

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Meeting via Teleconference
November 21, 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
Charles Spencer
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

Mr. John Capp of 855 6th Avenue was in attendance and had also sent a letter regarding water damage to basements of homes on the 800 Block of 6th Avenue on September 7, 2023 due to a clog in the sewer. Mr. Schombert said this is a situation that we haven't had to address before so we want to have a Committee Meeting and come up with a policy that will apply to everyone when something like this happens. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued. Mr. Schombert assured Mr. Capp that the Board will gather information and get him on the agenda again for next month.

Mr. Schombert said we received a letter from Edward and Ester Donnelly of 107 Francis Street stating there was a leak in their basement toilet.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy (covering the entire event) for Edward and Ester Donnelly of 107 Francis Street due to a leaking toilet. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023, Authority Meeting. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Water Department Invoices for November include the payment to Gaitens Tucceri for the Pennvest work and that is why it is higher this month.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for November 2023 in the amount of \$77,777.74. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for November 2023 in the amount of \$53,746.94 which includes the Riverview Sanitary Authority charges of \$39,383.65. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for November 2023 in the amount of \$6,361.23. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-112 to apply for a CDBG Grant for \$169,650.00 for the West End Avenue Waterline Replacement Concurring Resolution. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-113 to approve establishing a policy related to the reconnection of abandoned Taps and relevant Fees. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve Change Order No. 2 (Final) for the PENNVEST 2021 Lead Joint Waterline Replacement Project to decrease the contract amount by \$182,270.00. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 8 (Final) to Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$17,795.75 for the PENNVEST 2021 Lead Joint Waterline Replacement Project. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 (Final) for the Main Street Sanitary Sewer Repairs Project to decrease the contract amount by \$56,808.00. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 2 (Final) to Stefanik's Next Generation Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$23,238.60 for the Main Street Sanitary Sewer Repairs Project. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the request of reimbursement from PENNVEST Payment No. 9 in the amount of \$17,795.75. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve Atlantic Underwater Serviced \$19,700.00 divers cleaning three potable water tanks.

Mr. Null directed everyone to Attachment E of his report and said I received two quotes and note that Atlantic came back with the lesser quote and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve Atlantic Underwater Serviced \$19,700.00 divers cleaning three potable water tanks. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McCutcheon said the Water Rentals are at 81% and that is where we would expect to be regarding the budget. The total Expenditures are 77.5% and right now we have a \$35,000.00 shortfall year to date.

Mr. McCutcheon said the Sewer Rentals are at 78% of the budget which also slightly below budget. Expenditures are only at 71.5%, so we are favorable by \$82,000.00 year to date.

Mr. McCutcheon said Stormwater Fees are at \$388,000.00 and that is 94.5% of the budget. Expenditures are at \$567,000.00 and that is 92% of the budget. The reason we only have a \$38,000.00 shortfall is because we received that \$125,000.00 grant for McCabe Run. Our reserve for Stormwater Fees is in good shape, we've done catch basins throughout town and he continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said I gave everyone a copy of the budgets, there will not be a rate increase for water, so it will still be \$14.00 per thousand gallons. We will use about \$240,000.00 of the reserve for Neely Heights. This is a Borough Project because they have a relationship with Columbia Gas and we are expecting a significant contribution from them as well. We are going from Main Street to Wood Street and also up Woodlawn. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said there will not be a rate increase for sewer and it has been 6-7 years since we've had an increase. RSA is basically staying the same.

As I said earlier, we have a significant reserve for stormwater and one big item is we are going to share with the Borough the purchase of the streetsweeper and the total cost of that is around \$300,000.00.

Mr. McCutcheon said we did have a gentleman from Drach Lane asking about some issues there and Mr. Null, Mr. Deems and I met with him, but this isn't Borough property. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Water System Needs Assessment: Corrosion Determination. Everyone on the Board should have received a copy of the study. Cyrus Rice went through the three phases; the analysis of the water which the recommendation for this was to use a corrosion inhibitor, much like what you are using now. The second part of the study was to see what is the best corrosion inhibitor. The third phase is to potentially remove the existing coating from the pipe and adding a new coating. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; the CFA met today, but did not act on applications so ours from last December, the Small Water & Sewer is still pending 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 the resolutions were sent out to the governing bodies of Moon, Robinson. They did go to the Planning Commissions and we have seen a couple back from County Planning. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said State Avenue Emergency Repair, this was from following complaints of odor. JetJack did televise and they were able to see some loose joints and they were able to complete the lining and to seal everything up. There is not an invoice for this evening, but the proposal they gave us is \$29,575.00 and he continued to explain.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for October 2023 was 8.1M gallons. We purchased 2.1M gallons from MTMA for School Street. The average system daily demand was 329,000 gallons per day.

Water System

Mr. Rich Deems said in regards to the UCMR5 the second quarter sample results have been posted on their site and were all low. The first quarter sample for School Street came back high and they requested for us to do a check sample of which we did. Unfortunately, we realized that the lab that we sent it to sent it to a sub lab that was not PA certified so we have to go through the whole process again. We plan on doing this the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Rich Deems said fall flushing is complete.

Mr. Rich Deems said we began pressure washing the lower part of the water tank on School Street. There are three panels there and the lower one was definitely the worst because it's so close to the ground.

Mr. Rich Deems said we cleaned up inside of the Plant area. There was a lot of greensand being stored in the filter room that we removed since we will not need it anymore and grouted the lower hallway to make it level.

Mr. Rich Deems said HCS did calibration checks for all the meters. I had them swap out the high service flow chart with the high service well meter flow chart because the high service well meter is out of service, but that circle chart was working.

Mr. Rich Deems said the PaDEP conducted a routine inspection last week and no violations were noted during inspection. Lennon Smith helped out quite a bit preparing for this.

Mr. Rich Deems said we installed a separate curb stop for 1216 4th Avenue, they were currently connected to 1220 4th Avenue and it was all a common service. We installed a separate one and teed off of 1218 4th so they can have their own service.

Sanitary Sewage System

Mr. Rich Deems said JetJack lined State Avenue and so far, no odors have been deducted.

Mr. Rich Deems said HCS calibrated the Brook Street and Robinson sewer meters.

Mr. Rich Deems said Robinson Pipe Cleaning conducted some CCTV Inspections on Neely, Cornell St., and State Ave. from Cornell to Robert. This was done so we could note where all the sewers are.

Mr. Rich Deems said the engine coolant heater for the Montour Run generator stopped working this week. A new one was ordered and received this evening so hopefully we'll have that installed by next week.

Mr. Rich Deems said a sink hole has appeared on Broadway near Rite Aid. The sink hole is over top of the storm sewer and I believe it is the storm sewer that is leaking and washing the soil to the end of the sanitary, but it will need to be televised to confirm that. In 2013 we had an issue here and had it slated to line, but there was a jump in size so we had to push the liner up to State Avenue instead and it never got lined even though we saw that along the body of the pipe there were a lot of cracks. This is something that we are going to have to look into.

Mr. McCutcheon said I have a comment on State Avenue, by the soccer field. We're in negotiations with the Riverhounds, instead of repairing the affected properties of the four residents the idea of possibly offering a cash settlement has been brought up and he continued to explain.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Vince Tucceri said we stand ready to meet with the Board whenever they like on those rules and personnel and anything else, just let us know when you are ready to meet.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said there was a recent resolution submitted by the PFAS Group, did it get taken care of?

Mr. McCutcheon said yes, I signed off on that.

Mr. Tucceri said so we just ratified the Resolution and continued to read the Resolution of the CWSA in support of plaintiff's motion for final approval of a class action settlement.

Mr. Vince Tucceri said the current status of the stormwater management litigation is there are still a number of briefs being filed and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to ratify the declaration of the Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority in support of plaintiff's motion for final approval of a class action settlement and to Authorize the Authority Manager to execute all documents necessary. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCutcheon said next year is the contract year, so we can start out early in the year and if we don't get something by summer, we can ask GTN to get involved.

Mr. McCutcheon said regarding the pension, we changed to a defined contribution instead of a benefit and I think we need to take a look at that.

Mr. McCutcheon said the gentleman who handled pensions for decades is retiring, so we will need to do an RFP to find another group to handle this and a discussion pursued.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MEETING ADJOURNED