**JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 10, 2019 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Vice President Swierzowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Clerk Koehler

**BOARD MEMBERS**

John Swierzowski, Vice President

George DiMarco, Board Member

Brandon Lyon, Board Member

**ATTENDEES**

Michael Poulin, City Attorney/arrived at 6:37pm John Denmark, Water Plant Operator

Barbara Koehler, Clerk of the Board

Brad Hayner, City Council Liaison

**ABSENT**

Jason Hammer, President

**PUBLIC SESSION**

***Linden Avenue – Lots Purchased from City of Johnstown***

Danielle Chirichio (1 lot)

Scott Chirichio

Linda Kollar (1 lot)

The above residents had questions regarding the status of receiving water on the vacant lots they purchased from the City of Johnstown on Linden Avenue. There were 6 lots available and 2 were purchased.

Board Vice President Swierzowski said the cost of a water main will be borne by the homeowner based on past practice. Board Vice President Swierzowski suggested CT Male draw up plans.

Board Member DiMarco noted he does not remember the Board voting to discuss this issue with CT Male. Board Member DiMarco also noted, to the best of his knowledge, the City would take care of the project design and bear the costs of this project, and the Water Department would install the water line. He stated that no one from the City of Johnstown has spoken to the Water Board about the project, adding that the last conversation he had with Mayor Jackson regarding Linden Avenue was in October 2018.

Linda Kollar stated that included with the minimum price paid for the lots it was her understanding the City would bear the costs of the water and sewer installation projects.

Danielle Chirichio said she spoke to City Engineer Vose in the beginning of May (2019) and he told her the City was waiting on the Water Department.

Board Member DiMarco noted again no one from the City has spoken to us recently and advised permits must be applied for with the Department of Health.

Danielle Chirichio stated the cost of the lot included sewer and “everything”.

Both lot purchasers stated that they understood they would have to pay for the water TAP.

City Liaison Hayner requested contact information for both parties and advised he would get them more information.

Water Plant Operator John Denmark stated the best route for water is a 6” line off of Pleasant Avenue (main under the street) to join the main that exists on the Linden Avenue paper street. Denmark also noted a fire hydrant will need to be installed. Denmark advised there was a possibility of a State Permit not being required for the new 6” line off of Pleasant Avenue as this would be a service not a new water main. Board Vice President Swierzowski stated the City of Johnstown will need a plan and asked Plant Operator Denmark to check with the Department of Health (DOH) regarding possible permits needed for approval for the line.

**PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS**

• **MOTION** to accept the resignation of Jason Hammer as Water Board President

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski.

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **RESOLUTION 12, 2019**  - Appoint new Water Board member **(TABLED)**

**MOTION** to table RESOLUTION 12, 2019

made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Board Vice President Swierzowski advised that the Water Board currently has two vacancies.

Board Member Lyon stated that he would reach out to City residents that may be interested.

Board Member Lyon apologized for missing the meeting on April 29, 2019.

**OLD BUSINESS**

•  **Capital Projects Review:**

1. **Christman Roof** - Last inspection completed. John Denmark said there are no problems/leakage of the roof, even with the recent heavy rain. The retainage relating to the project has not been paid. Board Member DiMarco will contact Nick Lobasco, PE (CT Male) with regard to finalizing the project and obtain warranties.
2. **Dam Phase II (Spillway)** – Board Vice President Swierzowski noted the Water Board needs to evaluate what work is required to be completed in Phase II and move forward to vote on it.
3. **Memo from GPI** - John Rizzo, PE (GPI) sent us a memo dated 05/31/19 with regard to the Cork Center Dam Inspection (attended by GPI, DEC, John Denmark, and Board Member DiMarco) at the spillway earlier this year. Board Member DiMarco advised he would contact John Rizzo, PE to discuss the issues in the memo.
4. **New Dump Truck** – John Denmark stated he was advised the dump truck should be delivered this week.

• **Sand Filter Replacement**

John Denmark noted work will commence in 3 weeks on the sand filter replacement of Filter 3.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• **Smart Waters – Fulton County Water District #1 Taps**

Board Vice President Swierzowski suggested a letter be sent out to the 107 residents able to receive water through the Smart Waters Agreement.

Clerk Koehler asked the Water Board to provide details regarding the specifics they wanted in the letter.

Board Vice President Swierzowski suggested we outsource the project as we do not have seasoned manpower to do the project.

Board Member DiMarco questioned if this would be a Union violation. Board Member DiMarco noted

anyone that would receive city water thorough the Smart Waters Agreement would have to disconnect their well from the house.

John Denmark stated reverse suction of water in an emergency situation can cause contamination to the drinking water. In order to eliminate cross contamination, a Department of Health violation, homeowners receiving city water need to have their well disconnected from the house. He advised that a well can be kept for garden/outside use, with a line separate from the house.

Board Member DiMarco noted we need to inspect properties to insure wells are not connected to the home.

Clerk Koehler noted we need an Agreement with the homeowner affirming the terms of obtaining water from the City of Johnstown Water Department.

Water Board Vice President Swierzowski asked Attorney Poulin to address the necessary Agreement.

• **Factory Street**

Plant Operator John Denmark advised he has located the problem with the water line on Factory Street continuing to freeze. He stated that the water main goes from 4 feet underground, to 2 feet underground, and back to 4 ½ feet to 5 feet underground. Denmark noted to correct the problem we will drop the 2 foot section to 4 - 4½ feet. Denmark stated we are waiting for parts to complete this project and expected them to arrive by early next week. He advised that this work will be done during normal working hours and should only take one hour to complete.

Board Member DiMarco advised he would write a letter to the homeowner once the project is completed with an explanation of what was done.

John Denmark said the homeowner knows what the issue is as he was home and watched Denmark do the line inspection.

• **Raise Water Rates**

Board Member DiMarco suggested to the Board that water rates be increased, adding that the last time water rates were raised was in 2015. He noted the Water Department has an increase in costly capital projects, including: the replacement of the roof at Cork and the Phase II Spillway Project.

Board Vice President Swierzowski asked Clerk Koehler to prepare data on a rate increase.

• **Landslide by Cork Center Dam (Route 29)**

Water Board Member DiMarco asked Plant Operator Denmark about the recent landslide by the Cork Center Dam on Route 29.

Plant Operator Denmark stated this is the third time this has happened; occurring in 1963, 1999 and 2019. He advised that in previous years the State helped us stabilize the dam with canal stone. He added that an aquafer runs out of the bank, mostly in a State right of way, where the area is wet. The slide that occurred earlier in the week was an issue on the State right of way, not related to any structural issues with our Dam.

• **Meter Change Outs**

Clerk Koehler noted meter change out is moving along slowly. She advised that the first meters being changed out are those with issues; particularly stopped meters.

**MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS**

• **MOTION** for the purchase of two (2) Chlorine Process Analyzers for Cork Center from Hach for the

approximate cost of $7,500.00 - PO W65-2019

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** to for the purchase of screens for Cork Center Gate House from Steel Sales Inc., for the

approximate cost of $7,500.00 - PO W66-2019

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Member Lyon

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** for GCS repairs at Cork Center for an approximate cost of $2,500

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** for CT Male to provide consulting services for Linden Avenue Project.

(Motion not voted on by Water Board - Motion put on hold by Water Board)

Two Linden Avenue property owners attended today’s meeting (see Public Session).

Board Vice President Swierzowski will have CT Male Engineering investigate and ensure the proper procedures are handled relating to the project.

Attorney Poulin noted he will talk to Mayor Jackson regarding their intention moving forward with water service on Linden Avenue. He stated that Mayor Jackson spoke with City Engineer Christopher Vose and was advised that the City of Johnstown will pay for the materials and permits.

• **MOTION** for CT Male Engineering to provide consulting services on the water line on Route 30A (near

Ace Hardware & James Chevrolet) to advise on costs/inspection/and to prepare an RFP to go out to

Bid made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Plant Operator Denmark noted there are many leaks on this line, adding that the pipe is 14 years old and has had 10 substantial leaks. He advised that the line is corroded due to the fact that the water main lies right in the creek and the whole line is rotting. He estimated approximately 500 feet of line would need to be replaced. Mr. Denmark stated that the creek has tested positive for chlorine. He relayed that the continual loss of water on this line could contribute to the 24% of unaccounted for/lost water.

Board Vice President Swierzowski stated the project has to be contracted out to be done properly as this is a 30-60 day project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

• **MOTION** to accept meeting minutes of April 8, 2019

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** to accept meeting minutes of April 29, 2019

made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco

*Unofficial Water Board Minutes*

2 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 1 abstain (Board Member Lyon)

According to Attorney Poulin, minutes should be labeled as “Unofficially” approved.

**FINANCIAL**

• **MOTION** to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment May 2019 (Audit Approval)

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Vendor Claims and Accounts Paid (F Account):

$ 7,960.01 for April 2019

$ 304,968.84 for May 2019

$ 312,928.96 TOTAL

• **MOTION** to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment June 2019 (Audit Approval)

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Vendor Claims and Accounts Paid (F Account):

$ 334,574.08 for June 2019

$ 334,574.08 TOTAL

• **MOTION** to approve of April 2019 Industrial Levy

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** to approve of May 2019 Industrial Levy

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Member Lyon

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** to approve of May 2019 Residential Levy

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

• Next regular Water Board meeting will be held Monday, July 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

• Water Department will be closed Thursday, July 4, 2019 for Independence Day.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

• **MOTION** to enter into Executive Session for discussions regarding proposed/pending/current litigation

made by Board Member DiMarco; seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski at 7:20 p.m.

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

• **MOTION** to exit Executive Session at 7:44pm

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

**ADJOURNMENT**

• **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm

made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski at 7:46 p.m.

3 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Submitted by

Barbara Koehler

Clerk of the Water Board