

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board Meeting  
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Held on November 17, 2023**

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, November 17, 2023, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL** – Six (6) Board Members were present. Mr. Bey and Ms. Strassburger were absent.

**Participants from PWSA:** Will Pickering, Jennifer Presutti, Frank Sidari, Barry King, Debby Gibson, Paul Spara, Rebecca Zito, Giuseppe Sciulli, Jennifer Guo, William McFaddin, Kevin Pawlos, Holly Bomba, Deana Whipp, Rachel Rampa, Jordan Treaster, Julie Ascioffa, Kasey Stewart, Monica Walaan, Logan Carmichael, Megan Thiessen, John Nagle, Janice Abate, Mike Gasperini, Elizabeth Demeda, Nicole Benoit.

Also present was Solicitor Mark Nowak of Clark Hill, Jason McBride of Wade Trim, Nick Modany of JMT, Tom Prusak of HATCH, Jamie North of DLZ and Donna Chappel of AIG.

A total of 26 participants were in attendance.

**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 October 27, 2023. Dr. Murrell so moved, and Ms. McCormick Barron seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kevin Pawlos, Deputy Director of Finance, presented the details of this report. Year-to-date receipts through October 31, 2023 were \$166.8 million or 84% of the total budget.

Approximately \$17.9 million was collected in September as compared to the budgeted amount of \$19.1 million representing a difference of \$1.2 million. This shortfall is attributable to weaker than expected water collections. However, the Department of Finance is projecting that water collections will recover prior to the end of the year. Total forecasted year-end receipts, excluding the budgeted \$4.5 million dollar transfer from the rate stabilization fund,

are \$212.1 million. This represents an increase of \$5.4 million or 2.6% as compared to the budget. The transfer from the rate stabilization fund is no longer planned due to stronger than expected financial performance. Year-to-date departmental operating expenditures are \$96.8 million, which is 81.9% of the total budget. \$70.7 million in debt service costs have been paid year to date, which is 92.4% of the total budget. Forecasted year-end debt service is projected to be \$73 million or about \$3.5 million lower than the adopted budget. The bulk of the savings is attributable to the bond transaction completed earlier this year. PWSA's cash balance on October 31, 2023 was \$84.3 million, which is \$7.7 million higher when compared to the prior year. In addition, year-to-date capital expenditures are \$82.9 million.

### **Engineering Report**

Barry King, Director of Engineering and Construction, presented the details of this report.

### **Drinking Water Programs**

Progress continues with our LSLR programs. A total of 10,614 public and 7,436 private-side lead service lines have been replaced up through November 15, 2023 across all Contracts and Operations. Active lead service line replacements continue with the ARP-funded 2022 Neighborhood Lead Service Line Replacement Project, which is nearing completion in roughly the next month. This project has replaced lead service lines at over 2,500 homes, exceeding the original plan to remove 1,400, and has replaced almost 700 public and over 730 private lead service lines.

The PENNVEST-funded 2023A Neighborhood Lead Service Line Replacement Program continues work in Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar neighborhood and will be moving into Perry South in December.

The PENNVEST-funded 2023B Neighborhood Lead Service Line Replacement Program is moving towards a late February 2024 closing date with PENNVEST and early March 2024 construction start.

Finally, the Engineering group and lead team supported Finance in submitting another funding request to PENNVEST this month for the 2024A Neighborhood Lead Service Line Replacement Program – a \$34 million project to do work on 4,500 properties throughout our water service area.

The Highland Reservoir Pump Station Supply and Rising Mains Project is nearing substantial completion, with the receipt of the Operating Permit for the completed Saline Supply Main, which is now back in service. The final tie-in of the new rising main on Bunkerhill Street that will connect to the future Highland Reservoir Pump Station has also been completed, with final disinfection to begin the end of November.

The Rising Main 4 Replacement and Rehabilitation Project is substantially complete. Upon receiving passing results, we will file for the Operating Permit from the PADEP. We are on

schedule to submit the Certification of Construction Completion well before the COA deadline of January 14, 2024.

Design and permitting efforts continue on our remaining Water Reliability Plan Projects, including the Aspinwall Pump Station and Bruecken Pump Station Improvements and the Clearwell Emergency Response Clearwell Bypass Project.

### Sewer Programs

PWSA has been awarded a total of over \$1,150,000 via three GROW Grant Awards from the City of Pittsburgh, including two grants for the BRT project and a grant of over \$800,000 for the 2023 Small Diameter Sewer Contract 3.

As for Procurement Activities for Engineering and Construction, note that the bids for the 2024 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation IDIC Contract are due on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS OFFICER/ REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Frank Sidari, Chief Environmental Compliance and Ethics Officer, presented the details of this report. We are co-permittees on our MS4 with the City of Pittsburgh. We are hosting a public meeting to educate and update our community about our MS4 infrastructure and our stormwater management plans. This meeting will provide general information on common stormwater terminology, types of stormwater pollution, how PWSA monitors the MS4 system, and how the community may report stormwater issues they might experience or witness. Last month, I spoke about our upcoming series of environmental compliance and safety audits and assessments that were preparing to start. The field portion of the annual Water Treatment Plant audit was completed, and we are waiting on a finalized report with recommendations to be delivered. We have scheduled the assessments of 17 additional locations beyond the Water Treatment Plant which are set to be conducted the week after Thanksgiving. The major training topics planned for all PWSA staff include annual policy acknowledgements, MS4, environmental compliance and ethics, safety refresher, cybersecurity, harassment prevention, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our Code of Ethics requires us to act independently, impartially, and responsibly without conflict of interest and in the best interest of the Authority and our ratepayers. To that end, the Code of Ethics includes standards of conduct and prohibited activities, which among other items, addresses limitations on the receipt of gifts and meals to a nominal value as defined in the code. I will be sharing a reminder of these specific details during the holiday season.

### **Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

Will Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, presented the details of this report. We held our first Supplier Diversity Open House with the specific focus on our On Call Contracts. Our goal was to get the diverse suppliers aware of our upcoming renewal of these On Call contracts for work that is under \$1 million. We did have 58 individuals representing 27 firms that are small and diverse firms. We are going to take that feedback internally and try to improve what we are doing here in terms of our engagement with our diverse suppliers. I was proud to represent the

Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority at the US Water Alliance's One Water Summit this week in Tucson, Arizona. I joined a group of not just PWSA employees, but representatives from the City of Pittsburgh. Two Board Members, Erika and Jamil, were also there representing our work on Water Equity. I was excited to be there for Erika as she accepted the Public Water Official of the Year award. I am grateful for the Board's volunteer commitment to this organization. I interacted with people from across the country, high level regulators, and folks from other utilities. Universally the word is getting out about what we are up to here. We had a lot of opportunities to also learn what other cities are doing so we can replicate the good work nationally.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **No. 68 of 2023      Approve and Adopt the 2024 Operating Budget.**

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The 2024 Budget includes increased staffing levels, adequate funding for all regulatory requirements, information technology upgrades, and infrastructure repair and improvements.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Dr. Murrell so moved, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

Ms. Leber – I just want to thank Kevin, Ed, and the Finance staff. This is a big budget with a lot of moving pieces. Thank you for your hard work in putting all of this together and keeping your eye on the mission and the focus of the Authority. I also want to thank you for taking the time to have detailed education sessions for the Board. That really helped us understand and participate in the mission and the work we need to do as a Board.

Mr. Pawlos – Thank you, your feedback is appreciated. I would like to thank John Nagle and Mike Gasperini as well on the Operating Budget. They do a really good job pulling all of that information together and keeping everything going on the day-to-day things.

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

**No. 69 of 2023**      **Authorizing the Submission of a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Application in the Amount of \$1,000,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be Used for the Purchase of Vehicles, Machinery, and Equipment.**

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If awarded, the proceeds will fund a portion of the costs related to PWSA's annual replacement of vehicles, machinery, and equipment.

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

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

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**No. 70 of 2023**      **Approving the Award of Fire and Emergency Notification System to Johnson Controls Fire Protection, LP for the Water and Wastewater Safety and Security (PENNVEST) Project. Capital Budget \$2,020,476.**

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This project includes the provision and installation of fire alarm systems and integration of existing suppression systems at 14 PWSA locations, including the Water Treatment Plant, MFP, MFP-1, MFP-2, Central Warehouse, Brilliant Yard, Herron Hill Tank, Evergreen Lift Station, and all water pumping stations.

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

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

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**No. 71 of 2023**      **Approving the Award of Security Cameras to Dagostino Electronic Services Inc., for the Water and Wastewater Safety and Security (PENNVEST) Project. Capital Budget \$2,096,319.59.**

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This project addresses the enhancement of physical security systems, including cameras, access control, lighting, and intrusion detection at all PWSA facilities. This project includes the migration to the Genetec VMS platform and integration of all existing security equipment.

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

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

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**No. 72 of 2023      Approval to Enter Into a Professional Services Agreement With Clark Hill PLC for General Legal Services.**

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The new contract with Clark Hill PLC includes, but is not limited to, general litigation, labor and employment matters, collective bargaining negotiations, solicitor services, bond counsel services, environmental matters, and transactional support. The total cost will be based on the need and hourly rate schedule provided by Clark Hill PLC and agreed upon by PWSA. The term will commence on January 1, 2024.

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

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

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**No. 73 of 2023      Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for Construction of 2023 Water Relay Project to Independent Enterprises, Inc. Capital Budget \$1,492,490.**

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This award involves the escalated and unplanned relay of water mains, including valves, fire hydrants, and service lines. This contract also includes the necessary related restoration services, including the surface restoration of streets and sidewalks, and restoration of landscaping for all work areas addressed under this contract.

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

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

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**No. 74 of 2023      Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for Construction of the Lanpher Booster Disinfection Improvements – General to G.M. McCrossin, Inc. Capital Budget \$4,941,000.**

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Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve the removal of this Resolution from the November Agenda. Dr. Murrell so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved to remove Resolution # 74 from the November Agenda.

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**No. 75 of 2023      Approval to Enter Into a Grant Agreement to Accept an Award of \$804,300 from the ALCOSAN GROW Grant Program for 2023 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Contract 3.**

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This project focuses on the rehabilitation of sanitary sewers in the Carrick Neighborhood of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council District of the City of Pittsburgh.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Martin so moved, and Dr. Murrell seconded the motion.

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

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**No. 76 of 2023      Approving Entering Into a Cost Share Agreement With the City of Pittsburgh for the Ruthven Street Project. Capital Budget \$839,812.80.**

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This project involves the construction of storm, sewer, and water mains, to replace the existing utilities on Ruthven Street in the Polish Hill Neighborhood in the 7<sup>th</sup> Council District of the City of Pittsburgh. Under this agreement, the City of Pittsburgh will complete the construction of the new utilities and PWSA will reimburse the City of Pittsburgh for construction, construction management, and inspection costs associated with the utility installation.

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

Dr. Murrell – Good to see the collaboration with the City.

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

**No. 77 of 2023**      **Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvements Project to Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson, Inc. (JMT). Capital Budget \$422,547.50.**

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This third amendment to the original task order includes engineering services to perform utility designation and test holes, perform geotechnical investigation and groundwater monitoring, perform environmental due diligence and environmental site assessment, and perform data analysis of the previous referenced activities.

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

Dr. Murrell – Good to see the continued commitment on the supplier diversity.

Mr. Sciulli – Nice to see this moving forward. This project has been highlighted many times over the last few years and glad to see it moving in a positive direction.

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

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**No. 78 of 2023**      **Approving the Award of a Capital Contract for Construction of the Haverhill Street Stormwater Improvements Project to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. Capital Budget \$1,572,791.**

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This project includes remediation of a landslide and groundwater seeps on City of Pittsburgh owned vacant lots adjacent to Haverhill Street, with associated drainage improvements and slope stabilization. This project also includes repairs required for existing stormwater infrastructure in the public right-of-way at the intersection of Oakwood Street and Batavia Street, which are negatively impacted by the existing landslide disturbance.

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

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



**No. 79 of 2023**      **Approval to Enter Into a Grant Agreement to Accept Two Awards in the Amounts of \$133,900 and \$214,300 From the ALCOSAN GROW Grant Program for the Bus Rapid Transit Stormwater Infrastructure Project.**

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This project focuses on implementing stormwater and green infrastructure improvements in the Uptown Neighborhood. The project area is located in the M-19 and M-05 Sewersheds.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Dr. Murrell so moved, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

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

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**No. 80 of 2023**      **Approval to Enter Into a Reimbursement Agreement With Baldwin Township for the Saw Mill Run PWSA and PennDOT Watershed Improvements Project.**

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This project consists of two stream restoration projects at Crane Avenue and Moore Park in the City of Pittsburgh to reduce sediment pollution in the Saw Mill Run Watershed. Baldwin desires to participate in the project located in Moore Park and has agreed to provide a lump-sum reimbursement to PWSA in exchange for sediment credit to meet their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for their respective Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

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

Mr. Domach – Is the total reimbursement going to be based on the annual reduction in sediment measured in the verification for their permit?

Mr. King – There is a period that they will actually verify the performance of these facilities and it will be based on those verifications.

Mr. Domach – If you run the numbers based on reduction of a couple hundred pounds per day, PWSA is nearly totally off the hook.

Mr. Domach – Is there any warranty on that?

Mr. King – I don't believe there are any stipulations, but I would have to fact check that.

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

**No. 81 of 2023**      **Approving an Amendment of a Professional Services Agreement for Construction Management and Inspection Services During Construction for the 2023 Surface Restoration Contract to Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. Operating Budget \$288,223.**

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This contract addresses necessary surface restoration for sites completed by PWSA Operations, including any open site yet to be restored to date, and sites that will be completed in the 2023 construction season.

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

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

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**No. 82 of 2023**      **Approving a Multi-Year Professional Services Agreement for Program Management Information System Software “e-Builder” to e-Builder, Inc. Operating Budget \$1,389,585.89.**

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e-Builder is a program management software used by PWSA since 2014. This allows PWSA’s Project Managers, Contractors, and Consultants access to the e-Builder workflow processes developed by the PWSA Team. The processes include critical project functions across the full life of PWSA’s projects from planning through construction.

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

Mr. Martin – Is it typically a three-year subscription process?

Mr. King – That has been our process historically on this.

Mr. Sciulli – We did quite a bit of research with agencies we coordinated with including PennDOT and ALCOSAN and chose eBuilder. It has proven that it has been very robust since 2014.

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

**New Business**

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**No. 83 of 2023**      **Authorizing the Submission of a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Application in the Amount of \$1,000,000 From the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be Used for the Installation of a Combined Sewer and Appurtenances to Replace an Existing Common Sewer Lateral.**

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

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

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**No. 84 of 2023**      **Approving a Change Order for Water Treatment Chemicals Soda Ash Contract to Sal Chemical. Operating Budget \$186,000.00.**

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Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to add this Resolution to the November Board Agenda. Dr. Murrell so moved, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved to add Resolution #84 to the November Board Agenda.

Based on current usage, PWSA is expected to require 828,00 pounds of product for the remainder of the 2023 year. This Resolution encompasses the need to obtain that chemical supply to the end of 2023.

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

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

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**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Ms. McCormick Barron so moved.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting will take place on Friday, December 15, 2023.

*BJ Leber*

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BJ Leber, Secretary