

HULMEVILLE MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY
Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Municipal Water Authority was held on the above date at the Borough Hall, 321 Main Street.

Authority Member's Present

Kurt Ludwig, President
Patricia Taggart
Bert Wolfe
Joe Nocito
Mike Wasson

Staff in Attendance

Sheri Wheeler, Water Meter Reader
Dorothy Omietanski, Borough Secretary

Authority Members Absent: none

Staff Absent: Bob DeBias, Solicitor, Pat Slater, Water and Sewer Clerk, Bill Wheeler, Borough Manager and Mike Whittaker, Licensed Water Operator

Authority Members Late to Arrive: none

Guests in Attendance: none

Call to Order: Mr. Ludwig called the meeting to order; all those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: none

Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Wolfe seconded by Ms. Taggart to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022; Motion passed with all in favor 5-0-0.

Water and Sewer Clerk:

- Water & Sewer Bills Update – Kurt met with Pat last week and reviewed all the delinquent accounts and all accounts on payment plans. Currently there are 5 accounts that have paid their balance due in full, 5 accounts that are current with regards to their payment plan and 13 accounts that are not current. Kurt is going to draft a letter that will go out to the 13 accounts explaining that they need to get back onto their payment plans or their water will be shut off. Kurt will explain that the policies were on hold during COVID but now everything is going to revert back to pre- COVID policies. There are now 9 accounts who have fallen behind on payments during COVID and need to either pay in full or go onto a payment plan. Joe mentioned that BERA is a county program to help assist those who qualify for aid with matters like this.

Water Meter Reader:

- Rio Meter Replacement Program – Rio does participate in the Costar program and Mr. DeBias explained to Kurt that their quote should cover all materials and installation. Since they are a part of Costars the Authority does not need to bid the project. Sheri will call her contact and confirm that the price they originally provided is still the same and is the Costar price. The original price included replacing 185 meters, Neptune 360 software and training.
- Meter Reading – Sheri did meet with Bill and reviewed the whole process she completes to read the meters. The issue Sheri is most concerned with is the readings on the larger accounts. Currently those accounts are not exact readings but rounded numbers. Sheri is recommending the Authority complete an audit of the readings and compare the number to what BCWSA is charging the Authority. Pat should be able to print a report showing what is being billed total for the Borough and Kurt can pull what is being charged by BCWSA.
- Shore Club – The shore club currently has a well and, in the past, they needed to provide the Authority a test of their water quality yearly. Sheri does not believe that has been done in a while. Kurt will follow up on that issue.

Water Operator Report: No report

Bills: Mr. Ludwig presented the following bill to be paid: Carroll Engineering \$947.00.

Motion made by Ms. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Wolfe to pay the bill; motion passed with all in favor 5-0-0.

Correspondence: none

New Business:

- Work Session Budget Meeting – The Authority needs to start working on the 2022-23 budget. Everyone agreed to meet on 5/9/22 at 7pm. The last rate increase was a water increase. Also there has been ongoing discussion to change the billing to reflect usage verses the flat rate residents are currently being charged. All these issues can be discussed at the May work session.
- BCWSA to Sell – Kurt found out at the last council meeting that Aqua is trying to purchase BCWSA. A person distributed information regarding the matter and encouraged council to sign a resolution to stop the sale. Joe pointed out that Aqua just acquired Lake Galena. Everyone agreed this would not be good for the Authority or the residents. Rates would increase significantly. Joe explained that Aqua owns other water authorities and they increase the residents' rates to pay for the purchase of more.

Old Business:

- Sewer Lateral Vent Caps – Kurt explained to the Authority members that everyone on the Authority will need to assist him in going door to door and inspecting residents vent caps.

He will put together a spreadsheet for everyone to complete as they are conducting inspections. They will need to track type of lateral, size of lateral, where it is located, what it is made of and what condition it is in. Joe asked if the laterals could be sealed instead of capped. Joe will ask someone he knows at the county level if the laterals can be sealed.

- Lining Work – Carroll Engineering forwarded Kurt a quote from Mr. Rehab for the lining work on Trenton and the cost has increased 2.5 times. Their estimate for the work is \$30,495 compared to the original cost of \$13,000. BCWSA cancelled their lining contracts and have not renewed one for this year. Joe asked if Carroll Engineering contacted US Pipelining in Langhorne. Mr. Rehab is a COSTARS company. Carroll Engineering explained that the Authority could wait and see what BCWSA does, could reduce the work to the one area that is bad or get it all done at once which was the original plan. Patricia believes it would be best cost wise to do it all at once. The decision on how to proceed will be tabled until the April meeting. Patricia did ask Kurt to ask Carroll Engineering how long did they believe the Authority could put off the work before it becomes an urgent matter.
- Development of Black Property – Kurt told the Authority that there will need to be some discussions soon regarding the development of the Black property. The Authority has 85 EDU's set aside for the development.
- Email Transition – Dorothy explained that the email transition will take place sometime in April. Bill has asked everyone to go through their emails and delete all junk mail, back up their emails if they want. He will notify everyone before the transition takes place and will ask everyone to not use the system for a short period of time while he transfers the emails.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm; motion made by Mr. Wasson, seconded by Mr. Wolfe; carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorothy Omietanski
Hulmeville Borough Secretary