

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board Meeting  
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Held on January 24, 2020**

This Regular Monthly Board Meeting of The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, having been duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Act, was called to order on January 24, 2020, at approximately 10:00 a.m., in the First Floor Board Room, 1200 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222.

Roll Call was held for the Monthly Board Meeting.

The following members of the Board were present: Michael Domach, Margaret Lanier, Paul Leger, Chaton Turner, and Jim Turner.

Councilwoman Deborah Gross was absent.

Present from staff: Robert Weimar, Debby Gibson, Debbie Lestitian, Alex Sciulli, Jennifer Presutti, Giuseppe Sciulli, Will Pickering, Barry King, Rick Obermeier, William McFaddin, Julie Quigley, Mike Kovacic, Tom Conlin, Damon Grey, Chuck Schmitt, Russ Kirk, Ryan Allard, Bill Chinko, Chris Huber, Rebecca Zito, Thoryn Simpson, Derek Darwin, Donald Blanchard, Sharon Gottschalk, Crystal Thurston, Paul Van Etten, Rachel Romano, Kelly Morgano, Jason Felser, Susan Kemery, James Stitt, Ryan Quinn, Tom Leech, Alexandra Wasko,

Also present was Solicitor Danny Cerrone of Clark Hill, Renee Scott of WRA, Curt Miller of KCI Technologies, Bob Hamilton of WRA, Dennis Hasson of WRA, Vaughan Leer of Purple Heart Consulting, Kellie Rotunno of R20 Consulting, Pam Polacek of McNees, Wallace and Nurick, Brody Tunno of Monaloh Basin Engineers, Sarah Hern of Monaloh Basin Engineers, David Price of MBI, George Settelmaier of KS Engineers, Becca Farner of Monaloh Basin Engineers, Justin Kerns of MS Consultants, Rulison Evans of GHD, Gerald Dull of Crawford Consulting, Mark Buchenic of Prime AE, Tim Wolfe of KCI, Dan David of Skelly and Loy, Jeff Rossi of ATC Group Services, Jon Graham of AIG, LaSaine Latimore of One PA, Bridget Johnson of Mascaro, Herb Higginbotham of HDR, David Borneman of Arcadis, Brian Marenno of Brown and Caldwell, Don Zuch of Hull and Associates, Bryan Martucci of H.R. Gray, Dylan Bortin of Gannett Fleming, Tom Prusak of Hatch, Amanda Schumaker of Burton Lawson, Alexis Meier of E. Holdings, Erin Dudley of E. Holdings, Jason McBride of Wade Trim, Heather Dodson of HBI, Heather McClain of One PA, Matt Sickles of GAI Consultants, Coreen Casadei of Collective Efforts, Ed Reese of GPD Group, Jim Hewitt of GPD Group, Roman Kysma Kevich of Allegheny GeoQuest, Aaron Becker of Allegheny GeoQuest, Bob Bauder of Tribune Review, Ralph Gilbert of Jacobs, Sara Woida of Skelly and Loy, Kathy Chavara of Mott MacDonald, Mallory Griffin of JMT, Lisa Laymon of CDM Smith, Ashish Gupta of G. Stephens, Glen Stephens of G. Stephens.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Chairperson Leger informed the attendees that an Executive Session was held prior to the start of the Regular Board Meeting wherein no votes were taken. Legal and personnel matters were discussed.

## **CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amy Scanlon of the Acorn Hill neighborhood near Perry North stated that she appreciated the replacement of the lead lines in her neighborhood, but suggested better communication going forward and more notice to the residents about what to expect during these construction phases.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on December 20, 2019. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Turner seconded.

No discussion held. Ms. Chaton Turner abstained. The Minutes were passed with 4 members voting aye and one abstention.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Jennifer Presutti, Budget Director of the Finance Department, presented the report on the December financials. The total receipts were up over last year by 5.5 percent. While PWSA has held the line on spending in 2019, we did have increases in our operating expenses over fiscal year 2018. The two biggest increases came from our water and sewer operations, which includes our urgent water and sewer contracts and our associated surface restoration costs. The significant areas where PWSA did not meet budget in 2019 were in our salaries and associated benefits and also our professional services. On a cash basis for fiscal year 2019, we ended the year with a surplus. We continue to be in a healthy cash position, and PWSA continues to meet or exceed our financial metrics. Capital spending was also steady for the year, and we finished the fiscal year with a capital spend of \$106 million.

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this report. PWSA and its contractors are continuing our joint progress towards the final restoration of the MFPs operation. A 3-day power outage at the facility identified weaknesses of some of the aging equipment. We believe the certificate of construction completion will be obtained no later than February 28, 2020.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Robert Weimar, Executive Director, explained the details of his report. Mr. Weimar took this time to present the Gold Drop Awards and Certificates. The awardees were: Paul Van Etten of Operations, Crystal Thurston of Customer Service, Sharon Gottschalk of Customer Service, Alexandra Wasko of GIS, Chris Huber, Chuck Schmitt, Damon Gray, Dereck Darwin, Russ Kirk, Mike Kovacic, Tom Conlin, and Donald Blanhard of Field Ops, Thoryn Simpson of Finance, Rebecca Zito of Public Affairs, Ryan Allard and Bill Chinko of Operations. Mr. Weimar also presented a retirement proclamation and gift to Mr. Thomas Leech, who has been with PWSA for 34 years.

**No. 1 of 2020**

**Approving a Change Order of Option Year 2 of an Operating Contract for 48 Hour Posting Service, PWSA Project No. PWSA72**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$16,923.50**

Julie Quigley, Director of Administration, explained the details of this Resolution. Additional funding is needed due to an increase in posting activity, resulting in a cost overrun of 10 percent above the anticipated budget for these services. Future disconnection notices will be posted by PWSA employees until this contract is rebid.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 2 of 2020**

**Requesting an Amendment to Eckert, Seamans, Cherin and Mellott, PC Contract for Ongoing Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Representation and Litigation Support Related to the 2020 Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Compliance Plan, Tariff Filing and Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$1,200,000.00**

Debbie Lestitian, Chief Corporate Counsel/Chief of Administration, explained the details of this Resolution. It is anticipated that the Compliance Plan and LTIP will be finalized in 2020. This Resolution is for continued services. In addition, Eckert, Seamans, Cherin and Mellott will support the PWSA through the 2020 water and wastewater tariff process, as well as the future stormwater tariff process.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner inquired whether this level of support will continue to be needed year after year or will it be reduced over time. Ms. Lestitian believes it will be reduced over time. PWSA staff should be able to handle the smaller litigation in house.

No further discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

**No. 3 of 2020**

**Approval Requested to Authorize Option 1 for Corrosion Control Chemical Storage and Feed Systems Phosphoric Acid to Sal Chemical, PWSA Project No. 2017-322-107-1**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$184,720.38**

Rick Obermeier, Chief of Operations, explained the details of this Resolution. On November 27, 2017 the PA DEP issued a Consent Order Agreement mandating the abatement of lead in drinking water by means of corrosion control. The use of orthophosphate (phosphoric acid) is the optimal corrosion inhibitor to reduce that level of lead in drinking water.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 4 of 2020**

**Approval is Requested for a Change Order to PWSA122, Locating and Identifying Underground Facilities to Allegheny Utility Solutions, LLC**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$225,791.73**

Rick Obermeier, Chief of Operations, explained the details of this Resolution. The increase is required as quantities for this contract are higher than anticipated and there are outstanding invoices from March through July of 2019. This contract is governed by the PUC and PA One Call. It is state law that One Call be notified every time digging is taking place.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 5 of 2020**

**Requesting Approval for a Change Order of a Capital Contract for the 2019 Sewer Reconstruction, Project No. 2019-424-102-0, to Independent Enterprises, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$540,000.00**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This change order is required to perform the early action projects in the Four Mile Run Watershed. This work is being performed to provide some relief from flooding and basement backups for residents and business owners in the Four Mile Watershed and to demonstrate PWSA's commitment to the community.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

Ms. Turner noted that the goals for supplier diversity program are robust, but the actuals are quite miniscule. She requested an explanation. Mr. Weimar stated that the Finance Department has a new employee who will be tracking and engaging PWSA's various vendors with regard to compliance of the Equal Opportunity Policy and providing a graph to the Board of her findings.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 6 of 2020**

**Approving an Amendment of the 2020 Board Approved Operating Budget, Change Orders of Operating Contracts for the 2019 Urgent Sewer Repair, Project Nos. 2019-OPS-102-0 (A. Folino Construction Inc.) and 2019-OPS-102-1 (A. Merante Contracting), and Amendments of Professional Services Agreements (Hatch Associates Consultants)**

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**Funding: Operating Budget Cumulative \$5,531,431.42**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. These proposed changes are required for the emergency and urgent repair or rehabilitation of the public sewer system, including storm, sewer and combined sewer facilities as required. These additional funding requests are associated with the completion of costly urgent repairs that have been recently completed, are in progress or are anticipated to begin in the near future.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner noted that this resolution also highlights the MBE/WBE requirements that are not being fully met by these contractors. He further stated he was surprised that it was only January and PWSA has a few Resolutions that were not budgeted. Mr. Weimar responded that PWSA is concerned about the financials on these and the fact that we have had an elevated amount of sewage and water main breakages recently. Larger pipes are now breaking and its more expensive for us to repair. Ms. Turner stated that this Resolution shows PWSA will still have a deficit after approval. She requested an explanation. Ms. Mechler responded that PWSA increased the overall 2020 urgent sewer and water budgets over 2019's budget. In the last 6 months, there has been an uptick in major sewer and water main breaks.

Rather than coming back to the Board month after month for additional requests, we have requested a 6-month overage for costs.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 7 of 2020**

**Approving an Amendment of the Board-Approved Operating Budget, Change Orders of Operating Contracts for 2019 Urgent Water Repair Contract, Project No. 2019-OPS-103-0 (A. Folino Construction, Inc.), 2019-OPS-103-1 (Independent Enterprises, Inc.) and Amendments of Professional Services Agreements to Hatch Associates Consultants**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$4,489,231.00**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. These additional funding requests are associated with the completion of costly urgent repairs that have been recently completed, are in the process or are anticipated to be completed in the near future.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner noted that this one clearly is well over the budget and he is getting concerned. He asked whether the Board will be getting a review in February as to these costs. Ms. Presutti responded yes.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 8 of 2020**

**Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Thomas and McPherson Stormwater, PWSA Project No. 2018-GI-106-0, to Wade Trim and an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for CM/CI Services to Michael Baker International Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$162,492.00**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This professional services agreement amendment is necessary to support the design of water relay work and lead service line replacement in this project area.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Turner so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 9 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Water Distribution Improvements, PWSA Project No. 2020-325-102-0, to GAI Consultants**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$686,476.83**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. In coordination with the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, PWSA is improving its water distribution infrastructure in the Uptown neighborhood. The project scope includes the installation of approximately 15,000 feet of new water main.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 10 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for the Four Mile Run Stormwater Infrastructure, PWSA Project No. 2018-GI-102-0, to Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$788,178.81**

Alex Sciulli, Chief Program Manager, explained the details of this Resolution. CEC will provide the Engineering, Design, and Permitting for Panther Hollow Lake, including the responses to PA DEP regarding the Chapter 105 Dam Permit Application and an Emergency Action Plan and Operations and Maintenance Plan for PA DEP review.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 11 of 2020**      **Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Woodland Road Green Infrastructure (GSI) Phase 1 Project, PWSA Project No. 2018-GI-108-0, to Civil Environmental Consultants, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$124,024.90**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This project is being completed in coordination with Chatham University as a priority to improve performance of PWSA's combined sewer system in the

A-22 sewershed, which currently experiences system surcharging and frequent occurrences of residential basement backups.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Turner seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner inquired whether this would stop the basement backups. Mr. Weimar responded that it will have a direct impact on the frequency of backups, but probably will not eliminate them entirely.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 12 of 2020      Approving Entering Into a Cost Share Agreement with Chatham University for the Woodland Road Green Infrastructure (GSI) Project, Project No. 2018-GI-108-0**

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**Funding: Capital (PAYGO) – Not to exceed \$1,459,374.52**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. The cost share agreement formalizes financial commitments to the project by both PWSA and Chatham University for the project construction. The project consists of a bioretention system with modular underground storage located in an open space on the campus of Chatham University.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 13 of 2020      Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for the Saw Mill Run (SMR) Streambank Stabilization, PWSA Project No. 2018-GI-107-0, to Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$11,852.28**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This task order amendment is necessary for performing additional survey work and bulk density analysis needed to provide the PA DEP Bureau of Clean Water with final sediment reductions and requested credit for Sites 2 and 4 for compliance purposes with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System – Total Maximum Daily Load Permit.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.



No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 14 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for Option Year 1 of the 2020 Valve Replacement, PWSA Project No. 2020-325-104-0, to Independent Enterprises, Inc. and a Professional Services Agreement for CM/CI Services to Hatch**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$2,567,205.00**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This contract includes the replacement of broken and aging small and large diameter valves throughout the PWSA water supply system.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 15 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for 2020 Lead Service Line Identification Program Project, PWSA Project No. 2020-325-100-0, to Michael Baker International**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$2,143,500.00**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, explained the details of this Resolution. This work is part of the requirements of the Consent Order and Agreement entered into between the PWSA and the PA DEP on November 17, 2017.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Lanier so moved, and Mr. Turner seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner stated that 1 firm out of 28 firms requested solicitation and asked if that was a surprise. Mr. King responded that the identification that most were not suitable to do this kind of work played a factor, as well as the fact that Baker had done the work previously. Mr. Domach inquired whether they were going to differentiate between lead and cast iron. Mr. King responded yes to the extent that they are capable of doing so.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

**Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Corrosion Control Chemical Storage and Feed Systems, PWSA Project No. 2017-322-107-0, to Mott MacDonald**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$597,059.76**

Faith Wydra, Environmental Compliance Coordinator, explained the details of this Resolution. Mott MacDonald designed and implemented the orthophosphate chemical feed systems and worked with PWSA for the first eight months of implementation. With the assistance of Mott MacDonald, PWSA has developed a comprehensive and extensive program sampling and testing to monitor the effectiveness and treatment. They are currently working with PWSA to obtain a permit amendment approval from the PA DEP office in Harrisburg. Mott MacDonald will be working with PWSA to transition much of this work over to PWSA throughout this year.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner asked what percentage of this work that PWSA will be taking over this year from Mott MacDonald. Ms. Wydra responded that aside from the permit applications, 50 percent will begin to be managed in house. Ms. Turner inquired as to the reason for the 40 percent increase. Ms. Wydra responded that staffing with the lab had been an issue. We struggled to find willing participants to move into the City to work for PWSA. Another reason was the permit amendments.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

**MIS Asset Management Policy Approval**

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Jason Felser, Director of MIS, explained the details of this Resolution. PWSA has a significant amount invested in its IT assets and infrastructure, from desktop workstations to virtual server hosts, to all the various software applications. Each of these IT assets are vital to the continued business operations of the Authority.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner inquired whether in developing the policy, are there federal or state guidelines. Mr. Felser responded that PWSA actually follows NYST, which is industry standard.

No further discussion held. Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 18 of 2020**

**Raftelis Stormwater Consultant Support Services**

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**Funding: Capital and Operating Budget \$85,000.00**

Mr. Weimar, Executive Director, explained the details of this Resolution. I believe we are going to request this to be held for one month for further discussion with the Board.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to hold this Resolution for one month. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved to hold Resolution 18 for one month. The Resolution will be held until February.

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**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

Chairperson Leger entertained a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Mr. Domach so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

The next scheduled Board Meeting will take place on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 10 AM.

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James Turner, Secretary