

Towanda Municipal Authority

February 24, 2025

The February 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, Katrina Murray, Mark Christini

ABSENT: Carmen Venezia, Roger Hatch, Eric West, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman

OTHERS: Matthew Aikey, Superintendent; Morgan Madden, Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.; Stacy Schoonover, Borough Manager; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw; Brian Shura, Stiffler McGraw

Visitors: Dr. John Paulish

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Dr. Paulish stated he put a double wide trailer on his property for his daughter; he started the process with Mr. Strickland and he was told by Mr. Strickland that he left detailed instructions on what would need to be done to his predecessor.

When the trailer was put in and the hook up did not occur, he came down to the office and was informed he needed to pay for the grinder assembly before it can be hooked up.

The connection occurred so he assumed it was paid for as that is what he was told; that nothing would happen until it is paid for.

He does not have record that he paid for the grinder assembly. He received an invoice in the mail for the grinder and the check valve; he came into the office and stated he paid for the grinder but not the check valve so he paid for the check valve (meter pit) at that time, and was informed at that time that we would research the grinder payment and get back to him; he did not get a return call. Dr. Paulish stated that he received another letter stating if this is not paid, we would pursue legal action.

Mr. Johnson requested if Dr. Paulish can provide proof of payment; Dr. Paulish stated he would assume he paid it, if it was installed; Mr. Johnson stated that the employees have no knowledge if the equipment is paid for or not, if it is on their schedule to go out and connect a property that is what is done. Mr. Aikey questioned who installed the grinder; was it his contractor?

Mr. Johnson stated Dr. Paulish has to provide proof of payment. Mr. Walsh questioned if Dr. Paulish's contractor might have paid for the grinder. Dr. Paulish does not think his contractor is no longer in business. Ms. Murray stated that there should be a paper trail.

Mr. Johnson stated we would not double bill; Dr. Paulish stated he is double paying; Mr. Johnson stated Dr. Paulish needs to provide us proof he paid for the grinder.

The Board discussed the situation after Dr. Paulish left, we need proof of payment.

Minutes:

The January 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as written, motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Snell, approved.

Bills:

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

Water and Sewer Rules and Regulations:

Ms. Maynard stated she provided what sections were amended to add the permit requirements for inspections in the water rules and regulations section 2.03 and 2.12; in the sewer rules and regulations section 8.01.

Mr. Johnson stated that he is still against charging a fee for inspecting water and sewer lines; Mr. Christini stated we need to recoup our monies that we are expending; Mr. Johnson stated what are we recouping; Mr. Aikey is paid for 8 hours of work. Mr. Johnson stated by charging the customers we will have more

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customers not adhering to the rules. Mr. Walsh stated that this discussion can be made and regulations changed if we so agree, but for now we need to get the inspection requirements in the rules and regulations so that we are informed of what is going into the ground and ensuring it adheres to our regulations.

Mr. Christini made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2025 Towanda Municipal Authority Rules and Regulations for Water Use and Resolution 03-2025 Towanda Municipal Authority Rules and Regulations for Sewer Use with the changes adding permit requirements and inspections for service lines, Mr. Snell seconded, approved.

FEMA:

Mr. Casanave stated that they made application to have the unexpended funds; \$412,000.00; from the 2018 flood, to repurpose the funds to another identified site. PEMA stated to file a justification for the scope of work. FEMA denied our request; they de-obligated the funds as we did not use the funds; we just found this out on Friday after the agenda was already sent. Mr. Johnson stated if we can apply again; Mr. Casanave stated that these were funds allocated for the 2018 flood he does not think we can reapply. We might want to look at other funding sources to repair the exposed line. Mr. Johnson questioned Mr. Aikey if it can be repaired; Mr. Aikey stated there is a large rock that has pushed the line and it is leaking. Mr. Casanave stated they will pursue funding to see what is out there.

Small Water and Sewer Grant:

Mr. Casanave stated that the Small Water and Sewer Grant is now open the deadline is April 30th. Mr. Walsh questioned if we can apply for the Eilenberger line; Ms. Madden stated you can direct Stiffler McGraw to look into it and put it on our March agenda for a vote. Mr. Casanave also outlined other projects we might want to pursue funding for; due to the dollar amount they would not fall under this grant but we might want to pursue Penn Vest funding for these projects.

Headworks Project:

Mr. Casanave stated that at the Penn Vest meeting on January 22nd, we were awarded 7.7 million dollars in grant funds for the project. The next step is to get the project advertised and bided. Mr. Johnson made a motion to have the project advertised for bids, Mr. Snell seconded, approved.

Process Upgrade / Collection Conveyance System:

Mr. Shura stated that we had a planning meeting with DEP on the process upgrade and they are not requiring a full ACT 537 they gave us a waiver on that. They will begin working on that project.

2025 Fee Schedule:

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the 2025 Fee Schedule Resolution 04-2025 that includes the permit fees of \$50.00 for water and sewer for service line inspection and \$50.00 for termination of water and sewer lines, Mr. Snell seconded, approved

Towanda Cemetery Association:

Ms. Schoonover addressed an issue with the Towanda Cemetery Association, they removed their meter and are still receiving a bill; Mr. Christini stated it is in our rules and regulations that they receive a bill until the property is demolished; he just purchased a property and he has the same situation. Mr. Snell stated he would inform the Board as he is on that Board as well.

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Adjournment:

As there was nothing further to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary