

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority  
377 Cedarcrest Drive  
Duncansville, PA 16635

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ted Ventre.

Ted welcomed Rodney Patterson, our new Board Member. The Blair Township Supervisors appointed Rodney at their October 10, 2023, Supervisors Meeting. Rodney will complete Mary Bolt's term.

In attendance were 4 Authority Members as follows: Ted Ventre, Robin Cadwallader, Edward Silveti, and Rodney Patterson. (Brendan Peterson arrived late to the meeting as noted below.)

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

VISITORS: Paul Amigh Clay Gingrich

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of October 4, 2023. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Silveti VOTE: 4 Yes.

While the Board Members reviewed the disbursements for October, Katie called their attention to the check written to The Bank of New York Mellon in the amount of \$108,782.51. This was BTWSA's Bi-Annual Bond Payment (Principal + Interest). Katie also explained that Jim Beckenbaugh sold his Car Wash on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Duncansville. He had a credit balance on his account at the time of the sale, so he was reimbursed for overpayment in the amount of \$341.87. Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for October 2023. MOTION: Silveti SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 4 Yes.

Brendan Peterson entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Clay Gingrich of The Gingrich Agency presented our Business Insurance Renewal for 2024. Clay got competitive proposals from other companies and when EMC was told that another company provided a lower quote, EMC lowered their Renewal Price. Motion was made to approve the Business Insurance quote from EMC for the Policy Period of 11/12/2023 – 11/12/2024 in the amount of \$31,862 dollars. MOTION: Silveti SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 5 Yes.

Clay also presented the Healthcare Renewals for 2024. Our UPMC Medical Plan premium went up 14%, but in comparing it to an ACA Plan, we are better off staying where we are. Vision and Dental had no premium increase. Motion to approve renewing our current Medical, Dental, and Vision policies for 2024. MOTION: Peterson SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Ed Silveti stated that BTWSA's current Hiring Policy allows for healthcare to be offered to a new employee after 90 days from the date of hire. Ed asked Pat Fanelli, Solicitor, about this policy and Pat said it is a business decision as to when healthcare is offered. Clay Gingrich pointed out that UPMC bills monthly, so coverage usually starts on the first of the month. After discussion, motion was made to amend BTWSA's current Hiring Policy of offering healthcare (Medical, Dental, and Vision) to full-time employees after 90 days, to be amended to read BTWSA's Hiring Policy offers healthcare insurance

19624

to full-time employees on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following the month they became employed by BTWSA. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Peterson VOTE: 5 Yes. Katie asked Pat if there would have to be a Resolution drawn up reflecting this change. Pat said having the motion stated in the Minutes was sufficient.

Dave Cunningham stated he will be meeting with landowners next week about purchasing their land for the three Pump Stations in the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project area.

Last month Dave informed the Board about a new grant program through the CFA using Local Share Allocations (LSA). The cost to apply is \$1500.00 dollars. Dave presented Resolution 2023-3 requesting an LSA Grant of \$575,000.00 dollars from the CFA for the Applewood Sewer Replacement Project. Motion was made to approve Resolution 2023-3, pending the decision from the CFA on 11/21 regarding the Small Water & Sewer Program grant we applied for. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Peterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

The Budget Meeting originally scheduled on October 24 was rescheduled to October 18. At that meeting, Tim and Dave went over the Draft Budget for 2024 and made some adjustments to a few expense items. Tonight, Dave presented the proposed 2024 Budget. Dave feels our User Rates for Water and Sewer are spot-on and is not recommending an increase unless we receive a substantial increase from Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Duncansville, Freedom, or Newry. Ted Ventre mentioned that the Social Security Administration announced their Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2024 is 3.2%. Ed Silvetti questioned if the amount budgeted for Payroll & FICA covered salary increases for the employees. Dave stated that he took that into consideration whenever he budgeted \$465,000.00 dollars.

Tim gave an update on our System Maintenance: We located and repaired another water break along Newry Lane. This was on a service line that went underneath the road.

Katie asked the Board for a decision on the Lien Fee amount for 2024 so she could prepare the Rates Summary Sheet for the December meeting. She said she had checked the invoices from Pat Fanelli's office, and the costs of Preparing & Filing a Lien and Preparing & Filing a Lien Satisfaction currently add up to \$299.00 dollars, substantially higher than the current Lien Fee of \$80.00 that we charge customers. This led to discussion about our Delinquent Customer Collection Policy and the timing of placing a lien against their property. Katie stated that we had been placing a lien after attempts were made to collect at a 30+ Day delinquency, but that the policy was being changed to not placing a lien until after a 90+ Day delinquency. Motion was made to change the Lien Fee from \$80.00 dollars to \$325.00, effective 1/1/2024. MOTION: Peterson SECOND: Silvetti VOTE: 5 Yes.

Ted announced the next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Motion was made (at 8:08 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Silvetti VOTE: 5 Yes.



Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,

Edward M. Silvetti

RESOLUTION 2023 – 3

Be it RESOLVED that Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority of Blair County hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$575,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Applewood Sewer Replacement.

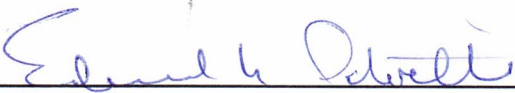
Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant does hereby designate Ted Ventre, Chairman, and Robin L. Cadwallader, Vice Chairman, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Edward Silveti, duly qualified Secretary of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, Blair County, PA, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority Board at a regular meeting held November 1st, 2023, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, this 1st day of November 2023.

**Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority**  
Name of Applicant

**Blair**  
County

  
**Secretary**

