

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Regular Meeting via Teleconference
February 20, 2024
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
Bailey Gilchrest – 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 we have an excessive use letter from the Presbyterian Church at 1201 5th Avenue and asked Mr. Deems to elaborate.

Mr. Rich Deems said there is an MXU on this building, which records every hour for thirty days. We have been monitoring that and unfortunately there is still an active problem and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen said we should table this until next month and a discussion pursue.

Mr. Schombert said we have a letter from Robert Womacsko (the owner of 848 5th Avenue) for his tenant Kaylyn Shearer. This happened over two separate billing quarters and he is asking if it can include both.

Mr. Deems said they fixed it at the end of October, so that month ran into the second quarter and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Robert Womacsko of 848 5th Avenue encompassing the entire event. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2023 Authority Meeting. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for February 2024 in the amount of \$86,257.42 and asked for discussion.

Mr. McCutcheon said the \$10,000.00 permit from the DEP and also, we pay the entire liability insurance that is spread across water, sewer and stormwater so that is why it's higher than usual.

Mr. Schombert said what is the term of the permit with the DEP, is it five years?

Mr. McCutcheon said we pay this every year.

Mr. Mihalyi made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for February 2024 in the amount of \$86,257.42. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for February 2024 in the amount of \$68,949.39. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for February 2024 in the amount of \$11,734.48. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve payment No. 1 (Final) to Jet Jack in the amount of \$29,302.00 for the emergency sewer line repair in the 900 Block of State Avenue and asked for an explanation.

Mr. Drew Null said this is the emergency lining that was done due to odor smells in that area and it took 2-3 months for them to send the invoice.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve payment No. 1 (Final) to Jet Jack in the amount of \$29,302.00 for the emergency sewer line repair in the 900 Block of State Avenue. Mr. Mihalyi seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. McCutcheon said I mentioned the \$10,000.00 permit fee on water and paying the liability. Both water and sewer rentals are in line for what is expected for one month.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Water System Needs Assessment: we are working with the Committee and starting the Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; the CFA Flood Mitigation Round is open and accepting applications until May 31st. This is one that we filed for flood pumps and generation replacement. We spoke with the Committee on what to resubmit and Centre Street is what we filed for, particularly the generator. It is a 15% match and we'll work with the Superintendent and Manager and come back with a resolution.

Mr. Drew Null said Water System Items; the PENNVEST Project and directed everyone to the attachment referring to the engineering amendment to rectify our budget. The reason being is the general project services went over budget and the increase is \$10,000.00 and he continued to explain.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve PENNVEST Project Amendment No. 1 for an increase of \$10,447.16. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Null said this is all PENNVEST reimbursable.

Mr. Drew Null said the Tank Inspections; the company started to mobilize here and had some equipment issues so they haven't made it to the tanks yet so we're waiting on an update once their equipment has been repaired.

Mr. Deems said they are projecting being back by the end of this week.

Mr. Drew Null said Neely Heights; Borough Council did authorize advertising, so right now it is looking like an April bid open.

Mr. McCutcheon said do you have an estimate of what it will cost the Authority?

Mr. Null said we have talked a \$400,000.00 - \$500,000.00 budget. This is sharing in a portion of the road restoration with Columbia Gas. There is sewer lining and lateral repairs similar to what we encountered on Main Street. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Lead Service Inventory; this is a target for this year, the DEP requires a plan by October. You are required to inventory based on the information that you have on hand and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Sanitary Sewer System Items; we are still waiting on Moon to address the comments. We did get a revised form of the Special Study back over to them so we are waiting on feedback.

Mr. Drew Null said we have the Chapter 94 Report just about finalized and ready to submit.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for January 2024 was 8.8M gallons. We purchased 1.4M gallons from MTMA for School Street. The average system daily demand was 330,000 gallons per day. The Grace Street meter still isn't working so it is being estimated by Moon.

Water System

Mr. Rich Deems said during the frigid temperatures last month we didn't operate the Plant one weekend and unfortunately the discharge piping for Well No. 2 froze after two days of not using it. We had to buy water to supplement the decrease in plant production for a couple of days.

Mr. Rich Deems said leak detection efforts for the past month found the following leaks:

1027 3rd Ave., there was a leak on the private side and further investigation revealed that it was a leaking toilet.

503 West End Ave., burst water pipes inside of a vacant house. We turned the curb-stop off and notified the owner.

Main leak at 1st Ave. and Kendall, this was fixed right away.

602 5th Ave., water service was leaking after the curb-stop. It was a leaking lead line so they replaced that in its entirety.

Mr. Rich Deems said we replaced metering chambers for three 2" omni meters. The omni meters have a ten-year warranty and the registers have batteries in them. The trend we are seeing is right after the ten year mark the batteries are dying.

Sanitary Sewage System

Mr. Rich Deems said 1224 4th Avenue; last month the owner said he wanted us to do the work, but since then he found a plumber to do the work so I'm waiting for the owner and the Borough to finalize bonding before I file the PennDOT permit.

Mr. Rich Deems said Authority workers went through the CSO regulators and performed routine maintenance. The regular gate linkage for Mulberry Street broke when they were exercising that so I ordered new replacement parts last week and we'll get that installed and fixed once the parts arrive. They also reported they did not find grit or gravel in the pine Alley regulator gate manhole.

Mr. Rich Deems said we conducted a time of sale dye test for 1884 Cliff Street that failed. There was one downspout in front of the house that was connected and the rest were okay.

Mr. Spencer said the water line on Watt Street, below the tracks, is that an old line or is that feeding from Birch Way?

Mr. Deems said it is feeding down the paper street for 1st Avenue, but it's only about 50 feet on Watt Street, most of that has been cut off.

Mr. Spencer said the hydrant there is useless when we try to pump on it.

Mr. Deems said because it is a 4" line all the way from there to Kendall Street and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Spencer said the meter pits on Locust and Centre.

Mr. Deems said we ordered parts for that last year and due to manpower, we just haven't got to it yet and a discussion pursued.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Bailey Gilchrist said I received the list for the Rules and Regulations and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Bailey Gilchrist said "inaudible".

Mr. McCutcheon said we did hear from a PFAS attorney about a signature.

Ms. Gilchrist inaudible.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Deems said we have two items from last month that were tabled; the Bradly Phelps property at 629 5th Avenue. Before we changed the meter there was probably a month of no use on the old meter and when we changed the meter the valve was off before and after the meter so no water would show on the old meter at that time or the new meter that's there. I tested the old meter standard, high rate, mid-rate, and low rate. The high and the mid-rate were accurate, the low rate was under registering. I am confident the water went through the meter and I don't know what the issue was.

Mr. Schombert asked if this has been reported back to Mr. Phelps.

Mr. Deems said it has not and the water will probably be kept off here until his tenants come back. I am not sure what the Board wants to do regarding his charges and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Schombert said I think he should pay the charges and if anything changes once the water is turned back on, we can reimburse him.

Mr. Deems said the other item was 1050 Rose Avenue, I thought that maybe he would come to this meeting. He'll be receiving another bill within the next couple of weeks and his usage is back to normal, he only used 11,000 gallons this quarter. He insists that he doesn't have a leak and I can't explain what happened. Mr. Deems said I don't know if it's the desire to approve his request for the excessive use.

Mr. Schombert said it is his risk if we do it now.

Mr. Cardimen made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Zach Schneider of 1050 Rose Avenue. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCutcheon said we have a bank presentation coming up, but I'm not sure it is going to be what we are looking for. I think it is more for credit card payments. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

Mr. Cardimen said we reported last month that one of the Authority vehicles is in deplorable condition. Mr. McCutcheon and I spoke with Woltz and Wind Ford about a replacement F-150 and our COSTAR price is \$43,470.00. If we want one it is subject to Ford's allocation process and a discussion pursued. Mr. Cardimen made a motion to authorize the order of a Ford F-150 from Woltz and Wind Ford at a cost of \$43,470.00 with upgraded dual alloy wheels at a minimal cost. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED