

# Towanda Municipal Authority

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May 19, 2025

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

**PRESENT:** Michael Walsh, Joseph Snell, Fred Johnson, Carmen Venezia, Katrina Murray

**ABSENT:** Mark Christini, Eric West, Robert Williams-WTMA Chairman, Roger Hatch-(conference call failed)

**OTHERS:** Morgan Madden (via phone), Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.; Stacy Schoonover, Borough Manager; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw; Brian Shura, Stiffler McGraw; Tobias Nagle

## **Visitors:**

None

## **Minutes:**

The April 25, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as written with a motion made by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Minutes approved.

## **Bills:**

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

## **Diamond Map:**

Mr. Nagle from Stiffler McGraw introduced a platform called Diamond Maps. It's a system that is used heavily in the water and wastewater industry. Mr. Nagle stated his reason for bringing this to us is because of the holes in our roster. Mr. Nagle stated that this is basically another employee for you. The system will help new employees wrap everything up and keep it all in one place. Mr. Nagle showed examples of Stiffler McGraw clients Ford City and Northern Cambria. Mr. Nagle stated Diamond Maps would have made the repair on the Eilenberger line last week much easier; there is a public notification that would get launched when things are depressurized; easily isolated the repair area and attached a map with the public notification to make it clear to the people that were affected by that repair. Mr. Nagle stated that it is a \$50.00 a month subscription. He stated there was an upfront fee of what he believed was \$5,000.00.

Mr. Shura stated to set it up, and if we need to basically create a map and its function, it's not necessarily five grade. This bigger platform, its ESRI based. It uses the same as any other GIS. The difference is they fine tuned it to be for somebody that doesn't know how ESRI or some of the databases, and creates a cloud system that anybody can use. For instance, if you have a break and want to know what is going on there, you can take a photo, upload it, in seconds you have the information at your fingertips. Not only now but for the future Mr. Shura stated perpetually cost wise, it is cheap. He stated he didn't know how much the iWorQ was but was sure it was more than \$50.00 a month

Mr. Johnson questioned whether we have any mapping that we are working with our iWorQ. Ms. Schoonover stated that we bought it but it didn't get used. Mr. Walsh questioned whether all of the county stuff such as gas lines, telephone lines could be brought in. Mr. Shura replied yes this could all be brought in.

Mr. Johnson stated we have absolutely no digital mapping at this time. Mr. Casanave commented what would be really relevant to TMA is that it can track repairs; you can take a picture of it and put it into the system.

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Mr. Johnson stated he thought it would be worth it. Mr. Nagle said there was one additional cost and that was the locator. Mr. Walsh questioned where that would leave us with IWorq. Where would it leave us with code enforcement. Ms. Schoonover reported that we pay for modules. She has told Ms. McGuire not to pay for the module for this tuff for this year because no one was using it. Mr. Walsh questioned how much is the locator, Mr. Nagle stated he could get formal costs for the next meeting. The ballpark figure would be \$8,800.00 for the RFK system which talks to a bunch of different satellites; the lower model is \$8,400. Mr. Shura said the \$50 monthly fee is for unlimited users; it's base on the size and number of customers.

Mr. Walsh would like Mr. Shrura to come back next meeting with a proposal.

## **Headworks Project:**

Mr. Shura reported on the bids. He stated that there was one HVAC and one electrical. He stated the estimates were way over. He had a concern as there were only 2 bids. Mr. Shura stated that the highest bid was for 2.2 million compared to the estimate of 1.2 million. Mr. Shura stated his recommendation remains the only answer, your 4 million short across the board. We don't want to go outside the grant. We need to keep the headworks and site work. Thats the primary scope of this project. Our goal is to have your contractor come in and provide realistic architectural structure work. With additional bidders we should see that. Mr. Shura's recommendation on the electrical side is go back to the original scope, just do bare bones SCADA. Mr. Shura also recommends we go ahead and get a new SCADA hub that ties into Headworks, it ties into ATAD. Mr. Johnson questioned would we be able tie everything in. Mr. Shura replied yes. That is the original recommendation.

Mr. Walsh questioned do we also want to do this with the ATAD jets and the piping replacement. Mr. Shura stated we will restructure some of the bid schedule and maybe remove stuff based on recommendations. The goal is to adjust some things over the next 2 weeks and put this out to bid by the beginning of June and reopen before the meeting in July. That way we can make a decision at your July meeting and go through closing and get things under wraps by August.

Mr. Shura stated we did talk to Penn best about possibility of getting a letter to prejudice, if we're good with the bids we and we can get through the contract stuff, they might allow us to get started it catches you just might have to front, front, up front of the first pay application before getting reimbursement. Mr. Johnson stated it was a bad time to start bidding things. Everyone already has projects. Mr. Johnson also questioned are we going to rebid on Mr. Shura recommendation eliminating some things. Mr. Shura responded yes. Mr. Casanave stated by asking for a little more specifics and breaking out some of these other price points a little more definitively. If you do see something that comes in high on a bid, you can just pluck that out. Mr. Shura stated that we will have to place a hierarchy so the state law requires you to identify a budget, and then you have to identify an order of your ad on this. Mr. Casanave stated in terms of your actions, I think you need separate votes to reject the bid for one, reject the bid for contract three and then authorize.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to reject contract #1. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion  
Mr. Johnson made a motion to reject contract #3. Mr. Snell seconded the motion  
Mr. Snell made a motion to rebid contracts 1 and 3. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

## **Waste Tank Cleaning Bid:**

Mr. Casanave brought up there has been an effort or an intent on part of the authority to drain and clean the tanks at the treatment plant to contain sludge, to see what is there, the condition of what is there, and, more importantly clean off the gunk that has been accumulating over the past few years. Mr. Casanave reported in the past we have tried to get a couple contractors on site to give an opinion what it would take. It has proved to be difficult. Mr. Casanave stated where the authority finds itself now is to put this out for bid., advertise it

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and notify contractors of a project. Instead give them a definitive scope of work now that says, drain the tanks, clean them, haul every thing away. Then we can see for ourselves what everything looks like. Mr. Johnson questioned "Would this be part of the \$7 million." Mr. Casanave stated it would be a separate tank project. Mr. Casanave stated another reason it is being requested now is because it shouldn't take more than a week per tank. Then a lot of the work would be done by the time we are ready to pull the trigger on the main contract. Then you will know what your headed for instead of guessing. Mr. Johnson stated it may take a lot longer than a week per tank. Mr. Casanave stated if it is authorized to advertise this week and have a bid opening on June 11<sup>th</sup>. That gives a couple weeks. If we open the bids a couple days before the board meeting, we can digest everything and have a recommendation probably by the time of the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Walsh stated we need the ATAD tank cleaned for the project. Mr. Casanave stated that these tanks haven't had a serious amount of attention probably since our last upgrade in 2017. Ms. Schoonover reported the guys had told her they had hoisted up a grate and there was dry stuff on it from it being so thick. Mr. Casanave presented a draft map of the tanks. We would give them 45 days to be mostly done and 60 days to have it completed.

Mr. Walsh made a motion to go for bids to drain and inspect all 6 tanks. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

## **Other business:**

Mr. Walsh stated the monthly meetings will be changing back to 5:00 p.m. now that Mr. Aikey is no longer here; hopefully, it will allow more members to attend; an advertisement will be placed starting with the June 16, 2025 meeting

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Walsh seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Anita Gaspar*  
Recording Secretary