

**JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2015**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

NICHOLAS CANNIZZO, PRESIDENT
ANTHONY CARUSO, BOARD MEMBER
JOHN PRADELSKI, BOARD MEMBER
SCOTT JEFFERS, BOARD MEMBER
MICHAEL POULIN, CITY ATTORNEY
KATHY IANNOTTI, COMMON COUNCIL
MICHAEL HLOZANSKY, SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR
CINDA SPRAKER, CLERK OF THE WATER BOARD

EXCUSED:

GEORGE DIMARCO, BOARD MEMBER

FINANCIAL

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Vouchers were approved for payment.

CARRIED

MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting was made by John Pradelski seconded by Anthony Caruso.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting was made by seconded Anthony Caruso by John Pradelski

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Charles Ackerbauer spoke to the Board concerning the accuracy of the water meter at 81 Briggs Street. Charles set something is not right with the meter. You can see from the reading that TJ provided that usage is very high on weekends when the building is vacant but not during the weekday. The meter was tested on December 3, 2015. Charles said the meter tested accurate when water was going through it. John Pradeskli asked him about the notification on the review request regarding the filling of large tanks. The Board also discussed the issue of toilets that were running in the building. Charles said the toilets were repaired and he didn't believe the toilets could cause that large of water usage. The Board agreed to investigate the meter. The Board will credit the customer if needed on the next billing. Chad Kortz presented a draft of a letter that he prepared to send to the NYSDOH. The Board reviewed the letter and granted Chad permission to send the letter. Chad said the pump that he looked at that the department no longer uses can not be used at Larrabee or Johnson Ave. He said the Board may want to consider selling it or scraping it. Nick asked Chad if it would be possible to get a grant from National Grid. Chad said they do a matching grant and an economic development grant. Chad will reach out to his contact to see if an economic development grant may be feasible.

CORRESPONDENCE: John made a motion to approve the November 2015 billing levy seconded by Anthony. The Board agreed. The DiStefano review request will be investigated. The Gierszewski and Rite Aid review requests were denied. Per the rules and regulations of the department, the customer is responsible to pay for the water that passes through the water meter. Cinda was instructed to send both customers letters. Anthony also mentioned a notice should be put in the paper reminding people that they are responsible for their water usage and water meter. The Board reviewed a request from HDR concerning their December invoice. The invoice was for more water usage than they said they used. The meter was left plugged in at some point and a current went through it. That resulted in the meter showing more water drawn than their actually was. Mike said they did not use as much water as the meter reading showed. The Board agreed to revise the usage but requested HDR address the meter issue so it doesn't happen in the future.

A motion to enter into executive session for personnel matters was made by Nick Cannizzo seconded by Anthony Caruso 6:40-6:55pm

A motion to exit executive session was made by Anthony Caruso seconded by John Pradelski.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

(after executive session)

Resolution # 25-2015 Timber sale was made by Scott Jeffers seconded by Anthony Caruso passed 4/0 DiMarco absent

Resolution # 26-2015 Legal Counsel hire was made by John Pradelski seconded by Scott Jeffers 4/0 DiMarco absent

FILTRATION & DISTRIBUTION: Mike and Wade submitted their monthly reports. John asked if Hydro Qual was still drawing water. Mike said they still are drawing water weather permitting. Nick told the Board about 2 hydrant repairs. The propane is working well but the billing needs to be addressed. Mike told the Board about a hydrant barrier that was placed by the Gulf station on North Perry Street. Anthony asked if there's any issues with employees time cards. Mike said there has not been any issues. The Board talked about the beaver issues on watershed property. The vehicle log was reviewed. Th Board asked if the jeep was repaired. Mike said it has been fixed.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Timber sale bids were opened with Wadsworth submitting a bid of \$96,713.00 and 3B Timber's bid was \$81,000.00. Wayne Tripp of F&W Forestry was present and stated he recommends accepting the Wadsworth bid. Nick asked when the timbering would begin. Wayne wasn't sure but he will find out. Nick asked about the timbering at Maylender's as well. Wayne said the forester is aware of the work that Nick wants done. The Board approved renewing the Sirr Plan with Hach for 2016. Cinda told the Board she had a conversation with Eric from Phil Beckett's office about processing invoices for 2015 on December 31. Eric asked if this was done prior to the Board approving the vouchers. Cinda told him it was and asked the Board if they wanted her to process any outstanding invoices on December 31 as done in the past to tally up the end of the year expenses. The Board approved the paying of the vouchers on December 31 as done in prior years. Mike Poulin addressed the Board concerning Resolution # 26. Mike stated that City of Johnstown Charter states he covers all departments in the City. Mike said he is the Boards attorney, and if the Board retains outside counsel they could very well be liable for the bill themselves, not the City of Johnstown. The Board can run stuff my Mike and if there is a conflict of interest it would be addressed at that time. Mike said the Board can not hire someone to completely represent them. Anthony said the Resolution was for legal matters. Mike stated he is their legal council. Mike said the resolution states the Board is retaining someone else as their legal council and the City Charter does not allow that. Anthony asked about being financially responsible. Mike stated the Board members would be personally responsible, not the department." If you retain this attorney for your personal interest the City of Johnstown is not responsible, the Board members are." Mike told the Board. Mike said the Board may want to consider rescinding the Resolution. Anthony said it sounds like the Board will need to have further discussion. Mike said he just wanted to bring it to the Board's attention." You can not modify the Charter with a Resolution." Mike stated.

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

The meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.