Mr. Sweitzer and seconded by Mr. DeWitt, approved.

## **Superintendent:**

Mr. Lane introduced Mr. Chad Strickland to the board replacing Mr. Johnson as superintendent.

## **Bulk Water:**

Mr. Lane stated that we have met our projected water sales for the year.

Due to the heavy rains we have experienced we noticed the new location for the Bulk Water Station has been inaccessible; Mr. Lane will be meeting with Penn Dot to discuss the drainage issue.

## **SRBC Reporting:**

Mr. Lane stated that the SRBC reporting system for even grandfathered systems has been submitted; they asked for 5 years of data. Due to the new water source we will be losing our grandfathered status.

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## **Sewer:**

Mr. Lane stated we had to replace controls to the raw sewage pumps but the cost was relatively cheap. Mr. DeWitt asked if parts are kept in inventory; Mr. Lane stated that besides the major replacement items we do have spare equipment. Mr. Sweitzer asked if the operation of the sewer plant is covered until Mr. Strickland is trained; Mr. Lane stated Mr. Walker is the operator and Mr. VanDeWeert is his back up. Mr. Lane stated that Mr. Johnson works with Mr. Cassanave on the Chapter 94 reports.

Mr. Johnson stated we found a municipality who will sell us nutrients.

## **Shane Walker:**

Mr. Lane stated that Mr. Walker took the Water Operator certification last week in order to operate the new water treatment plant. Mr. DeWitt asked if there is a backup for that position; Mr. Lane stated it would be that Mr. Walker is the back up to Mr. Tabor. Mr. Walker is our only active employee with both licenses; they still need to get more certificates. Mr. Johnson stated that his license is available until everyone gets their licenses to run the water/sewer system.

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

Mr. Lane stated he received notice that our application is being presented to the Board in July; this would be for the pressure reducer valve and vault for Thomas Street. This does not mean we received the grant but we made it to the next step.

## **Union Negotiations:**

Mr. Lane stated he has contacted the union negotiation members; he is waiting to hear from the Teamsters. The contract is set to expire this year and it is a 3 year contract.

## **Water:**

Mr. Lane stated we received about 18 questions this week on our water supply permit we submitted in January. Mr. Casselbury and Mr. Shura are working on the questions.

Mr. Lane received the letter from SRBC that our application is administratively complete.

## **EDA Grant:**

Mr. Lane stated he applying for an EDA Grant; it is based on income.

## **Water:**

Mr. Cassanave mentioned that the questions on the water supply permit did include questions on the Robert's and Church water line as well as the test wells on those properties.

Mr. Cassanave stated the historical review is just another check on the permit process; Mr. Cassanave stated PHMC has agreed to allow us to bore under the historic sites.

Mr. Cassanave stated that the land development plan was presented to the Bradford County Planning Commission last Tuesday.

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The North Towanda projects the tank and pump station rehab and extending the water line 500 feet to the water tank; an amendment has been done to our DEP permit for those items.

The replacement for the Vo Tech line is underway they have submitted one calls for the line.

The Commissioners Office requested we extend the water line before the fall of this year as they are planning on having the garage built for the EOC building by then.

Mr. Walsh asked if we will be able to make the August deadline for Penn Vest; Mr. Cassanave thinks we will and he will have a timeline on the project and permits for next meeting. Mr. Lane stated he is in contact with representatives from SRBC.

## **North Towanda Township:**

Mr. Lane stated that we received a letter from the Township addressing it customers concerns of the Vo Tech Line.

## **Customer Concerns:**

Mr. Sweitzer was contacted by a customer in reference to pool fills; the Board agreed 3 years ago not to give pool credits and that has not changed as this time.

Mr. Walsh was contacted by a customer from McNamara Road in reference to the water; Mr. Johnson stated they did not want to connect to the water at the time it was installed and if they wish to now they need to come to the Board and pay for the extension of the water line.

## **Adjournment**

As there was nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sweitzer at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*April Maynard*  
Recording Secretary