

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, August 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., was called to order by Secretary/Treasurer Robin Cadwallader.

In attendance were 3 Authority members as follows: Robin Cadwallader, Mary Bolt, and Edward Silvetti. (Ted Ventre was absent. Brendan Peterson arrived late to the meeting as noted below.)

Also in attendance were Tim M<sup>c</sup>Gaw, Manager; Katie M<sup>c</sup>Gaw, Administrative Assistant; Matt Gieg, Solicitor; Dave Cunningham, Engineer.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of July 7, 2021. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Bolt VOTE: 3 Yes.

When the Board was reviewing the Disbursements for July, Katie pointed out that we paid Duncansville Borough \$1,346.44 for BTWSA's 3% share of their Fournier Rotary Sludge Press purchase.

Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for July 2021. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 3 Yes.

Matt Gieg stated that BTWSA received the Settlement Payment from Energy Intermodal Associates, LLC on 7/9/2021. Currently the property at 141 NAC Drive is being billed for metered sewer based upon the reading from the Altoona Water Meter. Mr. Werstil has installed a Deduct Meter twice, but both times the meter was installed incorrectly and not as per the Settlement Agreement.

Matt also stated the Vicki Claar Project at 646 Patrick Lane, Newry, is complete. The Bill of Sale was signed on 7/13/2021 and recorded on 7/16/2021. Katie stated the Review Fees paid to BTWSA by Vicki Claar did not cover all the expenses, and once Katie receives the invoices, Vicki Claar will be billed for the overage.

Matt explained there is a vacant parcel of land at 715 Loop Road that is situated near the end of our sewer main. For this property to be able to connect to our sewer, there needed to be a Right-of-Way and Easement drawn up. Once this has been recorded, BTWSA will be able to issue a sewer permit for this property.

Brendan Peterson entered the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Dave Cunningham reported that Keller Engineers has been in touch with Tom Levine, Frankstown Township's engineer, regarding the possibility of BTWSA constructing a small sanitary sewer main near the Blair Township/Frankstown Township line along Reservoir Road and connecting it to Frankstown Township's sewer main. There are three homes along Reservoir Road that could convey their sewer, by gravity flow, to the Frankstown Township sewer main and eventually enter the Hollidaysburg Wastewater Treatment Plant. It was pointed out that connecting only three homes to a sanitary sewer

is far from what is needed whenever there is a need to connect over 200 homes. Robin asked if the American Rescue Funds that Blair Township received could be used to pay for the Engineering Study of bringing sanitary sewer to all the residents along the Proposed Reservoir Road Project Area. After discussion, motion was made to authorize Tim McGaw, Manager, to send a letter to the Blair Township Supervisors requesting consideration to use American Rescue Funds for the Reservoir Road Engineering Study. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Bolt VOTE: 4 Yes.

Tim McGaw stated he was contacted about refinancing our BNY Mellon Bonds. The person who contacted him said that we could refinance at a lower rate. There were some questions about interest on the loan and whether we would really save any money or whether refinancing would cost us money. Mary Bolt suggested that we contact the bank to see what the situation is, pointing out that sometimes it depends on who you talk to as to what answer you get. The conclusion was that Matt Gieg should check into the Loan Documents before we go any farther. He will do so and report back to us at next month's meeting.

Tim reported that we made three water repairs this past month. One on Newry Lane, the other two on Pennington Drive/Meadow Lane and Pennington Drive/Robin Lane. Brendan asked if the new Leak Detection Device was working well. Tim said there is a slight learning curve that the maintenance men are working through. For example, two leaks that were close together sounded like only one leak. Also, traffic noise is giving false positives. Our Water Loss Percentage for July was 34%. This Unbilled Water Usage is of concern to Tim, and he asked the Board to consider increasing our Water Rate in January to cover these costs. Since the Altoona Water Authority did not increase Water Rates last year, we are expecting an increase in 2022 so we will have to increase rates to cover Altoona's increase.

Katie McGaw reported that we received a refund check from the Borough of Hollidaysburg in the amount of \$4,164.00 for overpayment of sewer treatment in 2020. We also received a refund check from Freedom Township in the amount of \$7,343.33 for overpayment of sewer treatment in 2020.

Brendan pointed out that BTWSA needs to start a Capital Improvement Plan. Now that all the components in our Water and Sewer System have been identified through GIS mapping, we need to use this GIS Data to identify areas for capital improvement. Tim stated that a few years ago, it was suggested to replace water lines in the Applewood Section (Orchard Drive, Peachview Lane, Harvestview Lane, and Appleview Lane). However, replacing our water mains will not necessarily reduce our water loss because water loss could be due to leaking laterals. Katie McGaw suggested passing a Resolution to require installation of a water meter pit at the property line whenever a property without a pit is being sold. That way if the lateral is leaking, it would be metered water, which would tell us if there is a problem. Katie stated there had been discussion in the past about requiring a sewer lateral to be smoke tested or air tested before the sale of a property to ensure the sewer lateral was not leaking. Motion was made to authorize Keller Engineers to evaluate the financial losses of water and sewer and use this to gauge

future capital improvement projects. MOTION: Peterson SECOND: Silveti VOTE: 4 Yes.

Robin announced the next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on September 1, 2021, at 7 p.m.

Motion was made (at 7:51 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Bolt SECOND: Peterson VOTE: 4 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,

*Robin L. Cadwallader*

Robin L. Cadwallader

