

**Minutes of the
Regular Board Meeting
(Via Audio Teleconference)
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Held on March 27, 2020**

This Regular Board Meeting of The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, having been duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Act, was called to order on March 27, 2020, at approximately 10:00 a.m., via audio teleconference.

Chair Leger thanked everyone connected with PWSA for the excellent job providing necessary life giving service to the community. This meeting is recorded and available to the public on PWSA's website.

Roll Call. All members were present.

Participants from PWSA: Robert Weimar, Debby Gibson, Will Pickering, Debbie Lestitian, Jennifer Presutti, Edward Barca, Barry King, and Rick Obermeier.

Also present was Solicitor Mark Nowak of Clark Hill.

There were 75 confirmed participants who were on the call, in listening mode.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

No Executive Session was held prior to this meeting.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Grace "Ziggy" Edwards and Barbara Warwick, residents of Four Mile Run spoke via teleconference for this meeting. Both expressed concern over PWSA's flood mitigation project and its connection to DOMI's MOC (Mon-Oakland Connector Project) . An email from Ray Gerard, resident of Lower Greenfield, also expressed a similar concern. They expressed the concern that the inclusion of MOC in this project could harm flood control and undermine PWSA's project. Those concerns were sent to the Board via email after the Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Leger entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Board Meeting held on February 28, 2020. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Strassburger seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Presutti, Budget Director of the Finance Department, presented the report on the February financials. For February our collections were up 5% compared to last year and PWSA has held a somewhat consistent level of spending over last year as well. As of the end of February we

March 27, 2020

Page 1

were projecting to have a revenue surplus for the year and PWSA maintained their financial metrics for the month. We are now in quite a unique situation and are monitoring collections, consumption and our spending levels quite closely now. Capital spending was steady for the month. A number of projects are slowing or stopping if they are not deemed essential. We will also track any expenditures in response to COVID-19.

Ms. Presutti will send an email after the board meeting for questions that board members had.

ENGINEERING REPORT

No Report for today's meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

No Report for today's meeting.

Per Chair Leger – Resolutions 43 and 46 were removed.

No. 42 of 2020 Awarding a Revolving Line of Credit Bank Loan in an amount of up to \$300 Million

The line of credit is used to interim fund all capital expenses. The revenue bonds are issued to pay off the line of credit.

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

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

No. 44 of 2020 Online Auction Policies

This resolution requests approval of online auction policies for both GovPlanet and GovDeals. Both of these services have been previously approved for use by Board Resolution. These policies look to provide clear definition of their use.

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

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

No. 45 of 2020 Approving the Award of Option Year 2 of the Capital Contract for the 2020 Small Meter Replacement, PWSA Project No. 2020-325-107-0 to L/B Water Service, Inc.

Funding: Capital (PAYGO) \$841,611.95

The award of this contract is necessary to avoid delay of the installation of meters for the small meter program. PWSA intends to rebid this contract to obtain a different style of meter. There have been complaints of noise in certain installations with the current meters.

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

Mr. Domach: What are the implications of having two kinds of meters out in the field for replacement and service?

Mr. Obermeier: The current meters have noise issues in high pressure areas. The vendor is unable to correct.

Mr. Domach: Are we replacing the meters that are causing the noise problems?

Mr. Obermeier: As those reports come in, we are replacing them with a higher cost meter.

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

No. 47 of 2020

PWSA103-Security Officer Services-Option 1

Funding: Operating Budget \$685,861.12

Option 1 includes an additional officer and hours at the Highland Park Reservoir to satisfy the Department of Environmental Protection permit requirements and adds an additional guard at the Water Treatment Plant to improve protection.

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

Mr. Turner: At one point the security guards were being required by DEP initially, but I thought we were going to have operators on staff at the locations to take their place, what has changed on that?

Mr. Weimar: The DEP requirement was for the MFP and the fact that they wanted security for the open reservoir. Plant staff will address the security. At the other facilities, we do need a security program and it's been advised

that we have set up that program at the plant which is the predominant responsibility that this company is satisfying. We do intend to look at having our own staffing at some point as opposed to third party.

Mr. Leger: The security guards are the first line of defense at the plant. They are taking the temperatures of everyone that comes into the plant including employees.

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

No. 48 of 2020 Approving entering into a Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT for the SR 0837 A 48 (W. Carson Street) State Highway Resurfacing Project

Funding: Capital \$115,000.00

The need for additional catch basin replacement work beyond the original scope was identified after PennDOT had already started the work. This work consisted of full replacement of 23 catch basins within the original resurfacing project area.

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

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

No. 49 of 2020 Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Highland Reservoir Pump Station and Rising Main, PWSA Project No. 2017-323-101-0, Task Order No. MM23-129 to Mott MacDonald

Funding: Capital Budget \$428,000.00

The additional scope for this Resolution includes Engineering design services to rehabilitate/replace the existing combined sewers in the Mellon Terrace area of the project, the addition of a new sodium hypochlorite disinfection system in the new (to be constructed) Highland Park Pump Station, rehabilitation and upgrades to the existing outfall structure and decommissioning of the existing Highland Pump Station building and appurtenances.

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

Mr. Turner: The quality of the inspections is a concern of the Board. It is very important that we are “beefing” up this work.

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

No. 50 of 2020 Approving the Award of multiple Capital Contracts for 2019 and 2020 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement, PWSA Project Nos. 2019-325-101-0, 2019-325-102-1, 2019-325-102-2 and a Professional Services Agreement for CM/CI Services

Funding: Capital Budget Cumulative \$59,206,043.28

This contract involves the relay of water mains, including valves, fire hydrants, and service lines as required.

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

Mr. Turner: This is a massive project we are undertaking and long overdue.

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

No. 51 of 2020 Approving the Award of Option Year 3 of Capital Contract PWSA 73, Project No. 2018-325-100-0 to 120 Water Audit for LSLR Sample Collection and Lead Testing

Funding: Capital Budget \$129,860.00

Capital LSLR Sample Collection and Lead Testing.

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

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

No. 52 of 2020 **Approving the Award of Option Year 3 of Operating Contract PWSA 73, Project No. 2018-325-100-0 to 120 Water Audit for LSLR Sample Collection and Lead Testing**

Funding: Operating Budget \$193,500.00

Operating LSLR Sample Collection and Lead Testing.

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

Mr. Turner: Is there a substantial difference between Resolutions 51 and 52. One is capital and one is operating?

Mr. King: This resolution is for non-capital project work that is not on-site. That's the distinction between the two.

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

No. 53 of 2020 **Approving the Allocation of Funds for Program Management Services for PWSA Stormwater CCTV and Investigative Work, PWSA Project No. 2019-113-0, to Mott MacDonald**

Funding: Operating Budget \$137,338.99

This project started in 2019, however the original task order was not for the full amount because the remainder of the funds were not available until the 2020 Operating Budget was released.

Chair 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.

No. 54 of 2020 **Authorizing the Executive Director or any Attorney At Law working on behalf of the Authority to act as Attorney-In-Fact for the purposes of making application to the Allegheny County Office of Property Assessments (or any other legal body) to file for tax exemption of Authority-owned real estate**

Such authorization shall be nunc pro tunc, i.e., giving retroactive authorization to act as Attorney-In-Fact in order to file any such applications

for tax exemption of any and all Authority-owned real estate. Chair Leger suggests that PWSA should file for a tax-exempt organization.

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

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

The Chair then asks the Board if there are any other comments at this time.

Ms. Strassburger: The notice regarding the rate increases is included with the bills. I am concerned about the timing of this notice. I. Can we reassure the rate payors or perhaps delay the notice of the rate increase? Understanding we do have an expanded low-income program right now, it's still just adding to the stress in people's lives right now.

Mr. Leger: I think those are valid concerns and I would ask staff to get you and the rest of us an answer about the timing of the rate increase application, what might be done at some point to flex it or change it and how we need to be very careful in our communications about this so that we don't scare people anymore than they are scared.

Mr. Weimar: This was well underway. The notification requirements are unfortunately a manifestation of the PUC laws. We can send out a reassuring statement that the rates would not take effect until at least next year.

Mr. Leger: We are required to file the notice, but I think we need to make every effort to reassure people.

Ms. Lanier: I agree with Ms. Strassburger. There are a lot of people that are going to be very concerned about the rate increases. The Finance Department for the City of Pittsburgh did send out information delaying the penalty and interest and the payment of taxes. I feel we should send something out to that effect to allow the rate increase.

Mr. Weimar: We will prepare something for the Boards consideration.

Mr. Leger: Thank you everyone for getting us through this. This is more than about water; it's about all of us together.

Ms. Strassburger: I appreciate that response and that the Executive Director and staff will find the appropriate way to respond to this. My

second question was about an email regarding an agreement that was finalized today between the PUC and PWSA regarding the removal of lead lines by 2026. Can someone speak to that?

Mr. Pickering: The Lead Service Line Replacement Program was one component of an order that was released by the PA Public Utility Commission.

Mr. Leger: That announcement looks like it is final but it is not. We may have some items that may be appealed in cooperation with the City related to the Co-Op Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

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

The next scheduled Board Meeting will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 10 AM.

Jim Turner

James Turner, Secretary