

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Meeting via Teleconference
September 19, 2023
6:00 PM

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

A Roll Call of Members was then taken.

PRESENT

Robb Cardimen

George Mihalyi

Karl Groom 6:10 Arrival via Teleconference

John Schombert

ALSO, PRESENT

Rich Deems – Superintendent

Drew Null – Authority Engineer

Devanté Miles – Authority Engineer

Vince Tucceri – Solicitor

Raymond McCutcheon – Manager

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

Public Comments

Ms. Lillian Hadden of 812 Jeanne Avenue said while on vacation someone turned on our outdoor spicket causing excessive use. We filed a police report and paid our normal amount of \$357.11 so that our payment would be on time.

Mr. Schombert said this does meet the criteria for our Excessive Use Policy. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Lillian Hadden of 812 Jeanne Avenue. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert said we received a letter from Marie Council of 922 1st Avenue stating that excessive use was caused by a leaking toilet and has since been replaced.

Mr. McCutcheon said it is my understanding that some of the time there are three people live here. The proposal was for a Kim Haskins so I'm not sure how many people are living there.

Mr. Deems said it is odd that it went on for three quarters until they responded to just the last bill and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said can we have someone reach out to them to explore a little further and to see why it went on for three quarters and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said she can get a credit, but before they accept it, they need to be aware that the credit will be minimal and it can only be offered once and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Marie Council of 922 1st Avenue with the condition of them accepting it. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McCutcheon said the next letter is from Perizat Palichat of 904 6th Avenue and I don't think that we do anything with it. They have been given credit before so they are not eligible.

Mr. Deems said what we were able to do for them was put them on a monthly bill so they would be able to find something like this faster and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said we received a letter from Olga Thomas of 862 4th Avenue stating that their excessive use was caused by a leaking toilet. The flushing mechanism has been changed, but it looks like this needs another reading and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Olga Thomas of 862 4th Avenue.

Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023 Authority Meeting. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for September 2023 in the amount of \$46,618.11. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for September 2023 in the amount of \$57,752.33 which includes the RSA amount of \$40,101.05. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve the Stormwater Invoices for September in the amount of \$13,116.23 and then asked Mr. Tucceri if there was an update on the legal action.

Mr. Tucceri said the matter is before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. We, along with 50+ groups have filed amicus briefs supporting the position of the Borough of West Chester. We do not have any ideas of when the Supreme Court is going to take the issue up and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for September 2023 in the amount of \$13,116.23. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Drew Null said last year you filed for an application for the Montour Run Sanitary Sewer Lining project and was not accepted. We are requesting funding again through the GEDTF for the Wellesley and Orchard areas which are identified by the Authority of potentially wind flow sources needing repairs. The request is for funding in the amount of \$265,000.00 and no match requirement.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve Resolution 23-109 to file a Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Program application to request funding of \$265,000.00 for the Montour Run Sanitary Sewer Lining Project. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the transfer of funds to IIG Client Services in the amount of \$15,687.00 for the 2023 Authority Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the funding of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the year 2024 in the amount of \$19,107.00 for the Employees' Pension Plan. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McCutcheon said the Water Rentals are a little under the budget at 64%. The total Revenues are at 60% and Expenditures are 58% so we are good and have not had to use any of the reserve yet.

Mr. McCutcheon said Sewer Financials, Rentals are at 61% which is again under budget. Expenditures and Revenues are both around 58% so that is good too.

Mr. McCutcheon said Stormwater Financials, we have collected 93% of the budgeted stormwater fees. In August we received the \$123,000.00 grant reimbursement from the work on McCabe Run and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said Mr. Mihalyi, Mr. Cardimen, Mr. Deems and I along with the Street Department looked at a new street sweeper. We received a proposal and it will be \$150,000.00 each from the Authority and the Borough. They are giving us \$30,000.00 for our nine-year-old sweeper and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve a joint purchase between the Authority and Borough for a street sweeper in the amount of \$150,000.00. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McCutcheon said I am sure that either Mr. Deems or Mr. Null will report on the complaints that we have received concerning the fast flood, especially around Rose Avenue. There are also a couple of requests for reimbursement for the 800 block of 6th Avenue.

Mr. McCutcheon said the office staff will be short staffed in December and I think we need to get a temporary person in and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to authorize the manager to hire a temporary office employee while the office is short staffed. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have started working on the 2024 budget so I will be getting together with Mr. Deems to work on the numbers.

Mr. McCutcheon said we are definitely sound, especially on the stormwater so we may want to look at some stormwater projects next year and will be discussing that with the budget.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Water System Needs Assessment: we have been calling Cyrus for an update with the corrosion study and are just waiting on status.

Mr. Schombert asked Mr. Null to send a note to John Riley explaining the delay with the update and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Borough 2023 Road Program; we do not have a pay request for a share, but probably will next month. The project is largely complete pending some punchlist items. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; we talked about GETDF earlier. The CDBG Year 50; Pre applications were due earlier this month so we did file an application for West End. The waterline replacement project is a resubmission, it did qualify last year based on the income surveys and the County does require those income surveys to be renewed on a yearly basis and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Developments; we did hear from O'Reilly and abandoning a preexisting water service and they may be looking at doing it next week.

Mr. Drew Null said Water System Items, no update, we'll reach out to the Contractor for the Main Street Project in hopes to get that closed out.

Mr. Drew Null said Tank Mixing Improvements; we have a Committee Meeting scheduled later this week so this can be discussed then. We received a range of costs and we want to talk about permitting and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Water Allocation Renewal; the approval was here last week.

Mr. Drew Null said Storm Sewer System Items; Long Term Control Plan is getting advertised and we will see Borough Council at the October meeting for approval of Resolution.

Mr. Drew Null said MS4 Compliance; the sampling memo came out and the Annual Report is due at the end of the month. I do have the training scheduled for this evening and he continued to explain.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for August 2023 was 9.7M gallons. We did purchase 321,000 gallons from School Street and that was so we could collect a sample. The average system daily demand was 321,000 gallons per day.

Water System

Mr. Rich Deems said we replaced about six feet of leaking 6" main near 856th Avenue. It was in the same spot as the leak last month so we took out the previous 3-foot piece and put in a 6-foot piece to encompass the whole area and he continued to explain.

Mr. Rich Deems said the PFAS check sample came back below the MCL level at the School Street interconnect. This was required by the DEP because the first quarter UCMR5 sample came back with an elevated PFOS level of 18.8 PPT and he continued to explain.

Sanitary Sewage System

Mr. Rich Deems said we were notified of a backup along the 800 block of 6th Avenue after the recent heavy rains. We followed that up the same day with Tri-State Maintenance who jetted the line out and they did report that they saw a ball flush out of the line that was lodged close to the manhole on Main Street. After the ball came out there was a lot of flow that came after it so we are confident that was the problem and he continued to explain.

Mr. Schombert said we have a couple of written requests for damages caused by the backup.

Mr. McCutcheon directed everyone to the letter and said Maria DiCicco itemized what she lost and the total is \$213.00. Mr. McCutcheon said we received a long letter with a list of about 20 items. I don't know what the policy of the Board is on previous cases. This is an odd case, and it did back up through their sewer, it wasn't from the flood water coming into the house and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said I have always thought that when we have paid, when something was our fault that we should have some responsibility. Mr. McCutcheon and I were talking about setting a dollar amount for most case. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Tucceri inaudible.

Storm System

Mr. Rich Deems said we piped the rain leaders from the river side of the public works building over the hill before paving was done. This was done in conjunction with the Street Department workers and he continued to explain.

Mr. Rich Deems said on September 7th we had two inches of rain in about 40 minutes that resulted in flooding of roadways along Route 51. It flooded by Citgo, Lennon Smith, and the other end of town by Orchard Street and the bottom of Ridge Avenue. The Orchard Street area flooding was caused by debris washing down the culvert into the first manhole, plugged it and it came up through the manhole and through someone's yard. I do have a call in to have that yard debris cleaned up.

Mr. Rich Deems said we had complaints of storm water issues downstream of Rose Avenue. Unfortunately, these aren't new complaints and it comes down to that the majority of the area has water coming from private property. Mr. Null and I have looked at the area and discussed it in a Committee Meeting.

Mr. Cardimen said when is the next Committee Meeting?

Mr. Schombert said Thursday at 9:30.

Mr. Deems said some of the residents are concerned that we are not maintaining the catch basins at the bottom of Rose Avenue, but they are not really catch basins. One was meant just to infiltrate water back into the combined sewer at that time. The Borough installed a small catch basin in 2002 and it only has a four-inch pipe so it will not carry very much water. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Vince Tucceri said Karen Romasco has decided to withdraw her petition to vacate Chestnut and that portion of the unnamed ally due to complications that it can create.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said we provided you previously with a resolution for the abandoned taps. Is the Authority prepared to take that action?

Mr. McCutcheon said we will discuss this at our Committee Meeting and keep you posted.

Mr. Deems said my only comment is on the last line is says "Per Authority Rules and Regulations" of which we don't have, so I don't know if that poses an issue.

Mr. Tucceri said the only suggestion, as you made, was current tapping connection charge. We can make that modification, but let's make sure that we are all on the same page.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said with regards to PFAS, we have submitted the required samples and it appears to be moving along and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MEETING ADJOURNED