

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Neugebauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Ake, Mr. Strohm, Mr. Gehret and Mrs. Kooman (by phone) were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also in attendance were Solicitor, David Consiglio, Consulting Engineer, Mark Glenn AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser, Ron Becher and Kathy Gabella.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Unfinished Business:

1. Goods Lane Water Line Replacement – There is an aggressive schedule for this project. There are a total of eight (8) easements to be signed. One has been executed and the balance of the easements is in the process of being signed. The Authority pays one dollar (\$1.00) per square foot for each easement.

The first of three conference calls with Pennvest is scheduled for Thursday. This will include staff, the attorneys and the borrowee getting together to go through the paperwork that is needed for settlement. The Board will be kept update with this process and when the settlement will take place.

2. Biosolids Treatment Improvements Project –the design phase with ESG is moving forward. There is a growing interest from other sources to dry the sludge; therefore, ESG will need to account for a larger capacity dryer.

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with ESG to discuss the energy conservation side of the project. This would include lighting, new boilers, heat system, etc.; things that don't actively make money but save money.

ESG would like to start construction in August of this year using a letter of no prejudice with a

financial closing in the September, October or November range. It is anticipated that application for Pennvest funding will be this year. The cut off for Pennvest funding would be May for their July meeting.

ESG is beginning to line up their subcontractors. It is expected that the seeding of the digesters will happen in late 2021 and the ancillary items in 2022. Slides and pictures will be provided to update the board at later meetings.

3. Sanitary Sewer Rehab Lining Project –Contract 196 for the spray-on-lining is slow going. Spinello is the prime Contractor and is now switching subcontractors. This is approximately 23% complete.

Contract 197 is the cured-in-place lining. This is going very well. They have lined over thirty thousand feet (30,000') of pipe. This project is approximately 65% complete.

The final completion date for both projects is January 28, 2021.

4. Atlas Copco Blowers at East Plant – the blower installs are continuing at the East Plant and some have been tested. GD&F and the Authority are doing the inspections. A plant shut down is being discussed for approximately ten (10) hours. Both the East and West Plant blowers are to be completed by the end of August.
5. Water/Wastewater Rates, Rules & Regulations – a proposed fee list (attached) for both water and wastewater was given to the Board in December. The fee list includes sampling fees, Customer Service fees, connection fees and meter fees, etc. The cost was broken down to find the actual cost to the Authority for each fee.

Staff has been working to find a way to keep updating these fees without going over the list every year. It was proposed to use the National Consumer Price Index to automatically update the fees and then revisit the list every three (3) to five (5) years.

Upon further discussion with the Board it was decided not to update with the Consumer Price Index at this time.

After further discussion it was decided to revisit this item at a later date.

Mr. Strohm moved to approve resolutions 20-02-926 to amend the water and 20-02-927 to amend the wastewater rates, rules, and regulations to be effective March 1, 2020. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Neugebauer asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisitions #30-32 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling - \$521,096.91

Sewer Division Capital Fund totaling - \$4,351.99

Keystone Pump Station totaling – \$4,757.55

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the requisitions. Mr. Ake seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Mrs. DeRubeis mentioned that Colleen Deer from Mockenhaupt will be attending the April Board Meeting to review the Actuarial Valuation for the pension from January 1, 2019.

Staff has been working on putting together an RFP for the Investment Advisory and Custodial Services for the Pension. The Authority has been with the current provider for some time and it is a good time to review the opportunities.

New Business:

Mr. Perry mentioned the Bellwood Dam Project needs to have a Second Opinion Review for certain points of the design and cost. This is a requirement of Pennvest.

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution 20-02-928 to approve the Professional Services Agreement between Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. and the Altoona Water Authority for the Goods Lane 12" Water Main Replacement Project and to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute said agreement.
2. Resolution 20-02-929 to authorize the Chairman of Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the Easement Agreement between Norman D. Luther and the Altoona Water Authority

Mr. Ake moved to approve Resolutions 20-02-928 and 20-02-929. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

1. Award bid to the lowest responsible bidder for liquified propane for heat at all treatment facilities.

Mr. Gehret moved to approve bid award item 1. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Other Business:

Rubber Dams at Lake Altoona and the Impounding Dam – HTE is working with Hickes and the manufacturer in China to replace the rubber dams. HTE would like the Authority to contribute \$30,000.00 to help with the replacement cost. Discussion was had concerning making a one-time payment or making a counter offer. This item was tabled until the March meeting.

Media Questions

The board and staff addressed questions from Bill Kibler of the Altoona Mirror.

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 9:50 for legal issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10: 42 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: April 23, 2020



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg