

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the:

Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority  
377 Cedarcrest Drive  
Duncansville, PA 16635

The Regular Monthly Meeting, held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., was called to order by Chairman Ted Ventre. Tonight's meeting was conducted through Conference Calling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In attendance were 4 Authority members as follows: Ted Ventre, Robin Cadwallader, Mary Bolt, and Edward Silvetti. (Brendan Peterson was absent.)

Also in attendance were Tim McGaw, Manager; Katie McGaw, Administrative Assistant; Mike Gieg, Solicitor; Dave Cunningham, Engineer.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of April 7, 2021. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 4 Yes.

When the Board was reviewing the Disbursements for April, Katie McGaw pointed out that BNY Mellon was paid \$30,657.51 for the Interest Only Bi-Annual Payment on 4/15/21. Also, a check for \$4,000.00 was sent to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the 2021 Safe Drinking Water Annual Fee. Ed Silvetti questioned the disbursement to Nicktown Fabrication for a Grinder Pump Repair. Tim explained that sometimes a grinder pump can be repaired and reused. Ted explained there are around 50 grinder pumps involved in the Dist III Sewer Expansion that BTWSA services.

Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for April 2021. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Bolt VOTE: 4 Yes.

The first Item for Discussion on the Agenda was John Degenhardt. John had asked to be put on the Agenda regarding a sewer repair at 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, but John was not in attendance tonight. Tim McGaw stated that during routine inspection of our sewer system, the Maintenance Men had found that the cleanout at 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was full of roots and the pipes had separated. Mr. Degenhardt had been notified that this needed to be repaired. He hired Domestic Plumbing to remove the roots and reconnect the pipes. At the time of the notification, Mr. Degenhardt stated that he thought this repair should have been BTWSA's responsibility. Ted Ventre pointed out that any repairs to a Sewer Lateral are the property owner's responsibility.

Mike Gieg stated he spoke with Chris Weidley today regarding the retroactive Sewer Bill for 2321 Smoke Drive, Unit C, in the amount of \$2,384.00. Currently, Chris has two tenants at 2321 Smoke Drive (in Units A & B), and the third unit, Unit C, has been eliminated. Mike presented the Board with a \$2,384.00 check from Mr. Weidley as payment in full for the retroactive sewer bill for Unit C. Motion was made to accept \$2,384.00 from Mr. Weidley as payment in full for sewer service for 2321 Smoke Drive, Unit C, for Service Period of July 2017 – February 2021. MOTION: Bolt SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 4 Yes.

Dave Cunningham of Keller Engineers reported that he has been evaluating a new rate structure that would be uniform across the system for commercial, industrial, and residential users who have metered water. Upon the engineer's recommendation, the Board passed the following. Motion to eliminate the established EDU Billing for those wastewater customers served by metered water and to implement a new billing structure that includes a Consumption Charge after every 10,000 gallons of usage each month. The new Consumption charge shall be set at \$40.35. The new Metered Area Wastewater Rate is therefore \$40.35 Base Rate for the first 2,000 gallons + \$9.25 per 1,000 gallons up to 10,000 gallons. Starting at 10,001 gallons, a Consumption Charge of \$40.35 plus \$9.25 per 1,000 gallons up to 20,000 gallons. This same rate structure shall repeat for each additional 10,000 gallons. Consumption Charges do not include a 2,000-gallon allocation. The Consumption Charge of \$40.35 shall be applied on gallon 10,001, gallon 20,001, etc. For example, the charge for a wastewater customer with a monthly water usage of 20,958 gallons will be calculated, as follows: Base Rate: \$40.35 + Metered Usage:  $(20,958 - 2000) \text{ gallons} \times \$0.00925 = \$175.37$  + Consumption Charges:  $2 \text{ 10,000-gallon blocks} \times \$40.35 = \$80.70 = \text{Total Charge of } \$296.42$ . This new Metered Area Wastewater Rate will become effective with the June 2021 Billing. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Bolt VOTE: 4 Yes.

Tim asked if it would be sufficient to write a note on the bills stating we have adopted a new metered sewer rate. We will also post a more detailed description on our website. The Board agreed to including wording on the May bills announcing the new rate structure. Mike Gieg stated that his office will prepare the Resolution adopting the new rate. Keller Engineers will assist him in the correct wording.

Dave reported that the Borough of Duncansville received a funding package from PENNVEST for the Duncansville WWTP Sludge Dewatering Upgrade. BTWSA will be responsible for their 3% share as Stu Sibold, Engineer for Borough of Duncansville, explained at last month's BTWSA Meeting.

Tim reported that the Vicki Claar Sanitary Sewer Extension is moving forward. Pat Burns plans on installing the Extension at 646 Patrick Lane, Newry, next week.

Katie stated the 2020 BTWSA Water Quality Report has been prepared and is being distributed to our water customers and landlords, as well as being posted in public places and on our website. This report shows our water sampling results for 2020 and includes a link to Altoona Water Authority's Water Quality Report in case our customers want a broader view of the water sampling results.

Ed Silvetti was contacted by Trina Illig, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) facilitator, about the Reservoir Road Sewer Expansion Project. She is reviewing the Income Survey to see if the information is still valid. Currently, Blair Township has \$232,000 in CDBG entitlement money and the Township is going to be receiving \$443,000 in American Relief Act money that could possibly be used toward this Project.

Katie told the Board that Link and Associates are working on the 2020 Financial Statement and Audit.

Tim stated we have a sewer customer at 115 Truman Street who had a water leak that drained into the ground and not into the sanitary sewer. This month's sewer bill was for \$324.19, but their average bill, prior to the water break, ranged between \$42 - \$70 per month. Tim asked the Board if they would consider issuing a credit for all but \$50.00? Motion was made to grant relief in the form of a sewer credit to the residents of 115 Truman Street for all sewer charges except \$50.00 for April's Billing. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Silvetti VOTE: 4 Yes.

Ted announced the next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held via Conference Call on June 2, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Motion was made (at 8:04 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Bolt VOTE: 4 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,

*Robin L. Cadwallader*

Robin L. Cadwallader

