

Towanda Municipal Authority

November 18, 2024

The November meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 12:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Michael Walsh, Joseph Snell, Fred Johnson, Carmen Venezia, Mark Christini

ABSENT: William Shaw, Roger Hatch, Katrina Murray, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

OTHERS: Matthew Aikey, Superintendent; Morgan Madden (via phone), Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.; Stacy Schoonover, Borough Manager

Visitors: Thomas Bradford

Visitors:

Mr. Bradford stated he was only here to observe.

Minutes:

The October 21, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as written with a motion made by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Venezia, approved.

Bills:

The October bills were approved on a motion made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Christini, approved.

Thomas Street PRV:

Mr. Aikey stated he ordered the vault from LB Water; they agreed to store it until we are ready to install it in the spring. Mr. Aikey stated the cost was \$69,000.00. Mr. Aikey questioned the grant; Ms. Schoonover stated that she has been unable to find the grant, she has reached out for assistance in finding the grant paperwork.

SRBC Grant:

Ms. Schoonover stated she did the figures and we should have more than enough funds to complete the meter change outs in the system. Mr. Walsh questioned if we have problems getting the change outs done; Ms. Maynard stated there are a few customers not complying. Mr. Walsh questioned if they are being charged the fee; Ms. Maynard stated yes, and even with that they have not called.

DEP Water System Inspection:

Mr. Aikey stated they met with Mr. Blaney last week and everything was good; we received the same recommendations as we did in our last inspection. No violations but recommendations; we will receive the report next week. Mr. Walsh questioned if we are going to work on maintenance on the tanks; Mr. Aikey stated yes, that was one of the recommendations, was to put a fence around Thomas Street Tank and to get them re-placard; Mr. Aikey stated that will occur in the spring. Mr. Johnson stated they were inspected so we know which ones need attention inside and out; Mr. Aikey stated yes, we have the inspection reports and the vents are the major items on the Wilmot and Thomas tanks. We did paint the Thomas Street tank.

TMA Debt:

Ms. Madden stated that the statute of limitation is six years; Ms. Maynard stated that Casselle has been operating for 10 years, so we are beyond the statute of limitation. Mr. Christini questioned Ms. Madden on how the procedure should work; Ms. Madden stated that as long as we file a lien within the 6 years, we should be able to keep our debt active. The majority of the debt was old tenant billing.

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Headworks Project:

Mr. Aikey stated per Mr. Casanave the application to PennVest was submitted by the deadline; we should hear in January about the funding; we will advertise the project then, and he is working on the bid ready documents. Mr. Aikey stated we did get different pricing on generators and different options on getting one generator to run the plant, but that would require rewiring. Mr. Aikey stated Martz Technology was up the other day for an onsite visit; they reviewed how to get the offsite stations on the Scada.

Mr. Aikey questioned the Board on the Scada system integrating with the sites in Wysox; they currently have OMNI systems; which is only an alarm system, but we want Scada integration; the Board stated Wysox would have to pay to have the Scada installed.

Mr. Aikey stated that Wysox received the local shares grant for pump station 5; they are submitting one for pump station 4 that is in excess of the \$1,000,000.00; the cap on the grant is \$1,000,000.00. The Board discussed the project. Mr. Walsh mentioned that wouldn't we want to try to keep our pump stations uniformed; Mr. Aikey stated yes.

Mr. Walsh mentioned maybe we want to look into funding for rehabbing our pump stations; Mr. Johnson agreed as we have the one in North Towanda and Towanda Township that need attention. Mr. Aikey stated getting a building to house our controls to get them out of the elements.

Mr. Aikey will contact Mr. Casanave to see what is out there.

Local Shares Grant:

The Board discussed the LSA grant that was awarded for Burlington Turnpike we had submitted a grant request for \$582,240.00, we received \$200,000.00; Mr. Johnson stated what are we going to do with the funds, as it is not what we needed to do the project; can it be used somewhere else; Mr. Aikey stated we might want to see if we can do the project inhouse and the funds are for this project only.

Mr. Casanave had provided a synopsis of the projects we will be applying for this round of the Local Shares Assessment Grant:

Ms. Maynard presented resolution 08-2024 for the West Lombard Street Watermain Replacement Project in the amount of \$642,900.00. Mr. Christini made a motion to approve Resolution 08-2024 to apply for funding to the Local Share Assessment Grant for the West Lombard Street Watermain Replacement Project; Mr. Venezia seconded, approved.

Ms. Maynard presented resolution 09-2024 for the Foster Road Watermain and Pressure Reducing Valve Replacement Project in the amount of \$662,900.00. Mr. Christini made a motion to approve Resolution 09-2024 to apply for funding to the Local Share Assessment Grant for the Foster Road Watermain and Pressure Reducing Valve Replacement Project; Mr. Snell seconded, approved.

Mr. Walsh presented resolution 10-2024 for the Pratt Avenue/Williams Street Watermain Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Snell made a motion to approve Resolution 10-2024 to apply for funding to the Local Share Assessment Grant for the Pratt Avenue/William Street Watermain Replacement Project; Mr. Johnson seconded, approved.

Mr. Walsh presented resolution 11-2024 for the Berwick Drive Watermain Replacement Project in the amount of \$421,200.00. Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve Resolution 11-2024 to apply for funding to the Local Share Assessment Grant for the Berwick Drive Watermain Replacement Project; Mr. Christini seconded, approved.

Mr. Johnson stated what happens if we do not have the funds for these projects, if we do not receive what we are requesting; Ms. Madden stated we do not have to accept the award if we cannot fund

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the project. Mr. Johnson stated that the Pratt Avenue/William Street project should be our number one project; Mr. Aikey stated Mr. Casanave did place that project as our first priority. Mr. Johnson stated that Foster Road should be our second project; Mr. Aikey stated he will inform Mr. Casanave to move the project for Foster Road from 3rd to 2nd in our priority list.

Mr. Johnson questioned if there is funding to do a hydraulic study of our system. Mr. Aikey stated he has met with Mr. Lasco at Bradford County Planning and he did provide us information of our system; he has a map that shows line size and curb stops. Mr. Aikey stated we need to update our maps ourselves; he is looking at programs.

WTMA:

Mr. Walsh stated that he thought that the meeting went well. Mr. Johnson stated if we take over Wysox we need additional personnel; we need to stop being reactive and being proactive. The Board discussed issues with merging. Mr. Aikey stated that Mr. Jones found easements on some of the grinders having WTMA responsible for the maintenance forever; Mr. Jones is looking at the legal issues regarding vacating the easements. Mr. Johnson stated that should be added to the list of what Wysox needs to do before we merge; Mr. Christini stated he is still compiling a list. Mr. Christini stated there are three parts to the merger operational, ordinances, and financial; we are still looking at all aspects. Mr. Christini questioned Ms. Madden on how to request documentation from WTMA; Ms. Madden stated that we should provide a written RFI outlining our request. Mr. Christini requested how would we send the request; Ms. Madden stated a letter from our chairman to their chairman. The Board discussed the issues with the ordinances and Wysox Rules and Regulations and the adherence of their rules and regulations. Mr. Christini wants to go on record that wells need capped and decommissioned. Mr. Johnson stated they were allowed to keep their wells if they did not allow plumbing to go into the residence. Mr. Johnson stated TMA was in charge of the water connection in Wysox. The Board continued to discuss the merger. Mr. Walsh questioned the finances, Mr. Christini stated Mr. Hatch has not had time to contact HallockShannon P.C.

License Testing:

Mr. Aikey stated we are going for the testing next week, and we should know within a month who passed the test in order to get their operating license.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary