

**JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 12, 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, Board Vice President  
George DiMarco, Board Member  
Brandon Lyon, Board Member  
Marj Kline, Board Member

**ATTENDEES**

Michael Poulin, City of Johnstown Attorney  
John Denmark, Water Plant Operator  
Barbara Koehler, Clerk of the Board

**ABSENT**

Brad Hayner, City Council Liaison

**PUBLIC SESSION/SPEAKERS**

• William Ondriska

Mr. Ondriska had a question about water separation with regard to a well water system from plumbing on the new tap line on Route 67.

Board Member DiMarco stated the Water Department needs to inspect on an annual basis to insure wells are disconnected from the main water source to the house

Mr. Ondriska noted a penalty for maleficence could be incorporated into the Agreement with the residents.

Board Vice President Swierzowski thanked Mr. Ondriska for his letter and the Board will consider it.

• Linda Kollar, Linden Avenue Resident

Linda Kollar stated that she would like to know when she would hear where the Water Department stands with regard to her receiving water on the Linden Avenue parcel she purchased from the City.

Board Vice President Swierzowski stated the City of Johnstown has not moved forward as suggested with engineering plans or filed for the necessary Department of Health (DOH) permits.

Ms. Kollar stated that it was her understanding that Sr. Water Plant Operator John Denmark was going to draw up the plans.

Vice President Swierzowski noted that John Denmark is in charge of Filtration at the water plants.

Board Member DiMarco noted that since the last Board Meeting the DOH has informed us the discussed option of moving forward with providing a tap on that portion of Linden Avenue could not be done.

Ms. Kollar advised that she was not aware of any variance from what was discussed at the meeting. She noted that she spoke with Jake at CT Male on 7/24/19 and was advised that a proposal was written but was unsure as to who was paying for the project.

Ms. Kollar stated it was her understanding that the City would pay for this. She added that it is the City of Johnstown Water Department's duty to supply water to the residents of the City of Johnstown. She stated if the Water Department is not able to put in the water line, the City would be putting it in.

Board Vice President Swierzowski advised there is no agreement between the City and the Water Department to put in water on Linden Avenue.

Ms. Kollar stated that she thought there was a verbal agreement.

Board Vice President Swierzowski stated in a meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 which was attended by Mayor Vernon Jackson, Board Liaison Bradley Hayner, City Engineer Chris Vose, Deputy City Engineer Joel Wilson, Chad Kortz PE at CT Male, Jake Gordon, PE at CT Male, Water Board Vice President John Swierzowski and Clerk of the Water Board Barbara Koehler. Board Vice President Swierzowski stated no agreement was made and the Water Board only received a Proposal from CT Male, not a Contract.

Board Vice President Swierzowski noted all this comes down to who is going to pay for the necessary steps to move forward with providing water to Linden Avenue.

Board Member DiMarco stated the Proposal/Contract should be sent to the City; not the Water Department. He added that City Attorney Poulin advised the Board that the City was taking care of everything.

City Attorney Poulin asked the Water Board if they want the City to put in the water line.

Board Member DiMarco stated the City cannot install a water line. He advised that the Water Department would install the water line in once the city gets the proper DOH permits.

Ms. Kollar stated City Engineer Christopher Vose has the right license to install a water line.

Board Vice President Swierzowski advised Ms. Kollar that City Engineer Christopher Vose went to Grade D class; however does not have a Grade D license issued by the DOH.

Ms. Kollar stated to the Board that she will "sue every one of you, not the City".

Board Vice President Swierzowski said we will send out a RFP to hire a contractor to put in the water line and stated the City has never communicated with us for two years regarding this project.

Senior Water Plant Operator John Denmark stated that he was under the impression this would be a group effort between the City and Water Department. He advised that an individual needs a Grade D license to work on a water line. He noted a person must work for a water distribution system for one year in addition to passing the Grade D class. Denmark stated the most important issue was to get blueprints over to the State for DOH Approval.

- \* **See MOTION** approving authorization for CT Male to proceed with the planning and consultation services with regard to the Linden Avenue Project. (See Page 5 - 08/12/19 Meeting Minutes)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Capital Projects Review - Christman Roof**

Christman Roof Project is complete. Clerk Koehler has contacted Nick Lobasco (CT Male) to provide a final invoice from Mid-State Industries to release retainage.

- **Capital Projects Review - Dam Phase II (Spillway)**

Board Vice President Swierzowski asked Board Member DiMarco about the progress with Phase 2 of the Dam Project. Board Vice President Swierzowski asked if John Rizzo (GPI Engineering) has given us any new figures regarding the project.

Board Member DiMarco said there are no solid numbers and some spillway permits may have to be modified. Board Member DiMarco stated the valve work must be completed before the rest of the project, which is specialized work (scuba divers required to fix valves).

Board Vice President Swierzowski stated the new Board Members need be brought up to speed on the project and the Board has to vote on the completion of Phase 2. He advised that the previous Board Members never voted on this and we need to proceed with a plan. Board Vice President Swierzowski asked Board Member DiMarco to set up a meeting with John Rizzo for September 2019.

Board Member DiMarco stated he will contact John Rizzo. Board Member DiMarco stated if we need to Bond, we need to do so by October 1, 2019, based on the City Charter.

Attorney Poulin suggested we give City Treasurer Mike Gifford rough numbers as to what we need to Bond.

Board Vice President Swierzowski advised that Phase 2 will be completed in two steps; first fixing the valves and secondly making the repairs to the spillway.

- **Sand Filter Replacement**

(See Resolution 14-2019 – Change Order)

Plant Operator Denmark advised he was waiting for a Change Order for the second sand washing.

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

See Motion below (not passed).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Portable Aggregate Sand Washing Machine for Sand Filters at Reservoirs**

Sr. Water Plant Operator John Denmark advised of the emergency need for a portable sand washing machine/hopper for the reservoirs. The Water Department received a quote, through CT Male (Annual General Services Contract), from Aggregate Equipment, Inc. (AEI) for the Portable ORTNER 2000 model washer at \$113,500. He noted a conveyor system is required for the sand washing machine.

Jake Gordon, PE (CT Male) noted a quote for the conveyor system was received by CT Male at 4:00 pm before the meeting, at an estimated cost of \$46,500. He suggested Sr. Water Plant Operator John Denmark look at the specs for the conveyor system as the hopper /feeder machine is custom made to our required specifications.

- Helmut Philipp – 2” and 4” water line for project at 38 W. Main Street  
Sr. Water Plant Operator John Denmark will meet Helmut Philipp on August 13, 2019 to discuss the parameters of placing a TAP on 38 W. Main Street. He noted it will be necessary to do an exploratory dig due to telephone lines and conduits. Denmark noted Helmut would like to do a 4” line, but that depends on the location of the conduit.
- 2020 Budget.  
Board Vice President Swierzowski advised the Board that we will be working on our 2020 Budget soon. He noted that the Clerk has not received a finalized 2018 Water Fund (F) Balance Sheet and a finalized 2018 Statement of Revenues and Expenses, as well as 2019 year to date financial information from the City Treasurer. He stated that it is necessary to have that information to prepare the 2020 Budget and he would, again, reach out to the City Treasurer for that information.
- Cork Center Gate House  
Sr. Water Plant Operator Denmark advised that the renovations to the Cork Center Gate House are completed and the reservoir surrounding it has been refilled.

#### **MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS**

- **RESOLUTION 13 - 2019** To contract services with CT Male for the Cold Brook Reservoir Dam Repairs and Improvements at a proposed fee of \$49,850.00. (Exhibit A), was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain
- **RESOLUTION 14 - 2019** Change order #1/Jablonski, second washing of sand for \$30,820.00. (Exhibit A)  
was made by Board Member DiMarco and seconded by Board Vice President Swierzowski.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain
- **MOTION** approving authorization for CT Male to provide consulting services and prepare a RFP for water services to connect the 107 eligible parcels to the city water line (Route 67- FCWD #1 – Smart Waters). Board Vice President Swierzowski presented the Motion; no second for the Motion was made.

Clerk Koehler noted she has not receive direction from the Board to notify the 107 residents/parcels are eligible for water. Clerk Koehler stated she would like to inform the eligible residents with an estimate for the cost of a TAP. She added that once a resident informs us they would like to receive City water they would need to sign an Agreement noting the terms of receiving water, denoting their responsibilities and costs. She noted a Draft of the Agreement has been sent to Attorney Poulin for review.

Board Member DiMarco stated the Board should give the Clerk a directive to notify all eligible residents in Fulton County Water District # 1 and inquire as to their interest in receiving City water.

There was no directive to Clerk Koehler to draft a letter.

The MOTION was tabled by Board Vice President Swierzowski.

- **MOTION** approving authorization for CT Male to proceed with the Route 30A water line improvements at a cost of \$30,800.00, was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member Lyon. 3 ayes 1 nays (DiMarco) 0 absent 0 abstain

Board Vice President Swierzowski stated there is substantial water leaking on a water main between Ace Hardware and James Chevrolet.

- **MOTION** approving the purchase of batteries for SCADA totaling \$1,195.00 from GCS (General Control Systems), was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco. 4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain
- **MOTION** approving the purchase of two (2) 8" Hydra Stops from Glen Davis Valve Solutions for the project at West Main Street, at a cost of \$7,000.00, was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco. 4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Sr. Water Plant Operator Denmark stated water would have to be shut off for a short while and will only affect a few surrounding customers. He advised all properties/residents will be given proper advanced notice.

- **MOTION** approving the purchase of an electrical panel for Fulton County Pump Station (Fon Clair St.) at the cost of \$2,745.00 from Graybar, per quote received from Fulton County Electric, was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member Lyon. 4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Sr. Water Plant Operator Denmark noted the main transformer exploded and needs to be replaced.

- **MOTION** approving authorization for CT Male to proceed with the planning and consultation services with regard to the Linden Avenue Project, at the estimated cost of \$11,200, (see attachment) with the stipulation all current and future costs for this project will be borne by the City of Johnstown. \*Note: This Motion will be contingent upon approval by the City of Johnstown Common Council, made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco. 4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

**Note:** This was an Emergency Motion not on the Agenda of 08/12/19.

Under advice from Attorney Poulin: A copy of the Motion with corresponding documentation should be forwarded to Mayor Vernon Jackson, with a cc to City Clerk Carrie Allen and himself. He added that the Motion is to be put on City of Johnstown Common Council Agenda for approval at their 08/19/19 meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION** to accept meeting minutes of July 8, 2019,  
was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member Lyon.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

### **FINANCIAL**

- **MOTION** to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment for August 2019 (Audit Approval),  
was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain
- **MOTION** to approve July 2019 Industrial Levy,  
was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **MOTION** to enter into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. for “the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation”  
was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain
- **MOTION** to exit Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.,  
made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member DiMarco.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Water Department will be closed Monday, September 2, 2019 in observance of Labor Day.
- Next regular Water Board meeting will be Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.,  
was made by Board Vice President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Member Lyon.  
4 ayes 0 nays 0 absent 0 abstain

Submitted by  
Barbara Koehler  
Clerk of the Water Board