

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, May 23, 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 Consiglio, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Ray Dodson, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser, and Kathy Gabella.

**Guest:** Scott Shearer of PFM, Larry Doyle of ESG, Richard Sutter of RCS & A, Mark Geis, Josh Wyandt, and Rick M<sup>c</sup>Phee Sr.

### **Public Comment:**

Richard M<sup>c</sup>Phee Sr.:

"I'm not a public speaker so I'm going to read off of this here. Good morning everybody my name is Rick M<sup>c</sup>Phee. First I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today. Also I would like to thank each of you board members for your effort and time you put into the Altoona Water Authority. So thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. With that being said again my name is Rick M<sup>c</sup>Phee. I'm an employee of the Altoona Water Authority for twenty-four years now. I started here as a laborer, then a fleet mechanic, on to an assistant pipe fitter. Then Mark Perry gave me an opportunity and promoted me to foreman after eighteen years of service here (2013)."

"I want to start off here today by saying I am in no trouble here with the Authority. I'm not under suspension, I'm not fired, I have not been reprimanded, and I'm not under any disciplinary action what so ever. I'm here to let the board members know that I will be filing complaints with the EEOC, Labor and Industry and any other agency I can file complaints with against Ray Dodson, Director of Field Operations for harassment, discrimination, bullying and creating a hostile work environment. I am going to expose Ray Dodson for what he is and for everything he has done in this company. I will be doing this through legal counsel with an attorney at my expense."

"Ray Dodson says he's the boss and he can do anything he wants. Yes, he is a boss. But I'm here to tell Ray no, no he cannot do anything he wants. There are rules and regulations for everybody, including Ray Dodson."

"And that's about it. Other than I'd like to pass this around to the board members and show them something that was worked on here. Mike Sinisi who did a great job on it and put a lot of work into

it (handed a binder to the board member) and now the rate payers are paying to haul dirt to Bellwood and to West Plant when I gave them a place to dump that was just a stone throw away. When Ray found out it was my property the brakes started screeching. They're doing a main project up in Wopsonnock. I bought ground from Mondon Smith, I bought ground from Robert DeBolt, and I bought ground from the Redevelopment Authority. I want to develop ground down there and build two houses. I gave them a place to dump where they could have filled that place in for me. It stopped. If you look at that there's a sequence of construction that should be done in there. The first thing was silk sock was to be put around. That's stamped through DEP through the Blair County Conservation Committee. The silk sock was never put down. The stone entrance was never applied to get in. I got two phone calls from neighbors complaining there was dirt and mud all over the road. I had to go down on my time 6:30 in the evening with a neighbor and shovel and broom the streets up because the stone entrance was never put in."

"Now they're still working there on that project. They're paying truck drivers to drive that stuff the whole way to the West Plant and now they're taking it the whole way to Bellwood whenever they had a place on Eighth Street and Juniata, Eight Avenue and Eighth Street, Juniata to dump that."

"I'm here to tell Ray that he is going to put that stone entrance and he's going to put that silk sock in or we're going to go to court and I'm going to force him to put it in. He's Director of Field Operations he should be looking at everything out in the field you know. Everything should be applied and ready to go when they do these main projects."

"And I appreciate you all looking at that and going over it. It is very simple as far as reading what's to be done. If they don't want to dump on my property, that's fine. They're only hurting themselves with a water and sewer customer with two houses, they're hurting the city by putting two houses up collecting tax base, Penelec and the gas company and the tax base. It's hurting everybody. Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you."

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Mr. Strohm moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 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 Revised Draft – Abridged Preliminary Audit Report (attached) was given to the board for their review. The scope of the project still needs to be determined. Staff met with PennVEST this month and received an encouraging response regarding the possible funding of this project. PennVEST indicated a one percent (1%) interest rate and the potential of grant money to be applied to this project.

Staff will work with the attorney and ESG to have a contractual agreement to provide the amount needed for the investment grade audit. It is anticipated this will be ready for the June

meeting.

Mr. Doyle will be in touch with dates to tour the Winchester Facility. Also an invitation was given to the board members to attend a workshop with ESG.

2. 2019 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project Update – a meeting was held yesterday with Spinello the contractor in charge of the spray-on lining. A representative from National Gunite also attended the meeting. June 6<sup>th</sup> is expected to be the start date for the spray-on-lining.

There has been fifteen hundred feet (1500') of the cured-in-place lining completed. There should be another thousand feet (1000') completed this week. No work will be done next week however they will start back up the following week.

The Authority has also reached out to the Altoona Fire Department concerning this project. The fire department has held several confined space training events for it. This project is expected to last two (2) years.

3. Norfolk Southern License Agreement – the Authority has received several invoices for old agreements that were to be paid annually. Norfolk Southern and the Authority are in the process of working out an agreement to get the payments up-to-date and agree on a price moving forward. It is anticipated the agreement will be ready for board approval at June's meeting.
4. Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility Administrative Office Building Roof – a bid from RT Contracting for the amount of \$55,000.00 was accepted May 7, 2019. This should only take a couple of weeks to finish.
5. 31<sup>st</sup> Street Maintenance Storage Building – the rebar is being purchased for the concrete knee walls. The excavating and the footing should begin next week.
6. DCED Grant Application – this will be the second grant application for the Kittanning Point (Cooney Property) watershed land acquisition. The first was the C2P2 grant with DCNR for the amount of \$960,000.00. The Authority is applying for the same amount to DCED Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program. The application for the DCED grant needs to be submitted by the end of May. The closing for the DCED and DCNR grants could be in January 2020. DEP will be another grant avenue to be pursued.
7. Tax-Exempt Advance Refunding of Series 2010 B & C Build America Bonds – Mr. Sheerer handed out a presentation (attached hereto and made a part hereof). After the presentation it was decided to change the savings threshold to three percent (3%).

### **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 #102 Water Division Construction Fund totaling - \$253.03

Requisition #16 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$118,901.61

Requisitions #8 & 9 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$219,570.90

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

### **New Business:**

1. Developer's Agreement between AMED and the Altoona Water Authority – AMED is building a new facility across from the Peoples Natural Gas Field, set back from Park Avenue. There is no water fronting the site location. A main extension is required to service their site. The line must be constructed to the Authority's specifications and inspected by same. The Authority will assume ownership once the requirements are met.

### **Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards**

1. Resolution #19-05-907 to approve the application submission for an Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program (AMDTP) grant for the amount of \$960,000.00 and to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute all documents and agreements between the Altoona Water Authority and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.
2. Resolution #19-05-908 to approve the refunding of Series 2010 B & C Build America Bonds pending a minimum net savings threshold of three percent (3%).
3. Resolution #19-05-909 to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the Developer's Agreement between AMED and the Altoona Water Authority.

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

### **Other Business:**

None

**Media Questions**

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

**Executive Session:**

An Executive Session was called at 10:15 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, June 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: June 20, 2019



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Secretary/Assistant Secretary

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