

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

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Robin Cadwallader. Due to illness, Robin asked Ed Silveti, Vice Chairperson, to chair tonight's meeting.

In attendance were 5 Authority Members as follows: Robin Cadwallader, Edward Silveti, Rodney Patterson, Ted Ventre, and Brendan Peterson.

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

VISITORS: Paul Amigh

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of December 6, 2023. MOTION: Ventre SECOND: Peterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

When the Board Members were looking over the Disbursements for December, Katie called their attention to the check written to FWF Insurance and explained that this month's installment was \$379.00 less than our normal installment. This was due to receiving a Credit resulting from our Workers Compensation Audit. Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for December 2023. MOTION: Patterson SECOND: Peterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Dave Cunningham stated the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) met on December 19<sup>th</sup> and announced grant recipients for the H2O PA Program. The BTWSA was awarded \$2,510,000.00 dollars for the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. Next, we will ask Trina Illig for State CDBG funds before approaching PennVEST for the remaining funds needed for the Project.

Dave handed out hard copies of the BTWSA 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Budget. The Budget was discussed in length at the November BTWSA Meeting, and adopted at the December BTWSA Meeting, on the condition that Dave would incorporate a 4% employee wage increase for 2024.

Dave suggested the Board put some thought into adding the requirement of sewer lateral testing prior to the sale of a home on the BTWSA system. Besides incorporating this into our Rules and Regulations, it would also have to be passed through an Ordinance by the Blair Township Supervisors. Since Paul Amigh, Supervisor, was present at tonight's meeting, he was asked if the Supervisors would entertain such an ordinance. He asked that we provide him with more information. Ed Silveti asked if Dave could provide a "model ordinance" for the Board to review.

Tim McGaw stated that Altoona Water Authority is raising their water rates by 6.91%. Because we learned of this increase before we printed our December bills, we wrote a message on them stating "We regret to inform you that we may be raising our water rates

19624

due to the rate increase we receive from Altoona.” Tim spoke to Altoona Water Authority about the rate increase and was told the gallonage rate is not changing, only the base rate (based upon the size of your water meter). The BTWSA Distribution System utilizes 3 Master Water Meters, one each in the sizes of 3-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch. Our monthly increase will amount to \$67.64 per month. After discussion, motion was made to not increase water rates, effective January 1, 2024. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Ventre VOTE: 5 Yes. There will be a message on January’s water bills stating the Board decided not to raise water rates at this time.

Tim spoke with PA Municipal Authorities about Wage Ranges of Authority personnel. They are currently conducting a study of Wages and will issue their report in July or August. Ed Silvetti wants to make sure Authority employees are paid fairly and consistently. Ed wants to gather information from local Authorities to use as a comparison, so he spoke to The Lytle Group, a local HR Consultant company, for input into the elements needed. Based upon his conversation with The Lytle Group, Ed prepared a Handout entitled BTWSA Staffing, Wage and Salary Summary and Study, outlining 5 of these elements.

The meeting was recessed into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss a Legal matter.

Ed Silvetti reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Pat Fanelli stated there is a general agreement by the Board to attain the land needed for the 3 Pump Stations in the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project area, even if BTWSA needs to use Eminent Domain.

Ed announced the next BTWSA Meeting will be held on February 7, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Motion was made (at 7:59 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Ventre SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,

Rodney A. Patterson

