

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, November 21, 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, Mr. Gehret and Mrs. Kooman 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, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Todd Musser and Kathy Gabella.

Guests: Richard Alberts

Public Comment:

Richard Alberts of 2311 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602

"I just want to address a few items the last which will probably have to go to closed session or you can take a moment to yourselves. First and foremost of course we all know about the DEP and what has taken place at the West Water Treatment Plant. It is not a first time event however it is all about intent and the law. If you intentionally dig a hole to try to hide contaminated soil it is referred to as mild contaminated. I'm aware that there is oil in this so called waste that they put in the hole. There was no intention of removing it. It was intentional as usual. It's against the law to use employees that work for the Water Authority that don't really know the laws of the EPA, DEP so on and so forth, very unprofessional. Who would do something like that and yet come out and publicly lie. From the September 19th article I read in the paper to November's article it's a contradiction. Makes no sense gave two different statements; this was intended to be buried; that's why a lot of you didn't even know about it until it hit the paper. I'm surprised it didn't till I went to City Council then it shows up in the paper the next day."

"A lot of your employees are breaking, they're not afraid anymore. They're not scared of you anymore." Attorney Consiglio interrupted and stated that Mr. Alberts seem to be addressing someone in particular. He stated that Mr. Alberts should direct it to the administration or the board. Mr. Alberts asked: "this is the board correct? If I'm looking at him I'm not accusing him." Attorney Consiglio asked Mr. Alberts if there is anything else. Mr. Alberts replied "yes, yes there is. Do you mind?" Attorney Consiglio reminded Mr. Alberts that he has five minutes. Mr. Alberts replied: "you are cutting into my time." Attorney Consiglio stated that Mr. Alberts could extend the time; but wants to make sure he is not engaging in ad-hominem attacks. If you have a situation that you would like to have the board or the administration take a look at it write it down and submit it. Mr. Alberts said: "so this isn't the proper forum?" Mr. Consiglio replied: I don't know where you're going with this. Mr. Alberts stated: "that's exactly my point." Mr. Consiglio stated we don't know so that's the point, if you would write it down and submit it then we would know. Mr. Alberts went on, "the employees at this time I can tell you

several different sites, they are trying to befriend me on face, get information from me. Now I'm getting information, I don't want it but when I see this and the cover up and finally the DEP comes in, the EPA is involved, nobody is held accountable. Are you going to get a fine? That's the fine the people of Altoona are going to pay down the road. Who would want, there's wild life everywhere you put contaminated soil just out there to dry out and you dig a hole to put it in then you mix it with mulch. Be real, be truthful I would hope that everybody here would understand the damage that could cause. You drink the same water as if you live in Altoona and you are supplied the same water. It was also referenced in the Altoona Mirror it was convenient to have available storage close by. Do you know how that came about? I don't know how many labor hours they used to empty out the West Plant storage area. They emptied that out took it down to the East Plant. From what I'm told down at the East Plant they're full now in order to move the sludge which I'm sure some of it has already drained into the ground that had oil in it or had to be covered. I know this because of where I previously worked I was involved in the construction of the new McDonalds at Station Medical Center. When they changed the footprint, they dug down in there and hit contaminated fluids. That all had to be dug up hauled out of state and incinerated. Now I'm not a DEP expert or an EPA expert but I have a little bit of common sense. And I would hope that do the research, anybody that would carry a license for wastewater treatment would be questionable do something, it's bad, it's bad. Back even further, the fish kill, that had nothing to do with anything but yet they found forty feet (40') or forty to fifty feet (40'-50') of broken pipe. They would have noticed this broken pipe if the flow meters had not been removed at the direction of management. Common sense again, preventive maintenance that's what I've done in my life. I've worked hard."

"The employees that get special treatment it's a shame. As long as they stay silent they get the best hours and the best jobs. That's what I'm hearing. The whole board should be aware of whether you're male or female, management, non-management that's been the general knowledge. They were scared to death, now all of the sudden my phone is getting blown up from employees from the Water side. I never even walked or worked on that side." Mr. Neugebauer stated one more minute sir. Mr. Alberts said: "I believe he said it could be extended because he interrupted me." Attorney Consiglio said he interrupted for about thirty (30) seconds. "All ok. As far as I only need another minute."

"My name was brought up by a prior employee or employer I'm sorry. The Altoona Water Authority sent a man over stating that I told them they were stealing water. It's a bald face lie, bald face lie, it was twisted; as an attorney you would know that how you twist things. It was a bald face lie and I'm telling you if I was Andrea Cohen, Andrea Devorris Cohen I would and Lexington Mall Partners I would sue against the Altoona Water Authority and I would be their primary witness. They used my name they sent an employee from the Altoona Water Authority to the Station Medical Center and said that I, I told them they were stealing water. They inspected every meter." Mr. Neugebauer stated that time is up sir. Mr. Alberts said "that's all I have to say." Mr. Neugebauer thanked Mr. Alberts for his time.

Attorney Consiglio stated "I usually don't say anything when it comes to members of the public speaking. They have their right to speak. I will say that the gentleman that just spoke does not represent the employees. They are represented by a union here. I will also say that this organizations reputation speaks for itself and the DEP and EPA can attest to that. That administration has handled all of those issues, any issues that might come up which come up in any of the working or any government body in an extremely professional and competent way. In terms of twisting anything I

frankly don't know what the man is talking about but I will leave it at that; but I didn't want to let such egregious and unfounded comments go un-responded to."

Approval of the Minutes:

Mrs. Kooman moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting. Mr. Gehret 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. Bellwood Dam Update – still waiting comments from DEP concerning their technical review comments of Bellwood Dam. The Authority should see those by Thanksgiving. Once the comments are received they can be addressed and then the Authority would be in a position to get a permit from DEP for this project.
2. Bellwood Water Treatment Plant Update – A meeting was held Friday in Harrisburg concerning the Bellwood Water Treatment Plant permit in addition to other factors. The Authority has answered approximately sixty (60) of DEP's comments and is now awaiting the permit.
3. Water Treatment Plant Ozone/CFE Upgrades – there are items that resulted from the DEP inspections for Chapter 109 improvements. They relate back to EPA's Total Chloroform Rule which requires authorities to have the ability to monitor their chlorine and turbidity filtration systems. The Authority is required to put in equipment to monitor Combined Filter Effluent from the filter bays from each plant along with some additional monitoring.

The Authority has trouble getting parts for the original oxidation units. Since some of the circuitry parts are no longer made the Authority has decided to replace these systems with new ozone systems that uses ozone generated on site using liquid oxygen. This item is also under permit review.

4. Goods Lane Water Line Replacement will be from 58th Street to 6th Avenue over to Logan Boulevard and Orchard Avenue and Arlaryd Street. DEP wants a permit for this work even though it is a straight replacement project. The permit was received this morning and the paper work has been filed for Pennvest funding in February. The project will cost approximately \$2,000,000.00. PennDOT has been very good working with the Authority in giving time to get the main replaced. It is expected to go out for bid in spring/early summer and the paving may be able to start in August.
5. Guaranteed Energy Savings Update – the planning phase is moving forward. Workshop number three (3) took place a few weeks ago. ESG is moving forward to get the permits for this project. Workshop number four (4) and a preliminary PennVest meeting will take place December 12. The construction drawings are between thirty percent and sixty percent (30% - 60%) complete and are getting ready to go to DEP for review. Staff met with Tyrone for the handling of their biosolids and to go over some of the details.

6. Sanitary Sewer Rehab Lining Project –Contract 196 for the spray-on-lining is slow going. This project is approximately eleven percent (11%) complete.

Contract 197 is the cured-in-place lining the Westerly Outfall is complete. The lining is approximately fifty-nine percent (59%) complete. The contractor is working on some smaller diameter pipes. The total of the cured-in-place project is about thirty-nine percent (39%) complete.

7. The River Road project began on September 9th and is now complete. Upon completion of the project a second feed was provided to the area which should improve water quality. A new tap has been provided for DelGrosso's Sauce Plant and Water Park.

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.

Requisition #108-109 Water Division Construction Fund totaling - \$21,748.40

Requisition #22 Water Project Construction Fund totaling - \$35,184.94

Requisitions #22-24 Sewer Division Construction Fund totaling – \$841,386.66

Sewer Division Capital Fund Invoices 83430, 83530 & 83536 totaling - \$6,337.83

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 she and Mr. Perry met with the board members concerning the 2020 budget and things went very well. A rate increased is not expected with the 2020 budget.

New Business:

1. Rubber Dams for Lake Altoona and Impounding Dam – both rubber dams were replaced last year. A hole was found in the rubber dam at the Impounding Dam right after it was installed. It was patched and re-inflated. At that time the rubber dam at Lake Altoona was also patched in the same place in case it would do the same thing. Although it was a difficult install Hickes did an excellent job. In March of this year the rubber dam at Lake Altoona wasn't holding air. It turned out to be a piping problem but it was originally thought it was due to a large tear in the bag. The membrane was actually exposed but that was not the cause of it loosing air; however it was also patched. A few weeks ago pressure was lost again at the Impounding Dam. The area that was patched blew out. Both rubber dams are "junk". HTE (Engineering Firm) offered to replace both rubber dams. Details have yet to be worked out with HTE. Hickes could be

available to install the new dams next year.

2. Logan Partners Easement – this easement is for water and sewer mains that are located behind Logan Plaza. These mains were intended to be turned over to the Authority several years ago along with the easement. This Easement is to rectify what was overlooked.
3. The Authority was awarded a grant for \$900,000.00 for the acquisition of the Cooney Property. This is a fifty percent (50%) matching grant and staff is looking into the different options to come up with the matching funds. This is the C2P2 Grant from DCNR.

Resolutions/Motions/Bid Awards

1. Resolution 19-11-919 to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary to execute the Water and Wastewater Easement Agreement between Logan Partners and the Altoona Water Authority.

Mr. Strohm moved to approve Resolutions 19-11-919. Mr. Gehret seconded the motion. Mr. Neugebauer called the question. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5-0.

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 10:00 for legal issues.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Date of Approval: December 19, 2019



Secretary/Assistant Secretary