

Towanda Municipal Authority

July 15, 2024

The July meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Michael Walsh, Carmen Venezia, Joseph Snell, Fred Johnson , Katrina Murray, William Shaw, Roger Hatch, Mark Christini

ABSENT: Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

OTHERS: Matthew Aikey, Superintendent; Morgan Madden, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Visitors: None

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None

Minutes:

The June 17, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as written with a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Christini, approved.

Bills:

The June bills were approved on a motion made by Mr. Shaw, and seconded by Mr. Johnson, approved.

Water:

Mr. Aikey stated that the Thomas Street Tank has been rehabbed, the company questioned the vent on top, it needs replaced; the cost is \$18,000.00. Structurally they found nothing wrong with the tank, Mr. Johnson questioned if that is for the inside as well, Mr. Aikey stated that the internal inspection is set for next week.

Mr. Pat Maynard and Mr. Nagle performed our clean and place for the quarter; this is the first clean and place Mr. Maynard has completed by himself.

Mr. Aikey mentioned we do have two personnel for water and wastewater who will be testing for their operator licenses. Mr. Aikey stated our available operators report has Mr. Strickland and Mr. Vandeweert for Wysox Sewer and Water is Mr. Walker and Mr. Nagle for both Wysox and TMA; Mr. Walker has requested to be removed from the water; TMA wastewater has Mr. Walker and Mr. Vandeweert. Mr. Aikey stated he can replace Mr. Strickland and Mr. Vandeweert with himself as a wastewater operator. Mr. Walker goes on medical leave on August 1st; Mr. Snell heard he was not coming back; Mr. Aikey stated he has not been officially notified by Mr. Walker. Mr. Aikey stated he did reach out to Mr. Nagle to see if he would be our rider on the wastewater.

Mr. Aikey stated he is working with Ms. Maynard and Ms. McLinko in getting a letter out to the Fire Companies in regards to use of hydrants. We will send a letter to fire companies informing them to use the bulk water station due to them not informing us, not all fire companies fall in this category but we will be advising all the Fire Companies.

Thomas Street PRV:

Mr. Aikey stated Mr. Casanave has the drawing for the new vault and is awaiting a quote.

Sewer:

Mr. Aikey stated that we need a vote to have Mr. Walsh sign the Penn Vest Specification Certification form to close out approval of the Categorical Exclusion from DEP. Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve Mr. Walsh to sign the Penn Vest Specification Certification form, Mr. Venezia seconded,

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approved.

Mr. Christini stated he has been looking at the surge protection for the Wastewater Treatment plant; Schadler Yesco recommended equipment but after reviewing the recommendations Stiffler McGraw did not think we needed all the equipment that they recommended. We are looking at 1 or 2 surge protection devices at a cost of \$15,000.00 each unit. Mr. Christini stated this is the first step but we need to look at other items. Mr. Aikey stated the cost is approximately \$13,000.00 for both units. Penelec is also going to install recording voltage meters to check voltage abnormalities. Mr. Aikey stated we were up and running; but the last couple of weeks we have been experiencing other issues at the plant. We had the VFD at the garage blow which controls the blowers. Mr. Walsh questioned if we are adding these additional items that are breaking to the insurance claim; Mr. Aikey stated yes. Mr. Walsh asked for a motion to approve the surge protection; Mr. Christini made a motion to purchase the surge protection for the WWTP, Mr. Snell seconded, approved. Ms. Maynard stated this was approved last month.

Mr. Aikey stated the VFD panel for the centrifuge was ordered; we are looking at 6 weeks.

Mr. Aikey stated he received a call from DEP a wastewater operator from out of town reported we were discharging solids into the river over the 4th of July weekend; Mr. Aikey contacted Mr. Walker he stated he was unaware that we did that. DEP was in Monday to investigate; no pictures were taken but the investigator stated she did not see any evidence of any discharge. Mr. Aikey stated he received a call from who informed him we are on the radar at DEP.

Mr. Casanave is requesting we schedule a drainage of the ATAD for the Headworks project. They also request the operators input on the UV component replacement. Mr. Aikey sent emails to Mr. Walker regarding both requests from Stiffler McGraw; Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Craig Allis from Valley sewer might be able to assist us on this, we have reached out to him before his number is in his old rolodex; Mr. Aikey stated he has the rolodex.

Mr. Aikey wanted the Board aware we repaired the control panel at Pump Station 7 (Wysox), the control panel had burned out in March.

College Run Sewer Lateral:

Mr. Aikey stated we have easements for this project; Mr. Christini made a motion to allow personnel to contact the two property owners to get easements signed, Mr. Hatch seconded, approved.

Mr. Aikey stated he received a quote from Sikora Brothers of \$52,165.00 the other quote is from M R Dirt for \$83,625.00, Mr. Johnson asked for another quote. Mr. Aikey will get another quote. Ms. Madden stated if this is going to be considered emergent, we need to get it done quickly.

Budget

Mr. Walsh asked if Mr. Aikey is looking at the budget; Mr. Aikey stated he was reviewing that today; the Board needs to keep in mind the expenses we paid for the sewer plant that is getting reimbursed by insurance. Mr. Walsh mentioned maybe we need to move the expenses from Stiffler McGraw for the Headworks project to another line item, as we will be able to tie that into the project when we go to Penn Vest. Mr. Aikey questioned Ms. Madden if we can add line items to the budget or if there is a 10% change before we have to re advertise the budget; Ms. Madden stated you can add a line item as long as it is a subcategory to one that already exists, she is not aware if it is a percentage or a threshold before you have to readvertise a budget. Mr. Walsh stated that tracking those items should be done as it is affecting this year's budget. Mr. Aikey stated Ms. McGuire is tracking the insurance claim. Ms. McGuire has brought up concern on the pre spending. Mr. Johnson stated he would like to see the budget numbers on a quarterly basis to see where we are at.

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Rules and Regulations:

Ms. Madden presented the rules and regulations in their final draft for signature; they were approved last month; Mr. Walsh and Mr. Snell signed Resolution 02-2024 Rules and Regulations for Water Use and Resolution 03-2024 Rules and Regulations for Sewer Use.

Mr. Christini requested the Board be sent the rules and regulations in electronic format. Ms. Maynard stated that these will be added to the website and replace the existing rules and regulations. Mr. Christini questioned if we would add the fee schedule to the website; Ms. Maynard stated Ms. McGuire stated it was never posted in the past; Mr. Christini stated it should be.

Ms. Maynard presented Resolution 04-2024 Schedule of Rates and Fees; which replaces Resolution 01-2024 adopted in our January meeting; with the addition of Failure to schedule meter access \$150.00 a month until access is allowed. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 04-2024 Fee Resolution, Mr. Venezia seconded, approved.

Ms. Madden:

Mr. Walsh stated Ms. Madden is moving firms; we have a Client File Retention & Transfer form to move our files from Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC to her new firm. Mr. Johnson questioned if the fees will be the same; Ms. Madden stated she would think they would be similar. Mr. Johnson made a motion for Mr. Walsh to sign the Retention and Transfer form and to retain Ms. Madden as our attorney if the fees are similar to our contract with Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, Mr. Christini seconded, approved.

Superintendent:

Mr. Aikey stated he is working on the installation specifications for water and sewer; Mr. Johnson questioned if the specifications are in the Rules and Regulations; Mr. Aikey stated no. He is trying to make the specifications uniformed with our requirements; they would be handed to any contractor installing a water or sewer line.

Mr. Aikey stated the numbers on the interconnect meter are getting closer; Ms. Maynard stated Wysox billed their customers 2.1 million gallons and TMA billed for approximately 2.9 million; Ms. Maynard is not exact in the numbers but our discrepancy we have been having is getting better. Mr. Johnson questioned how this was repaired; Mr. Aikey stated the shaft and seals were corroded only allowing the check valve to open 10% with repairs and maintenance it is working better.

WTMA:

Mr. Walsh stated Mr. Williams contacted him in reference to consolidating the two Authorities. Mr. Walsh questioned if the interconnect meter brought on the conversation; Mr. Aikey stated no it was just the fact that Wysox basically is run by TMA and the Board members are on the mindset that consolidation would be good for both Boards. The Board discussed the issues of consolidating and the different rules and regulations; wells and grinder pumps. The decision from the Board is to have WTMA address the Board to initiate talks.

FEMA:

Ms. Maynard stated we have received an acknowledgment paper from FEMA for Mr. Walsh to sign to acknowledge receipt of the flood handbook.

Bank Signatory Designation:

Mr. Aikey stated that we need a resolution to add Mr. Aikey and Ms. Schoonover to our bank accounts at C & N Bank. Mr. Snell made a motion to approve Mr. Aikey and Ms. Schoonover be added as

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signatory designation for the TMA accounts held at C & N (Resolution 05-2024), Mr. Hatch seconded, approved.

Mr. Aikey:

Mr. Christini wanted to thank Mr. Aikey on his job that he has done in keeping everything together.

Mr. Aikey wanted the Board to know that our system is very reactive in maintenance, our pumps at New Albany were not running correctly and one burned up, when they were pulled the other impellor was not in good shape; Mr. Johnson stated he could be contacted with these items as he knows what they should have been set at and that they need to be pulled and inspected on a regular basis.

New Albany:

Mr. Johnson questioned if we found our paperwork for New Albany to show them, we are not responsible for their water system. Mr. Aikey stated we did find the signed agreement that states we are only responsible for the booster and 10-inch line. Mr. Aikey informed Michelle that they will have to look for a water operator. Mr. Johnson stated he agreed, we have been helping New Albany for a long time.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary