

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Meeting via Teleconference
October 17, 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
Charles Spencer
John Schombert

ABSENT

Karl Groom

ALSO, PRESENT

Rich Deems – Superintendent
Drew Null – Authority Engineer
Devanté Miles – Authority Engineer
Vince Tucceri – Solicitor
Raymond McCutcheon – Manager

Mr. Schombert said I would like to welcome Mr. Spencer back to the Board.

Mr. Spencer said thank you, I'm glad to be back.

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

Public Comments

Mr. Schombert said we have a letter from Abby Stefanski from 1029 2nd Avenue stating she had excessive use due to a leaking toilet that has been repaired.

Mr. McCutcheon said they had the repair done a month after we did the reading so we should approve credit for the entire event.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Abby Stefanski of 1029 2nd Avenue.

Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert said we received a letter for Mary Kay Richard of 948 1st Avenue. She had excessive use due to a leaking hot water heater and sink. Mr. Deems said we will do another reading in a week to confirm that the usage has come down.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Mary Kay Richard of 948 1st Avenue to encompass the entire event. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2023, Authority Meeting. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for October 2023 in the amount of \$111,001.67. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for October 2023 in the amount of \$60,926.73. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for October 2023 in the amount of \$10,130.19. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 7 in the amount of \$28,336.00 to Jet Jack for Main Street/Ridge Avenue Lead Line Replacement Project and asked Mr. Null to explain. Mr. Null directed everyone to Attachment A of his report and said we have been holding retainage and they have asked for us to reduce what we are holding so after this payment we'll still be holding \$17,000.00 and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion Approve Partial Payment No. 7 in the amount of \$28,336.00 to Jet Jack for Main Street/Ridge Avenue Lead Line Replacement Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to authorize the Engineers to prepare the Pennvest Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$33,060.13. Mr. Null said this is for the Engineer's time and the Contractors. It has been over a few months and dealing with a leak and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to authorize the Engineers to prepare the Pennvest Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$33,060.13. Mr. Cardimen seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve Resolution 23-110 to file a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$250,000.00 for Mill Street Waterline Replacement. Mr. Null said the Borough got grant funding to redo this road, but this is at the earliest a 2024 project and maybe the following year. Mr. McCutcheon said this is probably a 2025 project at the earliest. Mr. Null said this is to request money to replace the lines on Mill Street.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-110 to file a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$250,000.00 for Mill Street Waterline Replacement. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve Resolution 23-111 to file a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$175,000.00 for Water Tank Mixing Improvements. Mr. Null said this is for mixers at each site, insulation, and electrical installed. Mr. Null said I did not mention this on the previous resolution, but both of these are no match requests and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-111 to file a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority for \$175,000.00 for Water Tank Mixing Improvements. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve reimbursement to Coraopolis Borough in the amount of \$97,190.50 for the 2023 Borough Road Program.

Mr. McCutcheon said this includes Wood Street, Hiland Avenue and catch basins and work at the plant.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve reimbursement to Coraopolis Borough in the amount of \$97,190.50 for the 2023 Borough Road Program. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McCutcheon said the Water Rentals are at 1.1M and that is a little low compared to budget at 71.5%. Expenditures are 64% so we still have a small favorable balance year to date.

Mr. McCutcheon said Sewer Fees \$736,000.00 which is 69% of the budget. Expenditures are also 64% so we have a small favorable balance here too.

Mr. McCutcheon said Stormwater Fees, we have collected \$384,000.00 and that is 94% of the budget. Expenditures are at 80%, but that is because we have already done \$307,000.00 in capital expenditure at McCabe Run.

Mr. McCutcheon said the reserve for the stormwater is very good. The Borough did approve buying the street sweeper next year so that will be under \$150,000.00 that we will use from the stormwater reserve to participate.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have been working with an agency to start looking for a temporary person to help while Darlene is out and he continued to explain.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Water System Needs Assessment: we received the pipe deposit solubility testing study from Cyrus, but we're still waiting on the corrosion one. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; we'll pull together the two LSA grants for the resolutions this evening. The CD Year 50 Cycle final applications are due to the COG by early November. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Developments; the Contractor for the O'Reilly development came out and abandoned an existing six-inch service to that site and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Sanitary Sewer System Items; the Act 537 Study Plan has been advertised for the 30-day comment period and we'll want to get the resolutions out to the governing bodies in hopes that they'll look at adopting those in November and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said do you have any information on Neely Heights?

Mr. Null said it looks like Council may move forward with road reconstruction, and we are working on a cost for the waterline and look at the sewer lining.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Borough is going to try to get some reimbursement from Columbia Gas and a discussion pursued.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for September 2023 was 8M gallons. We purchased 1.6M gallons from Moon. The average system daily demand was 324,000 gallons per day. There is no change to Euclid and Grace, we are still waiting on that meter replacement.

Water System

Mr. Rich Deems said we collected the UCMR5 samples from the Coraopolis Water Plant and the School Street interconnect at the end of September. There will be one more sampling event for the School Street interconnect because that's surface water. Unfortunately, I do not have any results other than the first quarter.

Mr. Rich Deems said the old 6-inch fire-line connection was removed by Avelli for the O'Riley site.

Mr. Rich Deems said we excavated and shut off the corporation to 812/814 4th Avenue because of a leak on the water service. The property is to be demolished so we did not replace the service.

Mr. Rich Deems said we began fall flushing and are about a quarter of the way through.

Mr. Rich Deems said we replaced the throttling valve inside of the School Street pump station (which is part of our interconnect) because there was a leak in the piping after the valve.

Mr. Rich Deems said the alarm dialer alerted us to a leak in the cemetery tank area last week. We found that it wasn't a leak as much as it was the PRV on Wood Street that malfunctioned, so the cemetery tank was draining down through that PRV and filling up the Fleming and School Street tanks. We took care of that and it is back to normal now.

Mr. Rich Deems said we pressure washed the exterior of the wash-water tank on top of the water plant and inspected the coating and no significant problems were noted.

Sanitary Sewage System

Mr. Rich Deems said we utilized the COG vactor truck for a day and part of the interceptor was cleaned from 4th Avenue/Arch upstream to both regulators. When they were doing inspections, the utility workers reported there was some debris backing up especially in Pine Alley.

Mr. Rich Deems said we completed all the quarterly CSO regulator inspections this week.

Mr. Rich Deems said on the 900 Block of 5th Avenue we have had a lot of complaints of smelling raw sewage in the area. He directed everyone to a diagram and said there is an inlet around Dollar General you can see an illicit discharge coming in through a four-inch pipe. We don't really know where that line goes, but the line is higher than the sanitary sewer so it is possible it can be the sanitary line on State Avenue leaking and going sub surface. When the State Avenue sewer was televised there was a defect and though it is not clear that it is our problem it is my recommendation to line the sewer on State Avenue, so that we can eliminate that it is our problem and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said should we consider this an emergency repair, so we can get someone there to take care of this?

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve emergency repair of sewer line at State Avenue not to exceed \$20,000.00. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Vince Tucceri said regarding the Stormwater Fee challenges, there are at least a dozen amicus briefs like ours favoring the position that we have taken stating that it is a fee and not a tax and he continued to explain.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said everything is moving along as planned with PFAS. I am assuming testing and sampling is in process.

Mr. Deems said the testing has been completed and the results were all fairly low.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said prior to the meeting I had mentioned an inquiry I received from Jeff Zell who owns the building on the corner of 4th and Mulberry. Mr. Zell indicated that he had received an invoice for stormwater including penalty and interest. I asked him to send a letter to the Manager of the Authority and that will go through the proper channels to see if anything was available to him and he continued to explain.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said perhaps it is time for us to put together a written set of rules for water and sewer taps in the event they are abandoned and at the same time put together a personnel manual for the employees. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCutcheon said Shallenberger was talking about fixing the four residents who were promised stuff six to seven years ago. We do need to know where the water and sewer is, but they are supposed to do a PA One call to mark it.

Mr. Deems said we can mark the water, we can't mark the sewer, but they are probably in the same ditch.

Mr. McCutcheon said looking at the budget we are in pretty good financial condition with our reserve, so we may be able to do Neely Heights without a rate increase and he continued to explain.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MEETING ADJOURNED