

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board Meeting  
(Via Audio Teleconference)  
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Held on June 26, 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 June 26, 2020, at approximately 10:00 a.m., via audio teleconference.

Roll Call was held for the Regular Board Meeting. All members were present.

Participants from PWSA: Will Pickering, Debby Gibson, Debbie Lestitian, Julie Quigley, Rick Obermeier, Barry King, Edward Barca, Jennifer Presutti, Raquel Ludinich, Jason Felser, Alex Sciulli.

Also present was Solicitor Mark Nowak of Clark Hill.

There were an additional 58 confirmed participants who were on the call, in listening mode.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting, wherein legal and personnel matters were discussed. No votes were taken.

**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ziggy Edwards, a resident of Four Mile, spoke via teleconference for this meeting. She expressed her concerns about the Four Mile Run Stormwater improvement project. Residents requested a model for this project that did not include the Mon-Oakland Connector Project implemented by the City of Pittsburgh. She stated that PWSA created a scaled-down model that included the MOC project. She submitted questions that were forwarded to the Executive Director.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Chair Leger announced that today's meeting would be Board Vice-Chair Margaret Lanier's last meeting. Margaret has been on the Board for over 12 years and has served as the Treasurer of the City of Pittsburgh and most recently as the Director of Finance and Treasurer. He wished her well on her retirement, and other members of the Board also expressed their well wishes. Ms. Lanier thanked the Board and PWSA and stated that PWSA has made tremendous progress over the years.

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Leger stated that society is in chaos right now due to Covid, Washington, and the lack of social justice. He would like the PWSA to be a leader in minority and women's contracting issues, hold contractors accountable and recruit both contractors and employees of color, He thinks PWSA staffing should reflect the communities it serves as it does not do that now.

Ms. Turner thanked Chair Leger. She thinks PWSA is well positioned at this time to communicate its commitment to equality and justice to the community. PWSA has a heightened response to make sure all of its practices are reflective of its commitment. She also thinks that the work that PWSA is doing to make the water safe is also a critical part of this equity issue. We have seen communities in other parts of the country where they have failed, and they failed most pronouncedly with the black community. Chair Leger stated that PWSA also needs to look at its billing practices, how it handles rates and its payment system too. Jim Turner supported the comments of the Chair and Ms. Turner.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Leger entertained a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on May 22, 2020. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Lanier seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Edward Barca, Acting Finance Director, presented the details of this report through May 31, 2020. Year-to-date collections are down 3.5 percent while operating expenses have remained steady. This decline in collections was expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The good news is that the decline was not as bad as the Finance Department had originally projected. However, it is important to note that the pandemic is not over, and the Finance Department will continue to monitor collections and expenses to ensure that we meet our financial metrics. In addition, our cash balance has remained steady and our capital expenses continue to outpace last year despite the pandemic. The budgeting process for the 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan is underway, and the 2021 Operating Budget process will kick-off in the coming weeks.

#### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, presented the details of this report. The Lead Service Line replacement program is starting to wind down. One of three contractors has already completed their scope of work. The 2<sup>nd</sup> LSLR contractor is projected to finish in August and the 3<sup>rd</sup> contractor is projected to finish in September. The original project was bid to complete a replacement of 3,500 public lead service lines, it is now projected that we will complete 4,400 public lead lines and over 3,000 private lead lines with the available PennVEST funding. PWSA has met the annual replacement requirement per the DEP Consent Order. PWSA will continue to replace lead service lines as part of the recently started Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Program. The final inspection of the Membrane Filtration Plant UV System Project was completed by the PADEP on June 4<sup>th</sup> resulting in the successful issuance of the Operating Permit on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Operations is actively turning over the water in Highland 1 Reservoir in advance of the anticipated restart of the MFP on or before July 27, 2020. The parapet wall work continues on the Highland #1 Reservoir Parapet Wall Repair Project. Reconstruction of the concrete wall was completed on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 percent of the restored aluminum railing has been reinstalled. The remaining scope of work includes finishing rail installation, caulking the concrete joints and surface restoration of the walkway around the Reservoir. This is another instance where PWSA and the City DPW have successfully coordinated and are partnering to complete the full-width milling and repaving the full walkway under the City's Paving Contract. PWSA will participate by a cost share based on the portion of the walkway disturbed by the parapet wall restoration work. Resurfacing

is anticipated to be completed the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>, and the walkway is scheduled to be reopened to the public by July 13<sup>th</sup>. Moving to the Bruecken Pump Station, final commissioning and startup services of the Standby Power Generators required by the PADEP Administrative Order was completed April 21<sup>st</sup>. PWSA now has integrated full-power backup for the three large pumps that provide water to Highland Reservoirs 1 and 2.

The only other remaining Administrative Order work consists of final connection of the three Godwin Pumps that provide pumping redundancy in case of failure of our existing pumps. This project has been on hold until the MFP is restored to allow PWSA to take Rising Main 1 out of service to make the needed piping connections. Upon reactivation of the MFP, the contractor will complete the installation of the suction and discharge piping to and from the Godwin Pumps. In advance of the MFP restart, the Contractor has performed necessary deep excavations and is currently preparing the foundations to support the 36-inch valve and piping. Completion of the Godwin Pump installation is currently scheduled for the end of October 2020. Finally, the 10<sup>th</sup> Street project is scheduled for completion on or before July 17, 2020.

#### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Will Pickering, Executive Director, presented the details of this report. He stated that he is the relatively new Executive Director of PWSA and is approaching his one-month mark. He spent the last few weeks connecting with leadership to gain a better understanding of their priority projects and coordinating with them to find areas of improvement. PWSA has an excellent complement of senior leaders. He shared a few thoughts on his priorities for the organization. Safety is an essential priority to him as the Executive Director. This will manifest itself in several ways. First, compliance with PWSA regulations in meeting or going above our standards. When the organization struggled in the past, he felt it was because PWSA was not given the resources it needed, which resulted in poor decisions. Through the work and leadership of the Board, PWSA is in a position now where that is no longer an excuse. Second, PWSA still has work to do to rebuild trust with its customers where it has suffered. PWSA wants them to trust that their drinking water is safe, that their account is managed professionally, and that PWSA is a good community partner. The lead levels are dramatically lower than they were a few years ago. PWSA took a thoughtful scientific approach to fixing the problems, and it is working exactly as expected. PWSA's Board will consider another extension of the moratorium on shut-off's during this unprecedented COVID crisis because PWSA knows it cannot have good sanitation and health standards without clean drinking water. PWSA wants customers to know that we are in this together.

Mr. Pickering acknowledged that PWSA, like so many institutions, has not been historically diverse as the customers it serves. Water is essential to everyone in Pittsburgh, and it is my goal to prioritize diversity in hiring and applying more equitable practices in the way that PWSA does work. Equitable in how rates and customer assistance are applied, equitable in hiring internally and equitable where projects happen and who they benefit. To be a good community partner to everyone, PWSA will have to do a better job in serving and working with black communities and communities that have been historically underinvested. He stated he personally cares deeply about this issue, but recognized that he is no expert and welcomes thoughts and ideas from PWSA staff, stakeholders and customers on how everyone can work together to make improvements. It would not be an update in 2020 without a talk on COVID-19 and PWSA's operation status. As reported last month, PWSA construction work has returned to normal levels of activity. PWSA is

making progress on projects. PWSA's administrative offices at 1200 Penn Avenue remain closed. PWSA has a goal for employees at 1200 Penn who wish to return to work can do so on or around July 6<sup>th</sup>. PWSA has surveyed managers and staff, and the overwhelming majority of them wish to continue to work remotely for the time being. Personally, and through surveys and discussions with management, PWSA has not seen a drop off of productivity and, if anything, working remotely has resulted in an increased level of coordination and productivity. We all wish to collaborate in person, face to face, but we remain cautious in our approach. To wrap things up, he echoed everyone's congratulations to Margaret on a stellar career in public service and personally thanked her for all of her work at PWSA.

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**No. 76 of 2020      Extending the Moratorium on Water Service Terminations in Response to COVID-19**

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Will Pickering, Executive Director, explained the details of this Resolution. Uninterrupted water service is required for all customers to ensure adequate hygiene during this unprecedented health crisis. PWSA recognizes that the health and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will extend beyond July 1, which is when the previously extended moratorium is scheduled to expire. This Resolution will extend the moratorium on water shut-offs until August 1, 2020 and will apply to all customers regardless of income.

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

Jim Turner directed a question to Julie Quigley. Philadelphia has a program in which customers who have some old delinquencies have them forgiven as long as they are current within the last two years. He stated he realizes PWSA's system right now would not make that an easy thing to accomplish, but asked how difficult it would be to change PWSA's system if the Board at some point wanted to adopt a system like this. Julie Quigley responded that her short answer is that it cannot be accomplished in the current CIS. The long answer is that this is something that PWSA has been approached to do by the members of LIAAC (the Low Income Assistance Advisory Committee) and it is something that PWSA is considering in reviewing the ERP process we are going through now. PWSA has an active RFP process right now that would accommodate this type of program.

Margaret Lanier stated that she has worked closely with a prior board member on getting this started and thinks it is great in these trying times that we can extend it. She thanked the Board members for their support of the moratorium. Paul Leger noted that not only does PWSA extend it, but most people have been paying their bills

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

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**No. 77 of 2020      Approving the Award of Option 4 for Catch Basin Cleaning, PWSA Project Number PWSA63, to Jet Jack, Inc.**

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**Funding – Operating Budget \$693,475.13**

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

Mr. Turner wanted to clarify that Jet Jack is a subsidiary of Independent Enterprises, which is a veteran owned business.

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

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**No. 78 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment, and Bill Print and Mailing Services, PWSA Project No. 2020-001-OPS, to KUBRA**

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**Funding: Operating Budget \$1,907,597.58**

By leveraging the KUBRA solution, PWSA will have all current bill, eBill and online payment functionality, plus the ability to streamline and manage the bill insert process, bill messaging, non-access and non-payment letter templates, USPS mail piece tracking in real time, and extensive reporting throughout all stages of the customer billing process.

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

Jim Turner strongly encouraged the staff to work out a diversity component to this contractor. Paul Leger added that this is a Professional Services Agreement, so awarding it to the lowest bidder is not required. He asked the Executive Director to make sure that the Board knows the results of any negotiations on diversity contracting before they make a final commitment. Will Pickering committed to that before PWSA executes any final commitment and will update the Board on those negotiations.

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

**No. 79 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services for 2021 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Contract A to Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP**

**No. 80 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services for 2021 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Contract B to Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.**

**No. 81 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services for 2021 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Contract C to GAI Consultants, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget – Contract A. - \$742,736.73**  
**Contract B. - \$705,705.35**  
**Contract C. - \$599,415.39**

Chair Leger entertained a motion to approve the three Resolutions as companion pieces since they all involve the 2021 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Project for design and engineering services for water mains.

Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Turner seconded the motion.

The different contracts are for different areas of the City. Contract A involves various locations throughout Marshall-Shadeland, Spring Garden, Central Northside and East Allegheny. Contract B involves various locations throughout Oakland, Uptown, Hill District, Lawrenceville, and Highland Park. Contract C involves various locations throughout Hazelwood, Greenfield, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Point Breeze, Homewood, and Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar areas.

No discussion held. Board unanimously approved all three Resolutions, and the Resolutions were adopted.

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**No. 82 of 2020**      **Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services to Brown and Caldwell and a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Project Management Services to Arcadis for the Clearwell Emergency Response Project**

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**Funding: Capital Budget Cumulative \$2,172,749.00**

This project is required per the September 6, 2019 Consent Order and Agreement (COA) between PWSA and the PADEP. Under this COA, PWSA is required to construct a treated water bypass system to enable the removal

of the existing outdated and compromised 112-year old clearwell from service and replace it with a new redundant storage system.

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

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

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**No. 83 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services to Brown and Caldwell and a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Project Management Services to Arcadis for the Aspinwall Pump Station Improvements Project**

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**Funding: Capital Budget Cumulative \$2,679,314.00**

Under this Consent Order Agreement (COA), PWSA is required to replace or rehabilitate the existing Aspinwall Pump Station to facilitate the necessary construction of a treated water bypass system to enable the removal of the existing outdated and compromised 112-year old clearwell from service and replace it with a new redundant storage system.

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

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

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**No. 84 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services to Brown and Caldwell and a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Project Management Services to Arcadis for the Bruecken Pump Station Improvements Project**

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**Funding: Capital Budget Cumulative \$3,040,274.00**

Under this Consent Order Agreement (COA), PWSA is required to replace or rehabilitate the existing Bruecken Pump Station to facilitate the necessary construction of a treated water bypass system to enable the removal of the existing outdated and compromised 112-year old clearwell from service and replace it with a new redundant storage system.

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.

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**No. 85 of 2020      Approving a Purchase Order for the Highland Park Membrane Filtration Module Replacement Program Project to Pall Corporation**

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**Funding: Capital Budget (PAYGO) \$542,968.00**

This purchase order is necessary to procure technical services, membrane modules and associated ancillary materials needed for the replacement of 240 membrane modules on Racks A, B and C (80 modules per rack) at the Highland Park Membrane Filtration Plant. Replacement modules are necessary in response to the requirements of the Administrative Order issued by the PADEP on October 25, 2017.

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

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

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**No. 86 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services for 2020 Sewers Under Structures – Contract 1 Project to ms consultants**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$700,735.00**

This program aims to rehabilitate or relocate sewer mains located under or adjacent to buildings, bridges, railroads, major utilities or located on steep slopes. This contract includes Carroll Street (located in Bloomfield, A-23), Freeland Street (located in Allentown, S-32), and Seaton Street (located in Overbrook, S-15).

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

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

**No. 87 of 2020      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement (Capital) for Design and Engineering Services for 2020 Sewers Under Structures – Contract 2 Project to Wade Trim**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$571,708.00**

This program aims to rehabilitate or relocate sewer mains located under or adjacent to buildings, bridges, railroads, major utilities, or located on steep slopes. This contract includes 28<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (located in Polish Hill, A-20), Bennett Street (located in Homewood, A-42), Flemington Street (located in Greenfield, M-29), and Washington's Landing (located under the Allegheny River, A-62).

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

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Margaret Lanier wanted to note that while this is her official last Board Meeting, she can be contacted until her retirement date of July 6, 2020.

Paul Leger wanted to reiterate his seriousness about minority contracting and getting it right. PWSA needs to be leaders and in the forefront of this whole movement.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

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

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

*Jim Turner*

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James Turner, Secretary