

# Towanda Municipal Authority

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September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The September meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Michael Walsh, Fred Johnson, Katrina Murray, Mark Christini, Carmen Venezia, Roger Hatch.

**ABSENT:** Eric West, Joseph Snell

**OTHERS:** Morgan Madden, Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.; Chad Strickland-Superintendent; Stacy Schoonover, Borough Manager; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw

**Visitors: NONE**

## **Minutes:**

M. Christini requested a revision on other business, stating the rules he was referring to are sewer ordinance 3-2025, section 3.06, multiple use improved properties.

The August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as written with amended comment from M. Christini, with above a motion made by M. Christini seconded by K. Murray.

## **Bills:**

The bills were approved on a motion made by F. Johnson and seconded by R. Hatch, motion approved.

## **Budget discussion:**

R. Hatch and F. Johnson questioned the miscellaneous revenue from 39,000 in water operating. S. Schoonover explained that it was SRBC. S. Schoonover stated when we got the money for the meters it went in there and she transferred to the water cap. Mr. Walsh stated \$150,000.00 and then \$130,000.00 was taken out. R. Hatch stated we are over budget on engineering and consulting. Mr. Walsh stated we would be getting our money back.

## **SCADA Improvements:**

C. Strickland stated that last week we lost resolution broadband for roughly 6 hours. It took until Friday midnight to catch up. C. Strickland said he is pushing for better communications to the 15 water remote sites because we cannot function without it. C. Strickland stated he would like to bring Mark in to help us in the sewer plant. He guarantees he can fix all our problems. C. Strickland stated they are looking at \$34,000.00 to update the water SCADA system and give us VPN. S. Schoonover stated that she had not budgeted for this amount. She recommended using the money out of the vehicle purchase as we have no interest in buying a vehicle right now. There is a budget of \$50,000.00 for that right now.

F. Johnson made a motion to approve that we proceed with SCADA improvement in the amount of \$35,000.00. C. Venezia seconded the motion.

## **Local Share Account Program**

E. Casanave discussed the Local Share Account Program. E. Casanave stated it was very costly to gather the data and get a model that's working. E. Casanave stated since the last meeting, we approached the State to see if the costs of putting together one of these models, including data surveying, and including the report that would get you off the ground with looking at electronic simulation of how your system runs could be funded by the local share account or the Grant Program. E. Casanave stated that they fund engineering 100% if it's a planning study. If it's a construction project they only fund engineering at 10%. M. Walsh stated we're still in competition with everybody else in the state for this Grant. E. Casanave stated the hardest part is getting the system to behave the way the system actually behaves. Getting the data and getting it calibrated are the biggest headache. E. Casanave stated the application for Grant is due in by the end of November. E. Casanave stated that BCD holds true to their schedule we wouldn't expect to hear anything until December of next year. E. Casanave stated this would dovetail with the Diamond

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Maps.

F. Johnson made a motion to proceed with application for Local Share account program. M. Christini seconded the motion.

## **Sewer System:**

C. Venezia asked about NPDES Permit Renewal. E. Casanave stated it was submitted in March. E. Casanave stated your permit expired August 31<sup>st</sup> but you are still on your existing permit. M. Walsh wanted to know how long this is good for. E. Casanave stated it is good for 5 yrs .

E. Casanave stated we need a vote for PennVest requisition one. F. Johnson made a motion to pay requisition number one. Seconded by C Venezia.

## **Waste Tank Cleaning Bid:**

M Walsh stated he had signed for the cleaning project. E. Casanave stated we have a pre- construction conference for that on the 25<sup>th</sup>, that was arranged after the agenda was printed. E. Casanave stated they have 60 days to finish that job. R. Hatch questioned who we are using for a contractor. E. Casanave stated it was Level Solid Solutions out of Somerset

## **Headworks:**

E. Casanave stated the pre-construction conference for Head Works project was held last week. E. Casanave stated it is expected to be done in a year's time. F. Johnson questioned when are they expected to begin? C. Strickland stated that they were bringing in their trailers before the end of the month and could possibly start by mid-October. E. Casanave stated the goal was to get the building built and all the excavation before winter sets in and everything above ground, get it under roof.

## **Other business:**

F. Johnson questioned whether we had a Service Line Loan Project that is seen in the budget and should we advertise it. C. Strickland stated we did advertise for it originally and probably had 5 people take advantage of it. C. Strickland also stated if anyone has a leaky waterline or bad sewer line that he always recommends it. K. Murray asked what this was. C. Strickland explained that TMA will pay a contractor for services done and then they can repay over 60 months at a super low interest rate.

F. Johnson stated we should have a good sum of money so probably could use some summer interns to do some of the things that need done. F. Johnson stated maybe we could get an intern to come in and learn the plant, the wastewater system and when they graduate and we need help they might be interested.

F Johnson expressed some concern about the lack of representation from Monroeton Council. M Walsh stated he would draft a letter.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm. R. Hatch seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Anita Gaspar*  
Recording Secretary