

Towanda Municipal Authority

October 17, 2016

The October meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:05 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Ellen Lacek, Joel Christian, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

OTHERS: Kyle Lane, Manager; Jim Pruyne, Solicitor; Fred Johnson, Superintendent; Eric Cassanave, Stiffler & McGraw; John Clabaugh, Stiffler & McGraw

Visitors:

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None

Carmen Venezia:

Mr. Venezia has been appointed by North Towanda to replace Gerald Sheets.

Mr. Venezia introduced himself to the Board he had worked for GTP (Sylvania & GTE) for 39 years.

Minutes:

The September 19th meeting and September 30th bid opening were approved as written on a motion made by Mr. DeWitt and seconded by Mr. Sweitzer, approved.

Mr. DeWitt questioned Mr. Lane if Penelec is helping us figure out our issue at the sewer plant, Mr. Lane stated no not at this time we are trying to investigate the issue ourselves.

Bills:

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

Wells and Springs:

Mr. Sweitzer asked about our water levels; Mr. Johnson stated that the spring is the lowest he can remember but the wells are doing fine; we need rain to help our water levels.

Lime Street:

Mr. Lane stated we received our Highway Occupancy Permit for a limited use driveway off 220 from Penn Dot. We will construct the road using our own personnel when the ground freezes.

Bridge Street:

Mr. Lane stated the project is doing well they tapped into the main on Main Street this weekend they are filling the pipe they still need to chlorinate and blow it off then start tying in houses. The project was supposed to be done by Thanksgiving if not Penn Dot plans to stop construction until spring.

Bulk Station:

The bulk station location has been moved once again this time the proposed site will be off of Trent's driveway but the site has move three times already by Penn Dot.

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Hemlock Hills:

Mr. Lane stated he was contacted by Middendorf Construction about turning the project over to TMA. Mr. Lane states that he thinks the wording should state that we get a year warranty from the date the system is turned over. There are only two houses in the development. Mr. Lane will send the agreement to Mr. Pruyne to review and update some items. Mr. Johnson stated he is in no hurry to take the system over; there is a concern with stagnant water.

The initial agreement was sent to Middendorf back in February and Mr. Lane was only contacted this month.

Sewer:

The pump was installed in the A-TAD system so we are up and operational.

The Board asked if we have considered getting a back up pump since it took so long to receive this one. Mr. Johnson stated they have plans on rebuilding the pump that was replaced and having that as a backup.

Mr. Lane stated the WWTP Chief Operator is wrapping up final testing to submit to DEP for a "class A" bio solid accreditation. We could sell the bio solids but Mr. Lane does not think there is a market for it.

Satterlee Hollow:

Mr. Lane stated we did the bid opening for the Timber sale the high bidder was Diaz Forest Products of Kingsley PA at \$48,100.00, Mr. Lane stated Mr. Roberts will get 14% of the harvest costs. The Authority will net approximately \$41,366.00; Mr. Lane stated he wants to reserve some of the funds for a timber management plan to make a better growing environment for the existing trees.

Mr. Lane stated Mr. Fecik who owns the adjoining property will allow us to use his property in lieu of payment he requests us having the loggers fix his trails; Mr. Roberts thinks that would be about 4 hours on a dozer. Mr. Fecik requests this all be put in writing and fix his land so others do not have access to his property this is all included in the contract.

Mr. Pruyne reviewed the contracts.

Mr. Sweitzer made a motion to accept the high bid from Diaz Forest Products and pay Mr. Roberts 14% of the harvest fees and enter into the contract with Mr. Fecik on the use of his land for the harvesting of our trees, seconded by Mr. Dewitt, approved.

Engineer:

Mr. Cassanave stated TRA Electric is still on track to finish the electric to the Roberts well by the end of the year. Mr. Lane updated the board that Penelec has cleared the trees needed to place the pole to make the final connection for the power.

The E-Coli testing is still on track.

Pilot testing will begin once the electrical is in place.

The projected completion was given as 2019 maybe 2020 this timeline is extended due to the fact that normally SRBC takes 9 or so months to even look at projects much less approve them. Taking this into account Mr. Lane stated we are going down in December along with Mr. Casselbury to meet with both SRBC and DEP at the same time to convey our project in hopes that our project gets some priority.

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Mr. Cassanave stated that Mr. Casselbury planned on submitting his aquifer testing plan to SRBC in the next month or so; this is one of the delays that SRBC might give us in our timeline that is one of the reasons for our projected timeline being extended. We cannot obtain our water supply permit from DEP without SRBC approval of the aquifer testing.

Mr. Clabaugh stated we are doing some of our tasks concurrently which should save us time like the pilot testing which should begin in January or February at the same time we can engage Stiffler McGraw to start the design of the Membrane Plant so that is complete once the pilot study is complete to be submitted for approval.

Mr. Cassanave presented to the Board per their request engineering costs for each phase of the water project as well as proposals for each engineering phase. Mr. Cassanave explained that he did not give us lump sums for each phase only for the membrane filtration plant. Mr. Clabaugh explained to the Board that lump sum or estimated costs can be beneficial and argued either way as being beneficial to both parties; the lump sum engineering cost is for set costs and set engineering fees an estimated fee which Mr. Clabaugh thinks Mr. Cassanave has given the Board a worst case scenario of fees depending on what we receive or encounter during these projects. Mr. Lane does not like the estimated engineering fees as he likes lump sums for budgeting reasons.

Mr. Sweitzer made a motion to approve the proposals for the Pilot Study including Submission to PADEP and Membrane Filtration Plant, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, approved.

Mr. Walsh states the North Towanda Tank and Pump Station Relocation and Roberts and Church Well Fields Raw Water Transmission Main have been placed on hold for further discussion between Mr. Lane and Mr. Cassanave.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sweitzer at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary