

Coraopolis Water & Sewer Authority  
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania  
Regular Meeting  
May 21, 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**

Karl Groom  
Charles Spencer  
John Schombert

**ABSENT**

Robb Cardimen  
George Mihalyi

**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. Schombert said we have an email from Teresa Green of 1512 Edgewood Avenue who had excessive usage due to a leaking toilet.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Teresa Green of 1512 Edgewood Avenue.

Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Ms. Laurie Plummer of 1030 Woodlawn Avenue said (inaudible)

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Excessive Use Policy for Laurie Plummer of 1030 Woodlawn Drive.

Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Anthony Lucci of 904 Ridge Avenue said I was here last time from the water back up from the main sewer and had seven inches of water all over. You sent Rick DiCicco up there to take the carpeting and everything out of there, so there wouldn't be any mold. He took the carpet out and took some baseboards off and for some reason he didn't replace them. I am wondering if you can send Rick back up to put the baseboard back on and clean the floor for me.

Mr. Schombert said I don't know if we can, our obligation was to eliminate a health hazard.

Mr. Lucci said, what about my baseboard?

Mr. Vince Tucceri said, the Authority assisted with your problem since it was a potential health issue, but beyond that they don't have any further legal obligation and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Larry Walker of 724 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue said, I would like to thank Rich Deems and his group for coming three different times during the last month and a half to clean up the storm drain sewers on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We acknowledge that the flooding on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue has an origination from Thorn Run, which is in Moon Township. We, the residents of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue going through these floods want to know what is being done by you to help us alleviate this problem and he continued to explain.

Mr. Deems said the furthest downstream problem that we are aware of is an old, abandoned railroad bridge that hasn't been used for many years and American Bridge has agreed to remove that. The next one upstream is the railroad culvert. I spoke with them and they said they will send a crew out and they are in contact with Moon Township.

Mr. McCutcheon said Moon Township sent a letter to the property owner at Thorn and Route 51 which is low.

Mr. Tucceri said this Board has directed staff to get everyone involved together to see if a collaborative solution can be reached. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Steve Rayback of 718 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue said this is my stepdaughter's house and I'm tired of going down there all of the time because of flooding; Saturday, her car got flooded. Now we are down a furnace, a water heater and her car over this stuff. What am I supposed to do, move? He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Ms. Lori Lucier from 818 Thorn Street said my pastor lives on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and I understand you guys have to collaborate, but they need to know what the plan of attack is on your grounds to alleviate that, so it doesn't continue to happen while you're collaborating to fix it.

Mr. Schombert said this type of problem needs to be solved completely through the watershed; it is a stormwater runoff problem. He continued to explain and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024 Authority Meeting. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Water Department Invoices for May 2024 in the amount of \$82,255.60. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve the Sewer Department invoices for May 2024 in the amount of \$70,376.94. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the Stormwater invoices for May 2024 in the amount of \$13,793.78.

Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-114 requesting a Flood Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Centre Street Flood Pump Improvements Project and asked Mr. Null to elaborate.

Mr. Drew Null said this is the CFA Flood Mitigation Program that you have filed before to try and get a replacement for a generator and has not been successful. We are moving on the generator independently and the maximum grant request is \$500,000.00 with a 15% match and he continued to explain.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-114 requesting a Flood Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Centre Street Flood Pump Improvements Project. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Schombert asked for a motion to approve COSTARS Quote No. 24RM-31346880-VO in the amount of \$105,820.00 for purpose of replacement generator for the Centre Street Flood Pump site.

Mr. Null said this is to replace the existing generator and use the tank that was replaced a couple of years ago. The current lead time after it has been ordered is 28-30 weeks and he continued to explain.

Mr. Groom made a motion to approve COSTARS Quote No. 24RM-31346880-VO in the amount of \$105,820.00 for purpose of replacement generator for the Centre Street Flood Pump site. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. McCutcheon said Water Rentals are at 34%, which is where we expect to be after four months. The Water Expenditures are at 27% which is low because we haven't spent any capital yet. Neely Heights will be the big capital budget with \$300,000.00 budgeted for that.

Mr. McCutcheon said Sewer Rentals are 34.5% on the sewer rentals. Expenditures are at 29%, so we are favorable by about \$17,000.00, so far this year.

Mr. McCutcheon said Stormwater Financials; stormwater fees have come in at 69% which is \$275,000.00 and we are getting about \$3,000.00 per month interest on that. Mr. McCutcheon said expenditures are only at 12%, we have the street sweeper that we are going to purchase at the end of the year which we will share with the Borough so that will be \$150,000.00 of capital spending.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have received some employee applications and I will go over them with Mr. Deems and we will call some in and possibly hire someone and he continued to explain.

Mr. McCutcheon said we have been getting a complaint from a resident on Devonshire who hasn't paid their stormwater fee for 5-6 years, so they are getting the penalty and interest charges, which is a charge from Jordan.

Mr. McCutcheon said we should consider replacing the catch basins in Pine Alley and on Rose Avenue, to catch what is coming down the road, not the private drive. With all the rain that we've had, doing something is better than doing nothing and a discussion pursued.

Mr. McCutcheon said the RSA rate will likely increase in July and a discussion pursued.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Drew Null directed everyone to the Monthly Engineering Report and said Water System Needs Assessment: an update for the Corrosion Study, Mr. Larry Lennon, Jr. spoke with the DEP along with a discussion with Moon Township. The DEP is looking for a feasibility study from Coraopolis and how the chemical from Moon impacts your system and a discussion pursued.

Mr. Drew Null said Grant Applications; we will finalize the Flood Mitigation Grant that you approved the resolution for this evening and that is due at the end of the month.

Mr. Drew Null said Water System Items; we are working to get this closed out, the DEP has requested additional information and we are working through that now. We did get the CCTV report for the tank inspections and that invoice was approved last month pending the receipt of those.

Mr. Drew Null said Neely Heights; this is out to bid and the opening is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Drew Null said Lead Service Inventory; the questionnaire was circulated and we are working through some minor comments.

Mr. Drew Null said Well Cleaning; we are getting that permit application finalized for submission with the DEP.

Mr. Drew Null said Sanitary Sewer System Items; the Long-Term Control Plan; we spoke with Moon and the Moon Planning and the Township stands to act in favor of the resolution. Mr. Null said you received sewage facilities grant from the CFA and requested some extensions, but the CFA has replied that we cannot extend anymore and he continued to explain.

Mr. Drew Null said Storm Sewer System Items; we will get MS4 Training together for next month.

Mr. Null said we spoke about a complaint last month on the PRP work that was done. We reached out to the contractor and are waiting to get a schedule after their field review.

Mr. Null directed everyone to the draft letter that was written for the stormwater appeal for 1821 Devonshire Road and he continued to explain.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mr. Rich Deems stated the total water produced for April 2024 was 8.9M gallons. The average system daily demand was 301,000 gallons per day. There was no change to the status of Euclid and Grace.

## **Water System**

Mr. Rich Deems said we replaced a combination air vacuum valve on the Brine feed system at the Water Plant.

Mr. Rich Deems said the annual consumer confidence report is completed and available on our website. The direct link is posted on customer bills for all three sections.

## **Sanitary Sewage System**

Mr. Rich Deems said the annual maintenance for the Montour Run comminutor was completed by Kappe and Associates.

## **Storm System**

Mr. Deems said the flood pump at Centre Street; after troubleshooting it was determined that the motor was the culprit of it not working. We pulled the motor on the eastern side of the auger and took it to United Industrial and they gave us two prices, new or repaired. It's \$2,000.00 less to repair so we went with that option and he continued to explain.

Mr. Deems said we completed maintenance activities for the bridge and culverts near 1424 Vance Avenue which is by Brooke Street. Several sticks and logs needed removed under the bridge deck, including a Christmas tree that plugged it up. Originally, that particular bridge was built with two pipes and they poured concrete between the pipes and sometime after they built it one of the pipes were removed on the left side. Part of the center concrete support came loose, washed out and was pushed over to where the pipe wasn't so we pulled out two pieces that blocked the flow and he continued to explain. Mr. Deems said we also had to remove several logs against the culvert downstream of that which is the paper Vance Avenue portion. On the opposite side of the house is the main channel for McCabe Run and there was a large portion of carpeting that washed down there creating a debris dam and we removed that.

Mr. Deems said before winter we repaired the majority of the stormwater ditch on Neely Heights, but wasn't able to finish due to lack of manpower. Last week with the help of the Street Department we paved the rest of that ditch until the road project starts. We also patched a few other spots there that were causing gravel to be washed out.

Mr. Deems said I passed out the EPA fact sheet for lead and copper.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Vince Tucceri said before we go to Executive Session to discuss PFAS litigation, I want to report to you concerning those cases that have been settled and aren't confidential at this moment with regards to DuPont and 3M.

Within a week to ten days there will be a claim form that we'll have an opportunity to review. The deadline for us to file a claim is June 17<sup>th</sup> with DuPont and July 5<sup>th</sup> with 3M. There are approximately 12,000 claims that will

go in before a Claims Administrator who will decide the allocation of assets to the 12,000 and he continued to explain.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. McCutcheon said we have the PennDOT reimbursement, can Mr. Schombert and I both sign that?

Mr. Null said yes.

Mr. McCutcheon said we will sign that tonight.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McCutcheon said I want to thank Mr. Deems and Mr. Tollis; they both came out early Saturday to work on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue with the backhoes, so we are lucky to have them.

Mr. Deems said even the clean up was a joint effort with us and the Borough.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Groom made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Groom made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Tucceri said the motion that we ask you to entertain is we have a proposed partial settlement with the PFAS litigation and we would like the Board to approve proceeding with that settlement and serve as a class representative in that litigation in the event we are appointed by the court. And that you authorize the authorize the Manager and/or Secretary to execute any and all documents necessary.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to authorize the PFAS Settlement and authorize a Class Representative. Mr. Groom seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Groom made a motion to authorize the Authority Manager or the Authority Secretary to sign settlement documents when finalized. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

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

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**