

JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

NICHOLAS CANNIZZO, PRESIDENT
GEORGE DIMARCO, BOARD MEMBER
SCOTT JEFFERS, BOARD MEMBER
ANTHONY CARUSO, BOARD MEMBER
JOHN PRADELSKI, BOARD MEMBER
CINDA SPRAKER, CLERK OF THE WATER BOARD
MICHAEL HLOZANSKY, SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR

EXCUSED:

BRETT PRESTON, CITY ATTORNEY
KATHY IANNOTTI, COMMON COUNCIL

FINANCIAL

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Vouchers were approved for payment by Scott Jeffers and George DiMarco

George said the Treasurer's office reports are not accurate. The Board will have to encumber funds for 2016 if they are not going to be completed in 2015. George will contact John Rizzo from GPI for a meeting and update for the plans. Nick questioned why another study has to be completed.

CARRIED

MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting was made by John Pradelski seconded by Scott Jeffers

CORRESPONDENCE: John questioned the adjustment made to the August 2015 billing levy. Cinda informed the Board that one account was charged based on their actual meter reading instead of their usage so an adjustment had to be made. Anthony wanted to acknowledge that John Denmark was present at today's meeting.

FILTRATION & DISTRIBUTION: Mike and Wade submitted their monthly reports. Mike explained the water leak on Potter Rd. Mike said Ed Queeney congratulated Chris Vose on overseeing the leak and doing a great job. Mike explained the Trackside Homes water read. The fire hydrant near the Gulf station on North Perry Street needs to have something placed near it to protect it. John asked about the taps for Fonda. Mike told him Fonda doesn't have a tap machine so when they need help we assist them. John asked about the turn ons that the distribution crew did. These were accounts that were shut off in July for non payment. John also asked about the location of the beaver dam and what we are doing to remove the beaver. John said if they are removing this every week, it is an hour or two of wasted time doing that.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

A Motion to approve the August 2015 billing levy was made by Anthony Caruso seconded by George DiMarco. George pointed out that residential water sales are down again. The Board believes this is because of the new meters. It was also mentioned that the City population is decreasing.

Resolution # 19- Appointing Cinda Spraker Clerk of the Water Board was by Nicholas Cannizzo seconded by John Pradelski. George DiMarco was not in favor of the resolution. Anthony mentioned that the contract was thoroughly reviewed by Cinda and Counsel for both parties and he hopes by all parties agreeing that their will be no further problems. Nick asked if Brett had to be present for him to sign it. John Pradelski said Brett did not have to be present, just Nick and Cinda's signatures were needed. Anthony wanted to go on record stating that our liaison with the city did not have all the information when she took it upon herself to announce at a Council meeting that the water board was misusing Cinda and Anthony took offense to that. Anthony said the City attorney was at the meeting and feels Brett could have said something when the matter was brought up. Anthony feels it made the Board look awfully bad in the newspaper because they didn't have all the facts. Nick agreed and said Mike Anich called him but he refused to comment, it was a personnel matter and referred him to the City attorney. Scott said he would also like to state that the Council at Large Chris Swatt had no right to comment on the issue and feels the statement Chris made was ridiculous. Nick said no one knew what was going on. Nick said it was between the Board, Cindy and the two attorneys and no one else should be commenting on it. George said he thinks it is great reality TV. Mike said a personnel matter should not have been discussed in a public forum. George said he was told by the City attorney that because there was a resolution it could be discussed. Nick informed the Board that Cindy signed the contract under protest because she believes she is a city employee and is covered by the city handbook. Cinda said she had told John Pradelski that already.

George said that Brett started the whole thing because Cinda wasn't a City employee and the Board had to do a contract. George said the attorney started his whole mess, not Cinda and not the Board.

Resolution #20-Contract with GCS was made by John Pradelski seconded by Nick Cannizzo.

Resolution # 21-Contract with GPI was made by George DiMarco seconded by Anthony Caruso

OLD BUSINESS: The West Fulton Street tank cleaning and inspection will not be done until spring. Nick said to remove it from the agenda until then. A meeting was scheduled for September 30, 2015 at 3pm to conduct a workshop to review the 6 year plan. George asked Mike and John to compile a list of things that need to be addressed. Mike said that Bill Howard was coming 3 years ago to work on the chlorinators but he was ill. Christman will need to replace the mixers. Mike said much of the equipment that is being replaced is from 1993.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike said that DEC regulations are going to continue increase with the underground fuel tanks. He is working with Nick on getting prices for propane and requests the Board's permission to get estimates. Mike said there aren't any NYSDEC requirements with propane. The tank must be 10 feet from the building and the water department employees would prepare the site for the installation. He said a burner would need to be changed. The only NYSDEC requirement would be the day tanks. Mike said it is going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix what we have then any regulations that come in the future we will also have to complete. Mike said he believes that we do have the money and it's a doable thing. Also that propane is very clean so the cleanings should not be as often since we only use the heat for half of the year. John asked about the other unit that runs off the day tank. John Denmark said that runs off diesel and he isn't sure about converting that to propane. John said it would probably be cost prohibited. Mike said he started talking about changing because it is very clean and there aren't the regulations. Mike said their will be an expense to remove the fuel tanks that we have. Anthony asked who would supply the propane. Mike said Blue Flame is local and has a technician. Mike said we can get quotes. Anthony asked about Roland J Downs status with the boiler cleaning. The recent cleaning from Roland J Downs is still in limbo. The cleaning is not complete and the issues that the employee from Roland J Downs will need to be addressed with the company. The employee from Roland J Downs said he wasn't doing certain things that were on the list. The employee wanted to change things and started ripping down circulators. Mike told him to clean the boilers, follow the check list and then if there was an issue it would be addressed. John Denmark said the employee stated the circulator and motor were not replaced last year. George said to ask for the employee's supervisor's number. Mike said he told the employee that a member of the water board had a contact person at Roland J Down and after that the employee called him back to complete the work. The Board discussed installing solar but Nick said solar couldn't be placed on the roof, it would have to be put on the ground. Nick said he didn't realize that the brewery obtained a water tap approval. Mike said the Board approved the tap in 2014 but the owner waited until 2015 to have it installed. Mike said Todd Lee's tapping material will be in next week so that tap will be done. Gulick's tap is almost complete. Roger's tap has been complete. Nick said Nancy McVean called and placed the dog shelter tap on hold. The Town has to pay prevailing rate for the building which increased to cost. Nick discussed the 300 feet line permissive use area. John Denmark asked if it was 300 feet from the property line. John asked if the 300 feet was from the center of the road just to the property line or does it include the state right of way. Nick said from the center line 300 feet needs to reach the property line. Mike said Guzielek has hired Attorney Walsh to appeal the Common Councils decision not to allow them to tap into the waterline. Nick said with our residential water use going down the Common Council and the Mayor should approve the water request. John Denmark said the city feels they aren't getting any revenue from outside users so why should they sell water outside the city. John said the Board isn't getting the money either, the taxpayers are.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Caruso seconded by John Pradelski.

The meeting ended at 4:15 p.m.