

March 15<sup>th</sup>, Regular meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Meyersdale Municipal Authority was called to Order by Chair, Don Anderson, at 6:01 p.m. Attending Board Members were Brian Witherite, Karen Gnagey, and Pat Murray and Solicitor Marc Valentine. Board Member Sandy Miller was not present at the meeting.

Executive session started at 6:01 p.m. and ended at 7:06 p.m.

Chair Anderson brought the public meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., then conducted a rule call for attendance, he also shared with the public attendees where the sign-in sheet is located and asked them to sign in.

Chair Anderson asked Solicitor Valentine to report on the executive session. Solicitor Valentine stated there was brief discussion about the ongoing Humans Relation Case with Tina Gnagey and stated that no motion has been made at this time.

Chair Anderson then opened the meeting to public comments. Mr. Doug Koscianski from Woodlawn Ave in Meyersdale asked Solicitor Valentine if he had any answers for him. Solicitor Valentine stated that the Borough Council did not agree to pay for the reseal of his driveway. Mr. Koscianski is requesting payment for dirt on his driveway after it was sealed, which he believes was caused by the borough. There was discussion about Mr. Koscianski's request, it was decided to be tabled until next month's meeting.

The Board Members read the meeting minutes for the February 15th, 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Karen Gnagey to accept the February 15th, 2022 meeting minutes Pat Murray 2nd the motion and was duly passed.

The Board discussed lettering of the 4 Municipality Vehicles. Secretary Bri stated she contacted Sonya Weimer who said no longer letters vehicle.

Matt contacted two companies for quotes, Lincoln Contracting and Commercial Graphic Designs for decals that are 24X10 in size

1. Lincoln Contracting quoted \$100.00, without installation

2. Commercial Graphic Design quoted \$600.00, with insulation.

Ms. Murray asked why so much difference in price? Matt was unsure of the difference in cost.

Motion was made by Mr. Witherite to utilize Lincoln Contracting for the decals that will cover 4 Vehicles at \$100.00. Ms. Murray 2nd the motion it was duly passed.

Chair Anderson discussed accepting the only bid that was received for the 1985 international dump truck in the amount of 5,500.00 which was submitted by John Bortoli, of Broco Trailers 205 Neil St. Johnstown, PA 15904. This bid was previously discussed at the last workshop meeting. Solicitor Valentine stated, the Board needs to vote to accept or reject the bid no matter what has changed or hasn't changed in the time frame. This bid was not based on a timeline. Chair Anderson stated the minimum bid was \$4000.00 clearly this bid is above that. Chair Anderson also stated, the Municipality would have anywhere from \$7300.00 to \$7800.00 worth of repairs to the truck which is not running and does not have a current state inspection.

A motion was made by Ms. Murray to accept the bid from John Bortoli in the amount of \$5,500.00, for the 1985 International Dump truck, plow and salt spreader, Karen Gnagey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion it was duly passed.

The Board heard discussion about waiving the Meyersdale Ambulance water and sewer fee. Mrs. K. Gnagey stated; Louie Martin from Meyersdale Ambulance, approached her about possible waiving the fee for them like we do the Meyersdale Fire Department. She said, she believes the Borough Council gives them a \$1000.00 for a donation. Chair Anderson read the letter from the Meyersdale Ambulance Association. Solicitor Valentine stated, there is a different relationship between the Borough and the Fire Department. The Borough pays for the workers compensation policies along with a few other things for the Fire Department Board, which is a very common relationship. Ambulance is set up differently, because there is not that relationship with them. The Authority would have to be careful about doing away with a fee. Chair Anderson asked if maybe the sign up for a membership through the Ambulance. Solicitor Valentine said, the Authority could probably legally do that, but to just discount or waive the fee altogether probably isn't a good idea. Mrs. K. Gnagey stated she would get in touch with Louie and see what we can do and will report back at the next meeting.

Mrs. K. Gnagey stated, she feels the pressure tests are not being done properly. There have been a few closings in the past couple months that have not had pressure tests done before the closing. Mrs. K. Gnagey stated she is concerned that things are not being done correctly. She also stated that the Authority needs to step up and get this under control. Solicitor Valentine stated that some attorneys actually think this isn't a real thing but, Somerset is starting to have to do this now, so it should help the Authority, because now they will see it is for real. He stated that this is an order from the DEP, not just something that the Meyersdale Municipal Authority came up with. He stated he feels this needs to be discussed more in a workshop or at another meeting on how to handle things.

A motion to take the pressure test packet discussion to the next workshop was made by Mr. Witherite, Witherite; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. K. Gnagey, and duly passed.

Chair Anderson advised the board a leak has been found in a 12inch line near the



Meyersdale Area School. He asked Matt Bittner to give an update. Matt stated they were able to find the leak that was causing the water loss, he feels it is in a spot that may involve concrete, but they would not know until further inspection. Matt and Brad discussed options and decided to contact Berkey Excavating who gave them a quote of \$3480.00. The quote included all equipment that would be used including lights in case the project took them into the night. When Berkey's are able to expose the pipe, Matt stated that the Authority would complete the job from there. Matt will update the board when after he inspects and projects what is needed to fix the issue. The Board discussed what action was needed and customers who would need to be notified of possible water disruption. Chair Anderson did note that this leak is causing 40,000 to 50,000 gallons of water loss per day. Solicitor Valentine added that is well under the bid threshold.

A motion was made by Mrs. K. Gnagey to complete the steps needed to have Berkey Excavating expose the pipe that will allow Matt and team to fix the leak Mr. Witherite, 2nd by Mr. Witherite, it was duly passed.

Chair Anderson discussed with the Board the issue of a HOT TAP on Front Street. He asked Matt to give his opinion on the issue. Matt stated that Mrs. Johnson attended the December's meeting to discuss the issue and asked how it could be fixed. Mrs Johnson told Matt in February the issue had been fixed, she stated it was, Matt stopped to verify and it actually was not fixed. He called her again the day before this meeting to schedule a time to meet with her but has not heard back from her since. Solicitor Valentine did state that she has been sent letters about this as well. Hot tap is a non-metered tap. It was suggested to try and reach out to Mrs. Johnson one more time.

Terry advised the board that a chlorinator at the sewer plant had broke, all available spare parts were used to fix it. Terry stated that he contacted Laurel Management out of Johnstown they have a whole new system for \$3317.00; for just the Chlorinator itself is \$2000.00. He feels we do not need a new system as of yet, he is just putting feelers out to find a place close in case parts were needed down the road. Mrs. K. Gnagey asked if there was something that was similar on the water plant side. Terry said no, because the water plant uses liquid chlorine whereas the sewer plant uses gas chlorine so they are different pumping systems.

A motion was made by Mrs. K. Gnagey to get the new Chlorinator system for \$3317.00, Ms. Murray 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, it was duly passed.

After motion was made a correction to the price was presented

A motion was made by Mrs. K. Gnagey, to amend the first motion cost of \$3317.00 to \$4000.00, for the new chlorinator system Ms. Murray 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion it was duly passed.

Mike Rhoten from Pittsburgh, PA contacted Secretary Bri about Lots at 518, 524, and

528 Main Street in the Borough. He sent an email for the Board to review with questions about the water and sewer taps. There was a discussion about whether or not the taps are still there and what was needed for him to start the development process. Solicitor Valentine stated that the buildings have been gone for a longtime and said he highly doubts there are taps up there. He asked Terry if he knew the answer, Terry stated that he believes that the water taps are there because when they did the Renaissance project, they put all new ones in. As for the sewer, Terry said the lines are still there but may not be functional. The Authority needs to figure out if the tap still exists for the sewer if it in fact is there no purchase is necessary, if it is not there a new tap would need to be purchased. Solicitor Valentine also stated that even though there are no existing buildings at the properties, pressure testing would still be required after completion of project. Mrs. K. Gnagey asked if the taps used would be from the annual taps received for the year, Solicitor Valentine and Brad agreed if the taps are there already then, no, that should not have a bearing on the new tap request. A question was asked if we have heard back from our new tap request. Secretary Bri and Brad stated they did not receive any information about the taps. Mrs. K. Gnagey said she would contact Thursa for an update on the taps. Chair Anderson asked the Board if they had concerns about this project at this time, no voiced concerns

Secretary Bri updated the board about the request that had went out to require customers to put account numbers on their payment, in order to correctly identify what address is being paid. Bri states this is going better this month, but it is hard when you get checks for renters and the names do not match what is in the system. Ms. Murray asked if a note was placed on the bills to address this, Bri stated that she did not place that message on the bills because there was no motion to do so. Chair Anderson suggested review this billing cycle goes then will have Bri update. Solicitor Valentine stated that we need to fix the payment portal which has the potential to not pay correctly if the information is not correctly added. Bri stated that she would contact Muni Link.

Secretary Bri has received several calls about shut offs. The Board discussed the matter. Bri stated that on the document in the office shut off's are noted for the Fourth Tuesday of the month after the payments are due. So, the next payments are due April, 30th; customers that are overdue will receive a payment due notice, if payment is not received the shut-off day would be May 24th. The report was asked to be present at the next meeting

Mrs. Miller would like start a Facebook page that would update the water and sewer customers on a real time basis. Solicitor Valentine stated that this could be a way for customers to pay as well if the right steps are taken. The Board discussed the matter. Matt did state that he like the idea of the page but was concerned that what if someone would drive by and take a picture of an Authority worker leaning on a shovel and post it and make a comment about them not working. It was agreed that this page would be set up not to allow comments, it is informational only

Secretary Bri stated that some of the bills are due before the monthly meeting date, if she



has to wait for the meeting some of the bills are at risk of being paid late. Solicitor Valentine said that would be ok if it is a recurring bill, but, if something doesn't seem right, you should say something. Bri stated that there are companies that do not send out statements; they just do invoices so they want them paid right away. Bri agreed to contact the board if she had any concern about a bill prior to the next monthly meeting.

Ms. Murray made a motion to grant Bri permission to pay bills when due to avoid late fees. Mrs. K. Gnagey, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion it was duly passed. The bill report will be made available at the next monthly meeting.

The Board discussed paying off the Riverview Bank loan. Secretary Bri presented the Board with what the payoff would be prior to the next payment, which is due the middle of March; (before the \$6,964.26 payment, the pay-off would be \$110,646.66). Bri stated she would give the bank time to receive the payment then call for the payoff, Ms. Murry made the motion to pay off the Riverview Bank loan in full; Mrs. K. Gnagey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion it was duly passed.

Chair Anderson stated that the Borough approved to renovate the office space. Mrs. K. Gnagey stated the approval was for items such as new lighting, new flooring, outlets etc, Mrs. K. Gnagey said the borough council had not requested the MMA to pay for anything at this time. Solicitor Valentine stated that since the Authority pays rent, it is like a landlord thing to make those changes.

Water report: The new hires have been changing out meters and learning the day to day requirements, they will also be going for their testing in May. The purchase of the new tire for the dump truck that was voted on at the last meeting was completed, the cost was \$2400.00 dollars. The Authority was undergoing a total plant evaluation that started on March 15th. He said that the company completing the evaluation hinted about the Authority getting a SCADA system, Matt and Brad explained that system to the board. Chair Anderson asked for a rough estimate of cost. Brad stated if he had to guess he'd say \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00. Matt noted the Authority is due for tank cleaning sometime this year. He also stated that the roof on the water plant is going to need replaced in the near future. He was told by the Board to get three quotes, then the board will decide if a bid is needed

Sewer Report: Terry stated that the guys took their flagger course on March 11, 2022. Bri added that all passed and are now officially flaggers. Tyler and Bill went for their first round of shots. Terry said they have completed a few pressure tests. Last month the guys completed a few Dye tests for Brad, the engineer. During the sewer report Solicitor Valentine suggested putting Matt and Terry in the executive session to talk about the Doug Koscianski matter.

Engineer Report: Brad explained the men have started completing the Smoke and Dye

testing. He believes that they were able to get all of the prior files from what Jeff had completed. With that information it appears that the North half of the town was finalized. If possible, Brad would like to complete all Smoke and Dye testing this year.

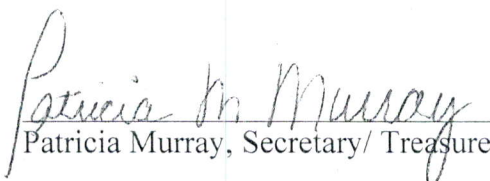
Documentation of any violations will be needed in order to send the violation to the home owner. All violations will need tracked as well as when they are fixed. Brad stated that there is an ordinance for this. Don and Brad discussed, Brad is going to develop a schedule. Smoke and Dye testing are not done at the same time. The dye test is done when smoke doesn't appear or seems like there is not enough smoke. Next, he discussed the Cleaning and Televising of the sewer system. It was decided to put this on the agenda for next month's meeting to discuss possibly starting the bidding process for the Televising. Brad brought to the Boards attention that the MMA is required by law and DEP order to meter overflow activity at the six overflow locations. There was discussion about how the meters should work, some may not be working properly a discussion was held to understand what it would take to have them work properly. This issue is violating the CAP and needs to be taken care of sooner than later. Loggers cost \$4,500 new and someone in Johnstown can repair them for \$1,200. The sensors can not be repaired so the cost of a new one is \$1,600. Mr. Witherite did ask what the turn around on the repair would be and Brad said he honestly did not know. Chair Anderson asked Solicitor Valentine if this would be considered an emergency, to which Solicitor Valentine stated yes, because we need to be in compliance with the CAP and DEP.

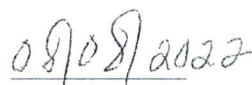
Brad stated that the Gaming grant was submitted March 15, 2022. He also stated that he is working with the guys to submit the sanitary sewer report that is due to PA DEP by the end of March. He also discussed an email that was sent out to him and the Board about the Broadway Sewer Project Grant that was discussed a few years ago since the budget is tight he will research a little more and update at the next meeting. There was a discussion about the sewer line on upper Broadway that somehow got missed in a connection.

A motion to repair the 2 loggers and replace the 2 sensors from the overflow locations at the cost of \$5,600 dollars, by Mrs. K. Gnagey, 2nd by Mr. Witherite, and duly passed

Solicitor Report: First, he asked Bri to add the Broadway Project to the agenda for next month. He also stated that D&M filed their objections. He stated that he needs to get with Brad to fill in a few details and also has to get with Chair Anderson to sign things once he does that. He also stated that, that does not need a motion or anything like that. Solicitor Valentine did state the he is having an issue with David Jones Company has completely fallen off the map. He did everything that he could to find this company, but no one seems to know where they are. We may not have a Defendant. He discussed the matter in detail and stated where we are at with this case.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. was made by Ms. Murray, 2nd by Mrs. K. Gnagey, and duly passed.

  
Patricia Murray, Secretary/ Treasurer

  
Date