

# WYSOX TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

## September 20, 2024

**PRESENT:** William Them – Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Williams-Chairman, Thomas Henson-Vice Chairman

**ABSENT:** James Isaac, Tina Pickett

**OTHERS:** Matthew Aikey – Superintendent; Chris Jones – Solicitor ; Eric Casanave – Stiffler McGraw

**VISITORS:** Stacy Schoonover – Borough Manager

**Visitor:**

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Schoonover as the Towanda Borough Manager.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the meeting held on August 16, 2024 were approved with a correction to “Mr. Gannon” being correct to state “Mr. Sumner”, by a motion made by Mr. Them, and seconded by Mr. Henson, approved.

**Bills:**

Mr. Them questioned if the water meter being repaired being much of an impact for TMA; Mr. Aikey stated the amounts are more in line with what is being sold to WTMA. Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the following bills for September, Mr. Them seconded, approved.

<b>Wysox Sewer Operating List of Bills:</b>	<b>September 2024</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
TMA	Wilmington Trust – 9/01/2024	\$ 3,061.25
TMA	Administrative cost- 9/24	\$ 2,103.67
TMA	Sewer Flows (Aug)	\$ 19,951.27
TMA	Contracted Services	\$ 5,573.12
TMA	Penelec PS 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	\$ 1,315.05
TMA	M & T monthly pymnt	\$ 4,988.45
Gannon Insurance	Comm Policy Pkg	\$ 2,017.75
TMA	Frontier - telephone	\$ 52.90
TMA	Arey's PS2 receptacle	\$ 1.29
TMA	LB Water – 3 Liberty pumps & discharge kits	\$ 5,001.60
TMA	Stiffler McGraw inv 232	\$ 80.00
TMA	Power Systems Maint PS 3 & 4	\$ 1,653.25
Penelec	PS 1,4,5	\$ 717.22
GDDJ	Legal Svcs 05/17-08/16/24	\$ 727.50
Stiffler McGraw	Inv 157	\$ 195.00
The Daily Review	Audit Report Legal Ad	\$ 158.96
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 47,545.38</b>

<b>Wysox Project Acct List of Bills:</b>	<b>September 2024</b>	<b>Amount:</b>
Stiffler McGraw	Inv 7	\$ 6,653.00

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<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 6,653.00</b>

Wysox Water Operating List of Bills:	September 2024	Amount:
TMA	Water (Aug)	\$ 22,531.70
TMA	Contracted Services	\$ 4,328.26
BNYMellon NY	Sept 2024	\$ 12,572.92
TMA	Penelec Lake Rd. Vault	\$ 82.71
TMA	Stiffler McGraw inv 232	\$ 80.00
TMA	AT & T - Scada	\$ 96.18
Gannon Insurance	Commercial Pkg Policy	\$ 794.75
Pace Analytical	Lab Analysis	\$ 89.00
Penelec	Lake Rd Tank, PS 1	\$ 911.92
Stiffler McGraw	Inv 157	\$ 195.00
TMA	Complete Restoration-Tank Inspect	\$ 450.00
AT & T	Scada	\$ 96.18
GDDJ	Legal Svcs 5/17-08/16/24	\$ 727.50
The Daily Review	Audit Report Legal Ad	\$ 158.95
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$ 43,115.07</b>

**Engineer:**

Mr. Casanave stated the local shares account grant that we applied for last year has yet to be announced; CFA was to make the awards last Tuesday, but they now have set up a date for October 31<sup>st</sup> or November 19<sup>th</sup>; this was for the pump station 5 upgrade.

Mr. Casanave stated the grant has reopened and he suggests we ask for funds for pump station 4; that pump station shows a lot of pumps run hours during a rain event. Mr. Them stated if it is 100% grant; Mr. Casanave stated that no, there is engineering cost they do not fund. It is a bigger pump station so the cost is different than pump station 5. The cost of the application is \$100.00; their cost is approximately \$3,000.00. Mr. Henson made a motion to pursue the LSA Grant for pump station 4, Mr. Them seconded, approved.

Mr. Casanave stated we are still waiting on rain; our meters are in place, but we have not had the rain events we need. This fall we will be doing smoke testing at the mobile home park and Lake Road.

Mr. Williams questioned the Pond Hill project; Mr. Casanave stated that he provided a document to be signed as we have yet to receive official documents in regards to this project; Mr. Casanave stated he put in the document moving 150 feet of both water and sewer lines; since the scope of the project is yet to be determined they estimated cost at worst case scenario.

Mr. Casanave did state he received a call from Ms. Pickett last Wednesday to see if she can call Penn Dot and check on the 25% cost share. Mr. Casanave thanked Mr. Aikey on his bringing this up to the Board a few months back. Mr. Aikey stated he does not think that the Authority should

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burden the cost of a Penn Dot project. Mr. Casanave stated that he received a call from Penn Dot stating Ms. Pickett has requested no cost to the Authority which they deemed premature as the project has yet to have a scope of work.

We still need to sign the agreement in order for Stiffler McGraw to view the plans on this project. Mr. Henson made a motion to have Stiffler McGraw be our consulting engineer on the Pond Hill project, Mr. Them seconded, approved.

Mr. Them questioned the 187 route 6 intersection project; Mr. Casanave stated he has yet to hear anything further on this project.

Mr. Casanave stated he is still looking at the replacement costs that was discussed last month for our insurance; he stated his pricing will be higher than what was on our sheet from Gannon Insurance.

Mr. Aikey questioned the discussion of the force main across the bridge; Mr. Casanave stated that the cost did not fall into the parameters of the LSA grant, they have basically tabled the discussion. Mr. Aikey questioned if we are looking for other funding sources; Mr. Casanave stated no, not at this time, unless other grant fund projects become available. Mr. Them asked if we can put something in place to protect our pipe; Mr. Casanave stated yes, but we would have to get Penn Dot approval.

## **Attorney:**

Mr. Jones stated he did not plan on being available for this month's meeting; but that being said his title searcher was able to get the deeds for the grinder pump properties pulled and he has not had time to review them. He will look at them with Mr. Casanave, and look law history, and give the Board his findings as next month's meeting.

Mr. Williams questioned the Harkness property; Mr. Jones stated the Sheriff Sale will happen next month as it was postponed last month. Mr. Williams stated he thinks there is someone living there; Mr. Williams will look into it. Mr. Jones requested an updated amount of what is owed, Ms. Maynard will send a current billing.

## **Superintendent:**

Mr. Aikey questioned the grant; is there a time frame this has to be completed. Mr. Jones does not think the language in the grant indicated a time frame. Mr. Jones also stated we might want to table the project as we figure what we are going to do with the grinders first. Mr. Aikey stated we are going to a grinder call every week, it is costing the authority. Mr. Them questioned if it is the same place; Mr. Aikey stated no and went on to mention what is being found at each location; one of them being rags. The Board advised that the customer should be advised that they should not be flushing wipes and any future call outs for that will be the responsibility of the customer.

Mr. Aikey stated that the generator on Moose Lane was inoperable, as well as the Echo Beach Rd generator; Mr. Casanave stated that these are new generators; Mr. Aikey stated they have been inoperable since he started. Mr. Aikey stated it is due to our lack of routine maintenance.

Mr. Williams mentioned a call he received from Ms. Place at the Towanda Golf Course; Mr. Them stated he received one as well. Mr. Williams stated that if we are not going to go out on a grinder call who do they contact. Mr. Williams asked if we can provide them a list of contractors. Ms.

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Maynard stated she would contact the Wysox Children Center to see who Mr. Strickland gave them to contact.

Mr. Aikey went into discussion with the Board on permits and contractor registration and enforcement, that will be needed to in order to get contractors and residents to be able to adhere to our specifications and enforcement of them.

## **Treasurers Report:**

Mr. Them questioned Ms. Schoonover if the bank balance of \$414,000.00 is correct; Ms. Schoonover stated yes. Mr. Them stated it is pretty good, considering 5 years ago it was down to \$30,000.00. Mr. Williams stated it is still not enough considering our upcoming projects. Mr. Them stated we are 2/3 of year and water revenue is at 68.9% and bulk water sales is at 64% we have a \$23,000 gain in water revenue minus water expense. The sewer we are at 67% of expected revenue and 80% of sewer sales; Mr. Them didn't think we had that bad of a wet year; Mr. Casanave stated the beginning of the year was wet; we budgeted a \$28,000 loss in sewer and we are up to \$35,000.00.

## **Authorities:**

Mr. Aikey questioned what was discussed last month; Mr. Williams mentioned what was discussed at the TMA special meeting. Ms. Maynard discussed what was discussed in the initial meeting with DCED. Mr. Aikey stated we had a second call with DCED they stated that since the Authorities are 95% entwined no study is needed. Ms. Maynard stated the next step that DCED mentioned is a resolution from both parties stating they want to merge and then start the process. Mr. Them stated he thought they would have talks and how things would proceed. Mr. Jones stated what about the bond; Ms. Maynard stated she will reach out to Mr. Hottenstein on how to proceed with that; after discussion that was tabled until both Authorities talk. Mr. Aikey stated we can get a meeting started. Mr. Jones stated if it is not the full board meeting it could be considered a workshop and not advertised. Mr. Aikey stated would we be able to have it in Wysox as it would be a larger venue. Mr. Them stated that since we are giving TMA our infrastructure maybe they can adjust rates to our customers. Mr. Williams stated items like that would be discussed in the meeting. The Board continued to discuss the process of merging. Mr. Them wanted to know who was going to organize the meeting and who was going to address the issues; Mr. Williams stated he will contact Mr. Walsh for a meeting, and we will go from there.

## **Adjournment:**

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*April Z Maynard*  
Towanda Borough