

**Minutes of the
Regular Board Meeting
(Via Audio Teleconference)
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Held on July 23, 2021**

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 Friday, July 23, 2021, at approximately 10:00 a.m., via audio teleconference.

ROLL CALL – All members of the Board were present.

Participants from PWSA: Will Pickering, Debby Gibson, Jennifer Presutti, Raquel Ludinich, Barry King, Rachel Romano, Rick Obermeier, Logan Carmichael, BJ McFaddin

Also present was Solicitor Mark Nowak of Clark Hill.

There was a total of 62 participants on the call.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Ziggy Edwards of The Run neighborhood in Greenfield had questions for the Board regarding the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement Project.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on June 25, 2021. Mr. Domach so moved, and Mr. Turner seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rachel Romano, Senior Manager of Finance/Controller, presented the details of this report through May 31, 2021. Year-to-date receipts are up 9.0% or approximately \$9.9 million. This increase in revenues is due to the rate increase implemented earlier this year and the continued economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Capital expenses and cash balance have remained steady. The Finance Department will be kicking off the 2022 Operating Budget Process in August.

Mr. Turner: There are several cases where we are showing negative expenditures. Can you explain what this means?

Ms. Romano: Throughout the year, initial payments for expenses that will ultimately result in assets such as the ERP Project and the Capital work done under urgent operating contracts for

water and sewer charged to the Engineering budget are initially paid from operating funds, but they will be capitalized as part of the year-end process.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Barry King, Director of Engineering, presented the details of this report. Progress continues on our Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Program. As of Friday, July 16th, we have installed approximately 76,500 LF, or 99% of the planned watermain piping replacements under the open 2019 and 2020 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Contracts. The outstanding watermain final connections, remaining service lines, and final surface restoration will continue through completion of these contracts, projected to be complete by November 2021.

Contractors have replaced a total of 551 public-side and 436 private-side lead service lines, with a total of 1,933 public-side service lines completed in total. The total Supplier Diversity Participation to date is over \$4.6MM (achieving a 11.3% actual participation, exceeding the original commitment of 10.4%).

We anticipate beginning the next phase of work under the 2021 Contracts by the end of August 2021, where the date is contingent on the date of closing for the PENNVEST Funding. The watermain replacement project in support of the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project continues. Our contractors have replaced approximately 43% of the planned waterline replacement. Verifications of water service line material type to date have revealed that approximately 16% of the public-side services lines are lead, as well as 11% of the private side, which will both be replaced as part of the BRT watermain project.

Progress continues to be made on the PWSA Water Reliability Plan Projects, including: ongoing design efforts for the Aspinwall and Bruecken Pump Station Improvement Projects, and the Aspinwall WTP Clearwell Bypass Project. The 60% Design Submissions were received on time on June 30th. We are on track to complete the submissions of both the 90% Design Packages, as well as the PA DEP Public Water Supply Construction Permit Applications for all 3 WRP Projects by September 29, 2021.

Regarding other State Permitting, a PA DEP Public Water Supply Construction Permit was issued by the State on July 14th for the construction of the New Pre- and Post-Filter Sodium Hypochlorite Storage and Dosing System at the Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant.

Finally, with regard to PWSA's open solicitations, a Request for Proposal is currently open for the Wet Weather Program Manager, which is due July 27, 2021.

Mr. Turner: When we are selecting locations for the Small Diameter Water Main projects, are we also taking into consideration where we might have a heavy concentration of the lead service lines?

Mr. King: That is correct.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Will Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, explained the details of this report. Regarding the Small Diameter Water Main replacement and our prioritization, the likelihood of lead is just one of the

metrics that we use in identifying these sites. We also shared data with the Allegheny County Health Department to find the incidents of elevated blood lead levels. We consider factors like income on a census tract basis so that we are replacing lead lines in areas where residents are less likely to be able to afford it on their own and for us to be able to strategically target areas that are having known issues with elevated blood lead levels, which is obviously a huge priority. We pair that with the infrastructure need. We are leading the way nationally in how we are identifying these sites. Looking back at a year with a lot of uncertainty during the pandemic and unpredictable revenues, the Finance and the Operating department really came together and are responsible for the position we are in today. Over the past month, I have had the pleasure of visiting all of our field sites. I would like to express gratitude to the staff who worked during the pandemic. I was able to witness their response to a large water main break personally on July 9th. We had a large water main break in Mt. Washington that required a precautionary boil advisory. The service was restored within about an hour and a half of that break and that was attributable to the team. In terms of public engagement, we launched an interactive project map that is available on our website. The map includes our water mains, sewer, and green infrastructure projects, as well as the status of our asphalt and concrete repair. We do get a lot of questions about “what are you doing on my street” and “when are you going to be able to get back out to it”. This is a step toward offering that additional transparency with our customers. It does not have the complete inventory of everything we are doing because it is really comprehensive, especially during the construction season. This is in addition to the Lead Service Line map that we update on a regular basis. We released in late June our Water Quality Report. This is our annual report that we provide to our customers. We created a short accompanying video that is also available on our website outlining everything that we do on a daily basis to ensure drinking water quality for our customers. The report has some of the strongest data and metrics on the water quality front that we have had in a long time. Obviously, our progress on controlling more lead at the homes that still have lead service lines in plumbing is a major accomplishment in that report. I want to thank Mayor Peduto, his staff and City Council, including our very own Councilwoman Erika Strassburger, and thank them for the support given through the American Rescue Plan Federal Funds that have been committed to PWSA for Lead Service Line replacement. These are 100% federal dollars that we are going to use to help us in replacing all of our lead service lines by 2026. Federal funding has been allocated by Congress for the purpose of assisting low-income customers in paying their utility bills, including water and sewer. Those funds have not reached us or our customers in large part yet, but PWSA is not waiting. We have a number of different ways we are assisting our customers to be current on their water and sewer bills, including monthly discounts, balance forgiveness when entering into a payment plan, and cash grants. I do encourage customers to call our Customer Service to talk through their options if they are having trouble paying their bill. There have been three, very helpful articles, in Public Source that have talked about our assistance programs and compared them to other nearby utilities. From January to June, 26% of the spending from Board-approved contracts went to vendors eligible for our Supplier Diversity program. This exceeds the top end of our goal by 11%. Our team is committed to meeting or exceeding these goals going forward.

RESOLUTIONS

No. 89 of 2021 Requested Approval to Revise the PWSA Domicile Policy to Include 36 Communities Surrounding the City of Pittsburgh

This new policy revision includes 36 communities that our PJCBC union and non-union roles can reside in and will be negotiated for AFSCME during upcoming negotiations. This change will help align our current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy. It will ensure that we are providing equal treatment and opportunity for all current PWSA staff, while also enhancing our ability to recruit and attain the most qualified candidates to join PWSA.

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

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

No. 90 of 2021 Approving the Award of Option Year One of Multiple Capital Contracts for the 2021 Small Meter Replacement Project to Neptune Technology Group Inc., and L/B Water Service, Inc.

Funding: Cumulative Capital Budget \$1,612,873.00

The 2021 Small Meter Replacement contracts are for the necessary purchase of replacement water meters, including both positive displacement meters and electromagnetic meters and meter parts and appurtenances. The new meters will replace aging meters which are either malfunctioning, underestimating the actual amount of water being measured, or beyond their useful life.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. McCormick Barron so moved, and Mr. Turner and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

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

No. 91 of 2021 Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for Construction of 2019 Large Diameter Water Main Improvements (Rising Mains 3 and 4) to W.A. Petrakis Contracting and Landscaping Company and a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management and Construction Inspection Services to AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Funding: Cumulative Capital Budget \$11,281,172.00

The scope of this project involves the replacement and rehabilitation (using Glass and/or Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymers) of Rising Main 3, from the Bruecken Pump Station to the Highland No. 2 Reservoir, located in the Highland Park Neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh. This work requires that Highland No. 2 Reservoir be taken out of service during construction. Therefore, this work is being coordinated with the construction activities of the Highland No. 2 Reservoir Liner and Cover Replacement Project.

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

Mr. Turner: There is a pretty sizable difference in the bid that we are recommending for approval versus what the engineering estimate was. Does that give you any concern?

Mr. King: We did note and review that. Pipe lining is a great majority of the project and that seems to be where the cost differential was noted. When we subtracted that out from all of the other work needed to be done, all of the bids are within 5% of the engineering estimate. When we looked further to evaluate the bids, all of the bids were surprisingly close together. We can infer from that that the contract documents were tight and relatively clear so that the bidders did not miss something. We do not have any concerns after further review.

Mr. Sciulli: These Rising Mains are fairly large diameter. This is not an easy project.

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

No. 92 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of the 2019 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Second Avenue and Tecumseh Street to A. Folino Construction, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$551,551.55

The scope of this contract specifically addresses water improvements on Second Avenue and Tecumseh Street in the Hazelwood Neighborhood and involves the relay and upsizing of water mains, including a portion to be

installed through a railroad right-of-way, as well as the installation of valves, fire hydrants, and service lines as required.

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

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

No. 93 of 2021 Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the 2022 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Contract A to GAI Consultants, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$819,358.25

The scope of this project aims to achieve strategic replacement of water mains to improve system reliability, as well as improve water pressure, maintain water quality, and minimize disturbance to the community. It includes design of water mains in various locations throughout the Brighton Heights and Squirrel Hill neighborhoods.

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

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

No. 94 of 2021 Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the 2022 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement – Contract B to Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$711,575.76

The scope of this project aims to achieve strategic replacement of water mains to improve system reliability, as well as improve water pressure, maintain water quality, and minimize the disturbance to the community. This contract includes design of water mains in various locations throughout Elliott, Millvale Borough, Stanton Heights, and Point Breeze neighborhoods.

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

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

No. 95 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of Herron Hill Reservoir Improvements: Sodium Hypochlorite Building – General to Kokosing Industrial, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$2,233,057.00

The scope of this project involves important infrastructure improvements at the reservoir, including replacement of the reservoir liner and cover (completed under a separate contract) and the replacement of the existing sodium hypochlorite feed system and building under this contract. The existing system and building have effectively reached their end of useful life, and the new sodium hypochlorite feed system will provide needed improvements to enhance and optimize our dosing and monitoring capabilities of this critical water treatment chemical to improve water quality.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Leber so moved, and Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

Mr. Domach: How old is the building and the feed system? And is it leaking or corroded?

Mr. King: Averaging 50 years right now, but given that they store hypochlorite, they are attacked daily with oxidizing power of the sodium hypochlorite. It is corroded at this point.

Mr. Turner: Were you surprised there was only one bidder on this?

Mr. King: We thought there may be an issue getting a deep pool on this one. What made this more difficult was that it was too small for larger firms and too big for smaller firms. As far as the costs being higher than we would have anticipated between the equipment, labor, material prices, and the lead times that we have been seeing dramatically increased over this past year due to COVID, we are talking in the magnitude of 200 to 300% increases in some instances, so we were also not surprised by the costs being higher.

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

No. 96 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of Herron Hill Reservoir Improvements: Sodium Hypochlorite Building – Electrical to Allegheny City Electric, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$332,900.00

The scope of this project involves important infrastructure improvements at the reservoir, including replacement of the reservoir liner and cover and the replacement of the existing sodium hypochlorite feed system and building under this contract.

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

Mr. Turner: I was really pleased to see the heavy extent of diversity participation in this.

Mr. Sciulli: The reason that there are two prime contracts for the same project is the separation of trades provision in the state legislation.

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

No. 97 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of the 2018 Sewers Under Structures Project to A. Merante Contracting, Inc., and a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management and Construction Inspection Services to H.R. Gray, an Answer Advisory Company

Funding: Capital Budget \$1,760,360.46

The scope of this project includes the Oakwood Road and Center Avenue Project sites, located in the Oakwood and Shadyside neighborhoods. Sewers in these areas require point repair, lining and relocation due to their deteriorated condition and location under or adjacent to existing structures.

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

Ms. Strassburger: Can we get an explanation as to why this is called the 2018 Sewers Under Structures Project?

Mr. King: 2018 is when the projects were initiated for planning and design. This is a testimony to projects of this nature where you are dealing with significant infrastructure that are located in very challenging locations. The complexity of trying to retrieve approvals is when they are going under railroads, PennDOT infrastructure, or buildings. It has been very time-intensive to coordinate all of these efforts just to gain access to the infrastructure and then figure out how we are going to best re-route it.

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

No. 98 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of the 2020 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Contract 2 Project to Insituform Technologies, LLC

Funding: Capital Budget \$3,380,362.25

The purpose of this contract is to perform proactive, trenchless rehabilitation of sewer mains less than 36-inch diameter to restore structural integrity, reduce root intrusion, and reduce infiltration and inflow through the installation of cured-in-place pipe liners. This project is located in the Squirrel Hill and Homewood neighborhoods.

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

Mr. Turner: Do you have any concerns that this Resolution and the next are going to be undertaken by the same company?

Mr. King: Insituform is a national company. They have demonstrated that they have the ability to pull nationally for staff for larger projects.

Ms. Leber: How does this project relate to the one we committed to in Homewood for 2022 or are they different projects?

Mr. King: They are two completely different projects. The one in Homewood is going to result in an excavation because of the number of connections that need to be made and have to be restored, as well as the fairly significant condition of that existing pipe.

Mr. Sciulli: The one in Homewood, depending on the condition, may need completely replaced.

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

No. 99 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of the 2021 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Contract 2 Project to Insituform Technologies, Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$2,685,973.74

The purpose of this contract is to perform proactive, trenchless rehabilitation of sewer mains less than 36-inch diameter to restore structural integrity, reduce root intrusion, and reduce infiltration and inflow through the installation of cured-in-place pipe liners. This project is located in the Spring Garden and Highland Park neighborhoods.

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

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

No. 100 of 2021 Approving the Award for Construction of the 2021 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Contract 3 Project to Jet Jack Inc.

Funding: Capital Budget \$1,882,414.00

The purpose of this project is to perform proactive, trenchless rehabilitation of sewer mains less than 36-inch diameter to restore structural integrity, reduce root intrusion, and reduce infiltration and inflow through the installation of cured-in-place pipe liners. This project is located in the Carrick neighborhood.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Thomas so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

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

No. 101 of 2021 Approving Purchase, Installation, and Transferal of Equipment Ownership from PWSA to Private Property Owners as Part of the Hayson Avenue Neighborhood Sewage Backup Protection Project

This Resolution is a request for authorization to provide sewage backup protection devices, at no cost to the property owners to meet the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requirements. PWSA will purchase and install the backup protection solutions for the properties and will immediately assign and turn over ownership of the backup protection devices to the respective property owners. After the first year, PWSA will turn over the maintenance responsibility for the backup protection devices to the respective property owners.

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

Mr. Domach: When this happens, does the asset become a part of the homeowner's deeds, and how is the portion divided amongst the various homeowners.

Mr. King: I can follow up with the Board with that information once I discuss with Legal. The assets will be individual to each of the property owners. There will not be a group division of the asset.

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

No. 102 of 2021 Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the Wightman Park GI Project to Ethos Collaborative

Funding: Capital Budget \$152,411.61

The increase in amount for services provided by Ethos Collaborative is necessary due to unforeseen field conditions and numerous utility conflicts. It is expected that additional funding for design and engineering services will be required during Phase 2.

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

Ms. Strassburger: Do we expect additional changes to the whole project amount that relate more to the construction end of this project?

Mr. King: At this time, there may be one additional change order coming eventually, but they are trying to reconcile that.

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

No. 103 of 2021 Approving Entering Into a Cost Share Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh for the Nobles Lane Stormsystem Improvements Project

Funding: Capital Budget \$393,518.66

This project includes the strategic installation of various stormsystem improvements, including catch basins, manholes, and storm sewers on Cloverdale Street and Nobles Lane in the Carrick neighborhood. The City of Pittsburgh's contribution will be \$167,374.53.

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

Mr. Turner: Will you indicate how the split between PWSA and the City are determined?

Mr. King: When we enter into this type of project, we aggregate all of the respective infrastructure costs for all aspects of the project from design, CM/CI, and design services during construction. We aggregate all of the costs that are specific for PWSA sewer and the City's roadways and then develop a percentage that is based on that and apply that percentage across all of the other remaining costs that are associated with that project.

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

No. 104 of 2021 Approving Entering Into a Cost Share Agreement with the City of Pittsburgh for the Winchester Drive at Grovemount Stormsystem Improvements Project

Funding: Capital Budget \$420,583.68

This project includes the strategic installation of various stormsystem improvements, including catch basins, manholes, storm sewers, and outfalls near Winchester Drive and Grovemount Road in the Banksville neighborhood. The City of Pittsburgh's contribution will be \$167,374.53.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. McCormick Barron seconded the motion. No discussion held.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting will take place on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Jim Turner

James Turner, Secretary