

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Schirf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Schirf, Mr. Ake, Mrs. Marcinko & Mr. Strohm 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, Alan Krier, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Ron Becher, Todd Musser and Kathy Gabella.

Absent: Mr. Neugebauer

Guests: Mr. Craig Ostheim of American Forestry Consultants

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes:

Mrs. Marcinko made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Presentations:

1. Craig Ostheim from American Forestry Consultants gave a brief overview of what they do for the Authority. He explained American Forestry has been working with either the City of Altoona or the Authority since 1976. There are forest management plans for each watershed that are comprised of the timber resource and recommendations on how to best manage those resources. All the management plans break down what the variety of timber is on each particular watershed. They also evaluate each location as to whether it is a good growing site. Once the evaluations are made American Forestry recommends what should be done with the area. They decide if the area should be managed for timber, managed for wild life or let alone to protect the buffer for the water resources of the reservoir.

Over the years they have also re-identified the boundaries for the Authority on each watershed. This was done to help keep people from discarding trash on the watershed but to also stop people from illegally cutting timber. There have been a few cases over the years that American Forestry has completed timber trespass appraisals for the Authority.

The foresters cut the grape vines from the various watersheds to keep them from eventually destroying the trees. They have recently helped with treating the Hemlock trees for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Left untreated the Hemlock would die resulting in increased sedimentation, water temperature and an increase in algae blooms. The Authority would incur

an increase in the treatment cost of the water and the algae blooms.

2. Mark Glenn gave presentations on the infrastructure renewal plan, sewer system, conveyance system and then the condition of revenues and future revenue needs. Copies of all are attached.
3. Boy Scout Plaque Placement - the Boy Scouts would like to place plaques for fallen firemen on select hydrants along 17th Street. They are working with the Altoona Fire Department to get the names of the fallen. The two (2) boys finished painting one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight (1988) hydrants. There will be recognition for the two scouts at a future board meeting.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Schirf 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 #74 & 75 Water Division Construction Fund totaling – \$13,402.62

Requisition #2015-32 Water Division Capital Project Fund totaling - \$50,255.95

Mrs. Marcinko made a motion to approve the requisitions. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Mrs. DeRubeis explained there are items for the 2018 Capital Budget that could be completed with monies from the 2017 Capital Budget. There is approximately \$140,000.00 remaining in the 2017 Capital Budget and staff would like to use \$138,700.00 of that money.

Mrs. Marcinko made a motion to utilize remaining 2017 Capital funds for 2018 Capital projects as proposed. Mr. Strohm seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

New Business:

1. Vacuum Jetter Truck Operator Job Description - the new vacuum jetter truck is more complex than the old equipment. This created a need for a new job description for the vacuum jetter truck. It does not create a new employee since the position will be filled within the company. The position and rate will fall under Equipment Operator 1.
2. Job Abolishment – the person holding the position of Water Clerk/Data Input has retired. There is no real need for this position therefore staff recommends to have the position abolished.

Resolutions:

1. Resolution #17-10-859 to approve the new collective bargaining unit job of Vacuum Jetter Truck Operator and adopt the job description of same

Mr. Ake made a motion to approve resolution #17-10-859. Mr. Strohm seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Resolution #17-10-860 to abolish the position of Water Clerk/Data Input

Mrs. Marcinko made a motion to approve resolution #17-10-860. Mr. Strohm seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Other Business:

None

Media Questions

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

Executive Session:

An executive session was called at 10:10 for legal and personnel issues.

Adjournment:

No further business was brought before the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg