

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019 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 and Mr. Gehret 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 Consulting Engineer, Mark Glenn, Solicitor, David Gaines, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Ray Dodson and Kathy Gabella.

Guest: Mayor Pacifico, Jim Balliet, Katie Semelsberger & Mark Geis

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Unfinished Business:

1. Guaranteed Energy Savings Project – a draft commitment handout was given to each board member. The commitment would be for the engineering design of the project. This would include co-digestion, high strength waste receiving station, combined heat and power systems and thermal drying for Class “A” biosolids.

Providing the Board gives the approval to move forward with the Project Development Agreement; ESG would design and permit the project. They are proposing to do this over the summer and fall; submit permits late fall or early winter. If ESG receives the permits by spring the Authority would enter into a contract and construction could begin next year.

There was another handout given to the board members containing GD&F’s viewpoint on the project.

Dates to tour the Winchester Facility will be made available to each board member.

2. River Road/Wopsononock Bore Projects – There is sixteen hundred (1600) feet of the twenty-one hundred feet (2100’) of cast iron main completed on Wopsononock Avenue. Since Juniata Gap Road is a busy state road it was decided to bore under the road.

The second bore is under Tipton Run Creek. This project consists of forty-five hundred (4500') feet of eight-inch (8") ductile iron pipe. The project will create a looped system and a second feed for a portion of the Tipton area. The bore located at River Road should be complete in a week or so. When they leave River Road they will move to Juniata Gap Road to begin that bore.

3. Tax-Exempt Advance Refunding of Series 2010 B & C Build America Bonds – the threshold for net savings on the refunding of bonds was set at three percent (3%). The bonds were priced on June 5, 2019 and came in at 10.63% which realizes a savings of \$2.9 million. Since the debt service reserve fund will no longer be required the total savings of the refunding will be \$5 million. The closing is scheduled for July 11, 2019.

There are two (2) resolutions to be approved. The first is to name the position of controller as the "Compliance Officer". The second resolution is to terminate the subsidy payments for the Build America Bonds prior to the issuance of the tax-exempt refunding bonds.

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 #103 & 104 Water Division Construction Fund totaling - \$612,342.70

Requisition #17 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$87,366.24

Requisitions #10 & 11 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$171,836.77

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the requisitions. Mr. Gehret seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Mrs. DeRubeis added the MMO was paid in May for the amount of \$560,000.00.

New Business:

1. Bellmeade Civic Association Water Distribution System Acquisition – this is a community that has its own water treatment plant and distribution system. The Authority already has installed a backup supply for the Association. DEP has now mandated upgrades at a significant cost and the Association expects there will be more mandates in the future. They voted for the Authority to take over their system. If the system is acquired by the Authority it would mean at least one hundred thirty (130) new customers with an ability to add more to the system.
2. Tony Samento Safety Training – this was developed about three (3) years ago. He had a very good presentation and it was done within a picnic setting with lunch provided. This helps to keep safety in the forefront and the employee benefit greatly from it. Mr. Perry invited all the board members to attend.

Safety within the Authority has greatly improved; the workers' comp premium in 2013 was \$320,279.00. The premium in 2019 was \$171,620.00 which is almost half.

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution #19-06-910 to approve and adopt the Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures and name the Controller as the "Compliance Officer" and as such will report annually to the Board stating the Post-Issuance Compliance Procedures were properly and timely performed for the preceding fiscal year.
2. Resolution #19-06-911 to approve the termination of the Build America Bonds subsidy payments prior to the issuance of tax-exempt refunding bonds.

Mr. Gehret moved to approve all of the above resolutions. Mr. Ake seconded. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Other Business:

Mr. Neugebauer thanked staff for the heads up on water running at his church. Mr. Perry will pass this along to the employees.

Media Questions

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

Executive Session:

An Executive Session was called at 10:00 for legal and personnel issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: July 18, 2019



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg