

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Meeting via Teleconference
September 21, 2021
6:00 PM

The Meeting was called to order by the Authority President John Schombert.

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

PRESENT

George Mihalyi
Karl Groom
Mike Harris
John Schombert

ABSENT

Robb Cardimen

ALSO, PRESENT

Rich Deems – Superintendent
Drew Null – Authority Engineer
Devanté Miles – Authority Engineer
Nate Boring – Solicitor
Raymond McCutcheon – Manager

Mr. Schombert asked if there were any questions on the Agenda, being none, the meeting continued.

Public Comments

Mr. Schombert said Mr. Blumling has asked for a continuation of the Excessive Use Policy for a leak at 641 5th Avenue.

Mr. Deems said there is no action needed to be taken by the Board since we previously approved this request to include the entire event and he continued to explain.

Mr. Schombert said we have a letter from Grogan's of 840 4th Avenue, what happened there?

Mr. Deems said he has tenants who propped something in the toilet and it continued to run until we read it and made him aware. He fixed it immediately afterwards.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Grogan's at 840 4th Avenue. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert said we have a letter explaining excessive use from Matthew Lippy at 850 7th Avenue and it appears to meet the criteria for our policy.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Matthew Lippy at 850 7th Avenue.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert said we have a verbal request from Paul Schreiber of 878 Pennsylvania Avenue and according to the information provided by Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Deems the meter was reversed and ran backwards.

Mr. Deems said when we read the meter normally it picked up his high usage so the office contacted the owner. A couple of weeks later the owner called in saying he did not find any leaks and that the meter is in error and not reading correctly. We did a check reading and it indicated that it actually flowed backwards during that time period. After we went in and changed the meter, we could see that there were no washers where they belonged on the tail pieces and someone used pipe dope for the install. We would never use pipe dope for an install.

Mr. Schombert said has he been approached?

Mr. Deems said as far as tampering, no. He is stuck on the fact that the meter is incorrect and he doesn't want to pay anything more than his normal bill. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said in the past we had a similar situation with someone on the 1600 block of Ridge Avenue. We warned him that we would not take legal action at that time, but if we ever find this happening again there then we would press charges.

Mr. McCutcheon said I suggest that we have Mr. Boring send a letter of warning to Mr. Schreiber and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said we are not going to approve this request so we do not need a motion from the Board. This owner should be required to pay and I suggest not offering a payment plan for him. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said we received a letter from Joseph Ziss at 600 7th Avenue and his bill more than doubled from normal usage.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Joseph Ziss at 600 7th Avenue. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2021, Authority Meeting. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for September 2021 in the amount of \$67,558.91. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Mihalyi Yes
Mr. Groom Yes
Mr. Harris Yes
Mr. Schombert Yes
Motion Carried.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for September 2021 in the amount of \$49,582.85, which includes the treatment charges for the Riverview Sanitary Authority of \$36,516.16. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Mihalyi Yes
Mr. Groom Yes
Mr. Harris Yes
Mr. Schombert Yes
Motion Carried.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for September 2021 in the amount of \$9,758.77. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Mihalyi Yes
Mr. Groom Yes
Mr. Harris Yes
Mr. Schombert Yes
Motion Carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McCutcheon said water rentals are at 67% which is right in line with the budget and expenditures for water are 64% so that is good. Sewer rentals are 66.5% which are right in line and expenditures are 69% and that does have the \$80,000.00 payment to PennDOT for the 5th Avenue project which is our final payment to that group.

Mr. McCutcheon said Chief Denbow and I met with a gentleman from Allied Communications. The Borough has been looking into putting GPS units on its vehicles. We were very impressed with what it can do and even more impressed with the cost which is only \$16.00 a month per vehicle. We are probably going to install it on all of the police cars and Borough vehicles so if the Authority would like to have them for their five vehicles the charge would be \$80.00 a month.

Mr. Boring said it has been a couple of years since I have looked into this, but the last time that I dealt with this issue I believe the rule was you could put GPS on union vehicles, but if you want to use it for disciplinary reasons it is a subject of mandatory bargaining. If it is going to be used for tracking your

vehicles and for informational purposes it is fine, but if you are wanting or needing to use it for disciplinary issues it might be a subject that has to go through the Union. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said with the Board's approval I suggest we table this until we get an opinion from the Solicitor.

Mr. McCutcheon said the gentleman will have a presentation at the Borough Workshop Meeting on October 6th so Board Members are welcome to attend.

Mr. Boring said I will look into the Public Works side of this.

ANNUAL MS4 TRAINING

Mr. Drew Null highlighted on the key point in the training handout that was passed out.

Mr. Drew Null said Annual Reports are due on September 30th and we did meet with the Authority to go over the draft report. This year you did have a DEP inspection which did come back with no violations, but we did get a response back with some minor things included in their report and he continued to explain. The big item for you in closing out this permit cycle is the PRP Plan. This is the project funded through the CFA where you received \$125,000.00 in funding and you should see that in construction next year.

Mr. McCutcheon said does McCabe Run have to be completed by 2023?

Mr. Null said yes, 2023 is correct and will be your renewal year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Lead Joint Waterline Replacement Project; we did have a kick off meeting with PENNVEST and that discussion was limited to some general scheduling items. Opening bids will be prior to your November meeting, we will have a call on the day of your next meeting and PENNVEST closing once you have the final bid numbers scheduled for January 25th. We are looking at tentative March construction for next year based on how those meetings were set up.

Mr. Null said we did get the field surveys complete and working on drawings and bid documents to review with the Authority and come to your next meeting with authorization to advertise. During the last meeting we discussed having a public outreach strategy and how we want to convey this to members of the public in particular those impacted and needing agreements from those having a lead service and we won't know if there is a lead service until the contractor is on site to confirm it and he continued to explain.

Mr. Schombert said how many properties are affected?

Mr. Null said probably 45 properties in total and anticipate maybe 15 of those are lead service, but we won't know until we're there. In one regard we will need all residents on standby so that when we determine it is a lead service, we'll need to execute an agreement with them. Last month we discussed that PENNVEST will not fund a reconnection to any portion of lead. If there is a lead service and you notify them and they do not wish to execute the agreement then you cannot reconnect them and get funding from PENNVEST. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said the Water and Sewer System Needs Assessment; following the alternatives analysis we are viewing bulk water purchase options so we did have three near term goals outlined, to discuss funding, review of proposed purchase alternative with Borough Council and review of draft agreement with Authority Solicitor and Board and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have gone through the agreement that Moon has proposed to us. There are some questions and revisions, but it is just becoming expensive to operate the water plant for the number of gallons that we are using. We are at the point where we really need to look hard at this agreement and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said the Montour Soccer Complex; there is no update this month and we're still waiting on a schedule on when they'll be working on the water and sewer items.

Mr. Drew Null said CDBG 2022 (Year 48) Grant Cycle; the preapplication was filed in the past month for sanitary sewer lining project in the Montour Lift Station service area. That application includes an opinion or probable cost in the amount of \$141,450.00 and requires a 35% local match in the amount of \$50,450.00. Once the County approves, we'll come back to the Board with a resolution for final application. Water and sewer projects require household surveys so we'll get a list over to Mr. McCutcheon along with a draft letter to be sent out. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said O'Reilly Auto Parts; I do have a response prepared and need to review with the Authority Superintendent.

Mr. Drew Null said Chess Street Roadway Improvements; this went through the Borough and did have a bid opening, but received no bidders so it has been extended to October 5th and that does include some Authority stormwater repair areas and drainage on Chess Street he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Borough Road Program; I did meet with the contractor in the past week and we are waiting on schedule.

Mr. McCutcheon said are we thinking about doing anything on Pine Alley?

Mr. Null said as a result of complaints in the area we did look at the possibility of adding a catch basin and the contractor was to give us a cost, but we don't have anything for this evening.

Mr. Drew Null said Allegheny County GEDTF; this project is open again and the minimum project is \$150,000.00 and the maximum project is \$500,000.00. In the past you filed for replacement wells for this project and he continued to explain.

Mr. Schombert said anything that you can do to focus on the corrective action plan would be good.

Mr. McCutcheon said do we have grants or applications out for the Centre Street Flood Pump?

Mr. Null said currently you have the flood mitigation program with the State and that was filed in April or May and that is something that we can look at as well.

Mr. McCutcheon said is that something that would be eligible?

Mr. Null said I think it would and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Comprehensive Monitoring Plan, we reported last month a call with DEP and we do have an interim CMP drafted that we want to take a look at with Mr. Deems before we get that out. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Emergency Response Plan; with changes at the plant, we'll review with Mr. Deems where the current plan is and what updates we want to make to that and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Long Term Control Plan; at the last meeting we talked about the Act 537 Plan Special Study and that is underway and something that we'll want to talk about at our next committee meeting.

Mr. Drew Null said Wood Street Sanitary Sewer and Waterline; the Borough had a bid opening and this project was awarded to Jet Jack Inc. and we are waiting on executed contracts so we should see a preconstruction meeting soon.

Mr. Drew Null said Pollutant Reduction Plan; permit applications are being finalized, but one thing that we'll have to review is there are easements that are required to do the work in the area so I will send those to the Manager for review.

Mr. Drew Null said the CDBG Year 46 Grant Cycle; we did have a field meeting and a progress meeting with the contractor and there are some outstanding punchlist items and I will follow up with them.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for August 2021 was 10.9M gallons. The daily average demand for the system was 352,000 gallons per day. The number of gallons purchased for Euclid Ave. and Grace St. was 111,000 gallons for the month.

Water System

Mr. Deems said we repaired a leaking 2" galvanized line near 432 5th Avenue.

Mr. Deems said we replaced a lead service line to 1502 State Avenue in conjunction with the owner replacing their side due to a leak.

Mr. Deems said the replacement of the front door on the water plant is complete.

Sanitary Sewer System

Mr. Deems said we finally got the manhole dishes that we ordered and we installed those along Cliff Street and we also installed one on State Avenue at a low spot where water always gathers.

Mr. Deems said we moved pipe bollards on Kable Way near the pump station per the request of the property owner.

Storm System

Mr. Deems said we had a complaint of the inlet near Mill Street on Pine Way for not taking a lot of water when it rains. We tried cleaning some of the debris out with a wet/dry vac, and it does have a trap leaving it, but it's only a 6" pipe so we will monitor that during the next rainfall to see if it improves.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nate Boring said I have nothing new to report other than what is going on with the water service agreement and Union Negotiations and we can talk about these in Executive Session afterwards.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCutcheon said for the USDA we are going to have to get some type of a loan or a line of credit or something. When I go to the bank what should I be asking for?

Mr. Null said we want to finalize where we are as far as the distribution system side of things and we'll have a more definitive number. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Harris seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MEETING ADJOURNED