

# Towanda Municipal Authority

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June 20, 2022

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

**PRESENT:** Fred Johnson, Michael Angerson, Kayla Saxon, Michael Walsh, Charlotte Sullivan, William Shaw, Mark Christini

via zoom: None

**ABSENT:** Carmen Venezia, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

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

**Visitors:** Erica Locke, Intern

## **Minutes:**

The May 16, 2022 meeting minutes were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Saxon, approved.

## **Bills:**

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

## **Intern:**

Ms. Egleston introduced Ms. Locke our intern for the summer, through a program by Bradford County Action. Ms. Egleston stated she helped her get some of the easements for the Monroeton project.

## **Monroeton Water Line Replacement:**

Ms. Egleston stated that Canton Avenue is complete; the laterals were completed, and they are connected to the new main.

Mr. Casanave wanted to state that we have done an outstanding job on obtaining the easements needed to replace the galvanized laterals; he wanted to thank Ms., Egleston and Mr. Strickland on obtaining the required easements and not causing any delays to the project; they are temporary construction easements that need to be obtained.

Mr. Johnson inquired if we are installing back-flow preventers and pressure reducing valves in; Mr. Casanave stated that no, that was not funded by the project. Mr. Johnson asked if we are putting them in anyways; Mr. Casanave stated that he thought Mr. Strickland was going to approach the Board about that expense.

Mr. Walsh inquired if we found any lead; Mr. Casanave stated we have found a few but not the amount we expected to find; Mr. Johnson stated we did replace lead goosenecks when we did the sewer project in Monroeton.

Mr. Walsh inquired on how much longer the project will be before completion; Mr. Casanave estimates about a month and a half; they have until October per contract; but Continental is handling their project time very well.

Mr. Johnson inquired if a blow off was installed at the end of Canton Avenue; Mr. Casanave stated one was installed.

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Ms. Egleston presented Penn Vest Requisition 3; Mr. Casanave stated we need approval for pay application 2 for Continental Construction for \$401,092.04 for work completed through the end of May. Mr. Angerson made a motion to approve the pay application for Continental in the amount of \$401,092.04, Mr. Shaw seconded, approved. Mr. Casanave then presented Penn Vest Requisition 3 that covers the project expenses in the amount of \$420,434.04; Mr. Angerson made a motion to approve Penn Vest Requisition 3, Ms. Sullivan seconded, approved.

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

Ms. Egleston inquired to Mr. Casanave if we have an update on this project. Mr. Casanave stated that Mr. Inch with LB Water stated that the vault when ordered will be 20-30 weeks out for delivery; they stated the wall sleeves used are of imported material; the PA Steel Certification may not be met; LB Water now has to prove the items are an exempt piece from the act or it is not possible to get domestically; since Mr. Casanave only received this information this afternoon, he needs to get back with LB Water to see if this can be done.

Ms. Saxon inquired if Mr. Casanave has ever been through an exemption process; Mr. Casanave stated no; that fortunately any projects that first started with an exemption were able to obtain the required components to meet the PA Steel Certification. Mr. Casanave stated that the American Steel Certification is more stringent than the PA Steel Certification.

Ms. Egleston inquired on the deadline for this project; 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; DCED does not want extensions prior to six months out.

Ms. Saxon asked if a redesign can be done in order to get this project done; Mr. Casanave stated no, the vault is a drop in place piece.

LB water has offered to store the equipment until we are ready to install it if need be.

## **2018 Flood:**

Ms. Egleston stated that PEMA extended out completion date until late November; this is the last extension before we have to go to FEMA for another extension if need be. We have been working with Penn Dot on the crossings at Paradise and Sawmill. Sikora Brothers were at the sites last Friday to do the test pits. Mr. Casanave stated that on Friday we exposed the line at Paradise, that connection can be done rather easily. The Sawmill line was found 50 feet from where the locating equipment had marked it. We would need to bore a line under Route 220 and Sikora Brothers have been having difficulty obtaining a contractor willing to do that; we need to apply for an exception with Penn Dot to do an open cut on Route 220.

Mr. Walsh inquired if we had all the materials to finish the project; Mr. Casanave stated for Paradise yes, if we can get items settled with Sawmill, we will know what is needed to complete that project; they have the valves and fittings for the original plans.

Ms. Saxon inquired if any additional costs will be incurred; Mr. Casanave stated we have to wait on approval of plans and what additional piping would be needed.

## **Penn Dot Route 220 Section 223 Project:**

Ms. Egleston stated that the waterline relocation project should be going out to bid in December. Mr. Casanave stated that we have numbers in line for this project but we received an email from Penn Dot that they are combining this project with another that again conflicts with our waterline so he needs to review that.

## **Sewer:**

Ms. Egleston stated we need to replace UV bulbs; the cost has increased to \$7,200.00 for 40 bulbs.

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## **Portnoff Law Associates:**

Ms. Egleston stated that Portnoff reviewed our information we sent them on the back up for our delinquent accounts; Ms. Maynard received an email stating that they are reviewing their policy on taking on smaller customers and on entering this area; Ms. Egleston stated that the original paperwork required we have at least 50 accounts to submit we are close but we do not have the 50. We are awaiting a response from them if they are willing to take us on as a client.

## **Keystone 10 Million Trees:**

Ms. Egleston stated that this is with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mr. Lane had enrolled us with this program; the trees were used to stop bank erosion at the Roberts property. The Conservation District wanted to give us 800 trees; we asked for half. Ms. Egleston stated that we have been planting on days it is not too hot, we only have 60 trees left to plant, the District provided the stakes and tubes required as well. Mr. Strickland and Mr. Lane planted 100 last year.

## **Rules and Regulations:**

Mr. Johnson gave the Board his recommendations on the Rules and Regulations; Ms. Egleston stated that this will have to be tabled until we know if Portnoff will take us on as a client, as we will have to revise the collection portion of the regulations.

## **TMA Audit:**

Ms. Egleston stated we should be receiving our audit any day. We are also awaiting a single Audit for the EDA Grant, once that audit is submitted, we can close out the grant which currently is holding \$140,000.00 in funding.

## **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. Mr. Strickland, Mr. Casanave and Ms. Egleston plan to meet next week and get some projects together. Ms. Egleston anticipates the guidelines will be out in July. Mr. Walsh inquired if we have any projects that include the sewer plant, Ms. Egleston stated she will reach out to Mr. Walker to see if he will be available for the meeting.

## **Brennan:**

Ms. Egleston stated the property for Mr. Brennan needs to connect to the Municipal water; GTP will bear the cost of capping his well and connecting him.

## **Executive Session:**

Mr. Walsh called an executive session at 5:37 p.m. the Board remained in session until 5:47 p.m. in regards to potential legal matters.

## **Adjournment**

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
*April Maynard*  
Recording Secretary