

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board Meeting  
(Via Audio Teleconference)  
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Held on September 24, 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, September 24, 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, Edward Barca, Shannon Barkley, Rebecca Zito, Randy Bergia, Julie Ascioffa, Hali Hetz, Faith Wydra, and Logan Carmichael.

Also, present was Solicitor Mark Nowak of Clark Hill.

There was a total of 59 participants on the call.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**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 August 27, 2021. Mr. Turner so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Edward Barca, Director of Finance presented the details of his report.

PWSA's financial status continues to improve as compared to the last year, with year-to-date receipts up 8.8% or approximately \$13.5 million. In addition, our cash balance is higher than at this point last year, and capital expenses have remained steady.

The 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan includes over \$1.4 billion in capital improvements, such as lead and water main replacements, sewer line rehabilitations, stormwater improvements, and upgrades to our water treatment plant.

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, presented the details of this report. As of Friday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, we have completed the installation of approximately 78,200 LF, which is 99% of all the planned watermain piping replacements under the open 2019 and 2020 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement Contracts. The outstanding work items will continue through the projected completion in November 2021.

In total, our Contractors have replaced a total of 2,100 public-side service lines, of which 621 were public-side lead service line replacements. In addition, they replaced 483 private-side lead service lines.

The total Supplier Diversity Participation to date is now over \$5.5MM, achieving an 12.3% actual participation, exceeding the original commitment of 10.4%.

The watermain replacement project in support of the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project continues, where our contractors have replaced approximately 13,000 LF of main (approaching 79%) of the planned waterline replacement. Note, 62 public-side service lines have been completed, of which 18 were public-side lead service lines replacements and 12 were private-side side lead lines.

Progress continues to be made on the PWSA Water Reliability Plan Projects, including the review and final revisions of the PADEP Public Water Supply Permit Applications for the Aspinwall Pump Station Improvement Projects, the Bruecken Pump Station Improvement Project, and the Clearwell Bypass Project.

With regard to other Water Reliability Plan projects, material manufacturing, fabrication, and shipping are underway for the construction of the Highland No. 2 Reservoir Cover and Liner Replacement Project and Rising Main 3 Rehabilitation and Replacement Project. We are monitoring the challenges our Contractors are having with regard to supply chain and shipping delays.

Several Invitations for Bids and Requests for Proposals are currently open including:

- 4 IFB's are out for the Aspinwall WTP Filter Building Sodium Hypochlorite Improvements Project for the General/Mechanical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical contracts, which are due Oct. 11, 2021, at 4:00 PM
- An IFB for Saw Mill Run PWSA & PennDOT Watershed Improvements is due on October 14, 2021, at 10:00 AM, and
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) is out for Consulting Engineer Services due on November 3, 2021, at 2:00 PM.

Mr. Turner: I would like a report on the surveys we are doing to measure where they stand in relation to the standard and the expected preliminary results from those surveys for lead lines.

Mr. King: I will get that to the Board.

Mr. Domach: What is the most difficult part of the Clearwell project?

Mr. King: The projects leading up to the Clearwell are the most difficult. Once we do have the bypass constructed and the reservoir is functioning, it will be less challenging for us to isolate and then begin the replacement of the Clearwell. We are working to make sure that the construction of the bypass does not impact the integrity of the existing Clearwell, while it will have the capacity to ensure that the pumps at both the Aspinwall Pump Station and the Bruecken Pump Station will operate hydraulically without having short cycling. We are checking the sizing for the piping, the suction wet wells, as well as taking infrastructure offline that is redundant.

Mr. Domach: Are there any other utilities that have done such an endeavor as this?

Mr. King: We have a unique system driven by the period of time that it was originated and for the industry for which it was constructed, the large volumes, the large reservoirs, and the topography by which Pittsburgh exists. I have not found another model that was commensurate to what we are undertaking.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Will Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, explained the details of this report. The BRT Project, which is our Water Main Replacement Program, is out visible on Fifth and Forbes from about the Arena to the Birmingham Bridge. We have multiple utilities there. The excavations reveal the “spaghetti” underneath and some of the decisions that are needed to be made on the fly to keep the project running. I do want to thank the public for their patience, for those who commute on either of those segments. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, PWSA had a sentencing hearing for two Clean Water Act violations. This is a continuation of the Plea Agreement that we entered early in 2021. We made it clear to the Judge that PWSA today is fully committed to transparency, accountability, and compliance in an ethical way. We have already taken a number of steps that are laid out in the Plea Agreement in developing our compliance manual and programs. there will be a lot more to come there. I was very thankful that the Judge recognized the progress that PWSA has made over the last several years. Along those lines, every PWSA employee is either scheduled for this month or has already completed our Ethics and Compliance Training that is being led by our Ethics Officer and our Compliance Director. Those trainings are setting the tone for our staff and making sure they are aware of the resources that they have internally if they have any questions as it relates to ethics or environmental compliance. I am excited and congratulate our PGH2o Excellence Awards recipients. This is an award given quarterly to employees who are nominated by their peers. The following PWSA staff have been selected to receive this month’s award: Matt DeMarines, SCADA Technician; Erich Schafrick, Chemist II; Eugene Tyler, Truck Driver Special Winch Operator; Liz Kennedy, Senior GIS Analyst; Sarah Viszneki, Pgh2o Cares Coordinator; Donna Scullon, Administrative Assistant; Raquel Ludinich, IT Project Manager; and Duygu Altintas P.E., Associate Project Manager.

**RESOLUTIONS**

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**No. 115 of 2021      Approving the Financial Assistance Application to be Submitted to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the 2021 Lead Service Line Replacement Project \$4,706,512.00**

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This Resolution is to pursue funding for Priority Lead Service Line replacement locations such as childcare facilities. While PWSA's goal is to replace all LSLs within the water service area by 2026, childcare facilities serve the most sensitive population and should be prioritized. This Resolution would also serve to replace LSL for locations where elevated lead levels have been measured since the beginning of 2020 (after the implementation of orthophosphate and the first Lead and Copper Rule Compliance sampling was below the action limit).

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

The matter was initially tabled in error by the Board. The Board reconsidered the tabling and moved to approve the Resolution.

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

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**No. 116 of 2021      Approving the Financial Assistance Application to be Submitted to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the 2020-2022 Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation and the 2022-2023 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation \$36,277,000.00**

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Large and small diameter sewer infrastructure is approaching the end of its useful life, specifically the collection lines in PWSA's system. The appropriate rehabilitation would provide an additional 50 years of life to the infrastructure. It is anticipated that that any funding would be in the form of a loan with an interest rate of approximately 1%.

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

The Board initially tabled the motion in error. The Board reconsidered the tabling of the Resolution and moved to approve the Resolution.

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

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**No. 117 of 2021      Approve and Adopt the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan**

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The 5-year CIP includes over \$1 billion in Capital projects. The projects included in the CIP provides funding to comply with all regulatory requirements as it relates to PA DEP Consent Order and Agreements, PA DEP Administrative Orders, the PA PUC Compliance Plan, and the Long-Term Infrastructure Improvement Plan (LTIP).

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

Mr. Turner: This is a very detailed and thorough plan. My concern is the plan versus the actual spending on the Capital end of things. It is not unusual to have Capital projects delayed through no fault of our own. I am concerned that delay tends to lead to much larger amounts in the out years and that also makes a problem if you cannot take everything offline at the same time. Do you have any concerns over our planned versus our actual spend history?

Mr. Barca: Generally speaking, we have seen a large increase year over year in our capital expenses which correlates to completing projects. To give you an example of that, in 2017 we spent approximately \$30 million on capital improvements, whereas last year in 2020 we spent over \$120 million. Given the progress that we have made and the increase in staffing, I think we have all the pieces in place to keep this moving forward.

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

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**No. 118 of 2021      Approving a Change Order of a Capital Contract for Construction of 2021 Valve Replacement to Independent Enterprises, Inc., and an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management/Construction Inspection Services to Hatch Associates Consultants**

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**Funding: Cumulative Capital Budget \$2,061,183.16**

Additional critical scope of work has been identified which must be completed at this time to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the water distribution system through the completion of several Water Reliability Plan

projects, and as such, must be completed prior to taking Highland Reservoir No. 2 offline in the Winter/Spring of 2022.

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

Ms. McCormick Barron: I am sure along the way that the authority is proactively testing these valves so that when this kind of circumstance occurs, we are proactive instead of reactive. Can you explain the process?

Mr. King: We are exercising a total 5000 valves throughout the system every year, so we are in a program now where we are dedicated to the exercising of the valves and identifying the ones that are not functioning and placing them for replacement. That process is underway and has been submitted for PUC approval.

Mr. Sciulli: As a ballpark, how many valves do we have in the system?

Mr. King: 70,000.

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

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**No. 119 of 2021      Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Services for Highland No. 2 Reservoir Liner and Cover Replacement to Arcadis U.S. Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$976,000.00**

This amendment is necessary to allow additional engineering services to be completed in support of the Highland No. 2 Reservoir Liner and Cover Replacement. PWSA requested Arcadis to develop a scope of work to investigate mitigation measures to protect the stability of the dam, develop a dam safety program, and develop and carry out an embankment monitoring program to ensure the continual integrity of the Highland No. 2 Reservoir dam.

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

Mr. Turner: Give us an idea how long Highland 2 will be out of service.

Mr. King: We are anticipating taking it offline by March 22, 2022, and after full disinfection testing, we anticipate it being back online by October 31, 2022. Approximately 8 ½ months of down time.

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

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**No. 120 of 2021      Approving the Award for a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management/Construction Inspection Services for 2020 Sewers Under Structures-Contract 1 Project to Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, Inc.**

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**Funding: Capital Budget \$332, 728.00**

This program aims to rehabilitate or relocate sewer mains. This contract includes Carroll Street, Freeland Street, and Seaton Street.

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

Mr. Turner: In this contract, we asked for the best and final offer from two firms. Is that our standard practice now requesting best and final offers from two firms?

Mr. King: This is the way we will proceed going forward for professional services. If the top two firms have combined scores that are close, we will ask for BAFO's (best and final offers) from the top two scoring firms, and then the selection committee will reassess based on those offerings and, if necessary, recalculate the scores. We will move forward with the highest combined total score, even though at times that may result in the higher cost but overall the highest score being awarded.

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

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**No. 121 of 2021      Approving Compensation, if necessary (as amended), for Acquiring Permanent Easements on City-Owned Parcels for the 2021 Sewer Reconstruction Project**

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A repair has been identified in the vicinity of Rising Main Avenue in the Fineview neighborhood where an existing 15-inch combined sewer located on a steep slope is in need of repair. Because of the proximity of this sewer to other critical infrastructure and City steps, it was determined that the sewer would be rerouted. In order to do this, PWSA must obtain permanent easements from the City of Pittsburgh as the new sewer reconstruction alignment would pass through several City owned properties.

Mr. Turner requested a motion to amend the title of this Resolution to add the words “if necessary”. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

Mr. Turner: I am making this motion because under the Co-Op that we have with the City of Pittsburgh, I do not believe that we should be paying any cost for this.

The Motion to Amend the Resolution was unanimously approved.

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

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**No. 122 of 2021      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management and Inspection Services for the 2022 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Contract 1 Project to Mott MacDonald, LLC**

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Motion to Table Resolution 122 per PWSA Staff Request

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to table Resolution 122 until further notice. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Ms. McCormick Barron seconded the motion.

No further discussion held. The Board unanimously approved the Motion to table Resolution 122.

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**No. 123 of 2021      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management and Inspection Services for 2022 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Contract 2 Project to Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson, Inc.**

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Motion to Table Resolution 123 per PWSA Staff Request

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to table Resolution 123 until further notice. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Ms. McCormick Barron seconded the motion.

No further discussion held. The Board unanimously approved to table Resolution 123.

**No. 124 of 2021      Approving a Change Order of a Capital Contract for Construction of 2019 Large Diameter Water Main Improvements (Rising Mains 3 and 4) – Rising Main 3 to W.A. Petrakis Contracting and Landscaping**

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**Funding: Cumulative Capital Budget \$1,570,722.51**

PWSA recently identified a number of small leaks on the existing 60-inch Lanpher Supply Main while replacing a faulty 48-inch diameter valve. A subsequent condition assessment of the exposed 60-inch pipe and surrounding soils was completed, and the assessment identified highly corrosive soils and recommended lining the pipe in the area at an accelerated schedule to prevent interruption of service when Highland No. 2 Reservoir is taken offline.

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

Mr. Turner: My understanding is that this valve is on the single 60-inch main that supplies Lanpher Reservoir. My concern is that with Highland 2 out of service, if something happens to that line, we are in a pretty bad situation. Can you discuss that?

Mr. King: The Rising Main supplies water from our major pump stations. The Lanpher Supply Main supplies water from the Lanpher Reservoir to our distribution system. This 60-inch line is key and essential and supplies the North Side of Pittsburgh. With the Highland 2 being taken out of service, it will also be a main artery for supplying water to the balance of the Highland 2 system as well. It is critical for that infrastructure to be in its most resilient state to be a viable redundant option for its operation.

No further 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 Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. No discussion held.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting will take place on Friday, October 22, 2021.

*Jim Turner*

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James Turner, Secretary