

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2019 - 6:00 p. m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the January 2, 2019, Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building at 6:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

PRESENT: Mr. Frank (Buddy) Halderman
Mr. Joe Falcone
Mr. Mike Schmidt
Mr. Doug Johnson
Mr. Joe Beigle (via teleconference)
Mr. Brian Walker

EXCUSED: Mr. Greg Brown

STAFF: Mr. Ralph Stewart
Mr. Bob Cook
Mr. Matt Auman

ENGINEERS: Mr. Eric Lundy
Mr. Bob Decker
Mr. Chuck Thompson

MINUTES:

**Mr. Schmidt moved to approve the December 11, 2018 Authority meeting minutes;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

ORAL: None.

COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN:

Memo from N. Perkins re: Big Spring Cover Design Review

Notification from SBWJA re: Rate Increase and In-Home Inspections

Mr. Stewart offered that the notice was a postcard mailing that talked about the Borough increasing fees relative to the wastewater sewer plant project.

Keystone Tap – Pa. Rural Water

Mr. Stewart stated that this magazine highlighted the Borough's water system as the featured water system. This will also be placed in the Council packet.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Falcone stated that with the meeting date being so soon, none was provided.

Mr. Stewart stated that in the budget process the Authority did increase the water system fee to .10 per 1,000 bring the fee to \$5.70 per thousand and the wastewater system increase was \$1.50 per quarter. Council incorporated this into their fee schedule approval with the budget. This was all taken care of at their December meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Water (at the table) January 2019

Cover Project

Electrical change order request was outstanding. This was reviewed, and the recommendation is payment of \$5,079.52 out of the \$11,000 requested. The information was provided back to MB&R Contracting in early December. No one has gotten back to the Borough as of this date. If the Authority wished to close this matter out, an option would be to move to approve the change order and sign off on the change order. The mediation agreement wanted this part done in a change order fashion so that is why it was presented and reviewed. The contractor would only be paid if they accept the change order in the reduced amount.

All documentation has been provided and is attached to the change order, for legal purposes. Mr. Beigle suggested approving it and let it go to arbitration if it they do not like the approved amount.

Mr. Beigle moved to approve the payment in the amount of \$5,079.52 as a revised change order on the remaining electrical work for the Cover Project;
Mr. Falcone seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

DCED Grant Programs

The DCED grant opportunities will be reviewed and researched. The Authority will be made aware of the opportunities for this year.

SEWER

Notice from EVOPA

The second page of the letter states that Evoqua has not been paid and there is almost \$1.7 million owed which brings concern. Unless McCrossin pays or comes to an agreement for partial payment, the schedule start up for the North unit will be cancelled which will hurt the plant project progress. The side will not be able to be up and running. Hopefully, they are paid, and this goes away but this notice was essentially “hot off the presses.” The letter went out on December 29.

Additionally, it was discovered that McCrossin has not paid on another project, outside of the WWTP. They have not responded to Evoqua relative to updates today. There is a pay app outstanding for \$600,000 roughly which they have not gotten back to the Authority with yet. This being said, this may be a stumbling block for the project.

The good news is that progress was made in the schedule and things have progressed in getting the tanks in sooner than later with all the weather events. They were still about a month behind schedule as of last month. They still have not given an updated, realistic schedule. This is an issue as well.

Regarding work change directive No. 3 which was approved last month, no resolution was concluded regarding that cost. There is no change order at the table for approval. Everything will be monitored.

Work change directive No. 4 has a few items on it that will keep the contractor moving. Estimates are given on this directive. McCrossin Pay application No. 9 for \$614,312.38 was provided without signature. Lepley has pay application No. 7 in which is executed for \$92,496.19.

Mr. Stewart stated that perhaps a conditional approval can be made on the pay app No. 9 for McCrossin pending a signed copy. Once that is done, the change directive can be discussed.

Mr. Falcone moved to pay the signed application for \$92,496.19 (Pay App 7 for Lepley);

**Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Mr. Johnson moved to conditionally approve McCrossin Pay App No. 9, (\$614,312.38) pending approval by the engineers and signature by McCrossin.

**Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

The retainage amount was briefly discussed.

Work change directive No. 4 costs were discussed. The engineers were in agreement with what was on the directive No. 4. A change order to correspond with this should be presented for approval at the next Authority meeting.

- Basic venting and fans were added to provide for draw for the tanks.
- Concrete pads were added to the sheer mills.
- This is pipe extension outside the mix tank in the event that the jet piping in the tank shuts down, water can prevent any water surcharging into the air line. This was discussed in a conference call with Evoqua recently. This is something that should be included in the project. There is an email out regarding this. An alternative solution was sought but it does not appear that there was one.

The changes are shown and McCrossin's number seem to be reasonable for this work.

The CFM's were discussed briefly relative to adequacy. The charges for small tools and safety were discussed. They are billing out for this. The bond is also there which is usually included.

Mr. Beigle moved to approve the Work Change Directive No. 4 for \$25,789.03; consisting of three items.

**Mr. Falcone seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

The costs were discussed in that some of the things were pushed back on, such as the fans themselves. They were able to get them down in cost. It seems that every time a change order is challenged, it gets larger in price. Mr. Halderman opined that the labor rates were still high.

Mr. Stewart will be kept posted of the progress made with the unpaid Evoqua statement. The statement was from the beginning of the project and is not typical.

Sewer Report

Bulk Water Sales – December – 2,900 gallons

December 10, CMT inspected the splitter box and a copy of the report was provided at the table;

December 12 DEP received a complaint about bio solids being spread on frozen ground. DEP met at the farm and they conducted site inspections and they determined that they were not spreading on frozen ground.

December 14, the four cover sets were sold in the amount of \$6,714.00.

Water Report

December 4 repaired a four-inch sewer lateral at West Curtin Street;

December 5 repaired a water sewer line at 730 E. High Street that the gas company hit when installing new service;

December 10 met with PSU students for samples at big spring; a new flow meter was tested as well;

December 11-14, leak detection;

December 17 leak was repaired on a six-inch main at 826 E. High;

December 18 winterized Talleyrand Park.;

December 19 replaced about 20 feet of water main that runs along Blanchard. It is patched up for now but will be transferred to their own separate taps off the main in the spring. A leak was also detected at Burnham Farms. A broken tap saddle was discovered. The contractor fixed it with parts supplied by the Authority. The next day, the new tap was done.

December 27-28, leak detection on Allegheny Street between Lamb. There are a few leaks in there on the 12 inches;

December 31 internet was lost at the big spring and there were low water issues. Martz was contacted about a backup plan. A back up modem will be priced up.

On another note, the gas company is coming across Lamb Street and up through Curtin Street and the permitting is being done at this juncture, per Mr. Stewart. This summer, the new lines will most likely be installed. The new policy is to install under the sidewalk and no longer in the roadway. This will be monitored, and any tree replacement and other cost will be paid for by the gas company. Mr. Stewart has not seen a schedule and as soon as he gets it, he will circulate it. A meeting will be set up next week to go over the projects at West 5th, E. Beaver and W. Curtin, per Mr. Auman.

Brief discussion was held on Council's involvement with making Columbia Gas pay for the repaving of roads, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Stewart stated that going into the new year, there is a lot going on in Water. Grant opportunities and projects are being considered. Some water lines are usually replaced on some of the local streets. They will be working on a plan as soon as the weather breaks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Application Site Compliance Inspection report re: J. Schaeffer Farm

Consider increasing water rates

Mr. Stewart discussed the increase in bulk water rates. This rate is charged at the WWTP to whomever picks up water for swimming pools, etc. Someone on Council inquired about when the fee was last updated. It has been some time. It has been \$6 since 2011. That was in the height of the gas well activity. Since then customer rates have been increased for customers \$2.35/1000 gallons. In discussion, Mr. Stewart proposed raising the bulk water rate to \$8.35. There is also a \$5.00 fee for hose repair, which he proposed leaving the same. There would be a 30-day effective notice.

**Mr. Falcone moved to approve the bulk water increase to \$8.35;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Sewage Sludge Generator Compliance Inspection Report

Computer Issues

Mr. Cook stated that he is still having computer issues and data from December 14 to August is still unavailable. He spoke with IT and nothing has happened. He has four reports that are due, and they need to be done. Mr. Stewart will work on this.

Mr. Stewart explained that the transfer from the old cloud service to the new IT service was sporadic. Only some of the information was transferred and they are dragging their feet. Mr. Stewart will begin more aggressive action to get this done.

ADJOURNMENT:

**Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Legal