

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parkersburg Utility Board

September 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the call of its Chairman Tom Joyce, the Parkersburg Utility Board met in the Parkersburg Utility Board Administration Building, at 125 19th Street on the 1st day of September, 2020. Vice Chairman Herrick called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic this meeting was held by telephone conference and in-person.

Roll Call

Present:

Gregory Herrick, Vice Chairman
Paul Hoblitzell, Board Member
Robert Wright, Board Member
Mike Evans, Board Member
Jeff Reed, Counsel
Eric Bennett, Manager
Christopher Pauley, Assistant Comptroller

Absent:

Tom Joyce, Chairman
Erin Hall, Comptroller

Others in Attendance:

Evan Bevins, Parkersburg News & Sentinel
Craig Richards, Burgess & Niple

Customer Comment

Bennett stated that he had been contacted by a customer prior to the last scheduled meeting and as he understood she intended on attending this meeting. Bennett stated since she is not here, he would advise the Board of her issue.

Bennett stated that she did not feel it was right she had to pay sewer charges when filling her pool, as this water would never return to the sewer. Bennett stated that she had contacted the billing office prior to filling her pool to let them know and she did not understand why she was not told then. Bennett stated the service representative made a note on the account related to the call, as this eliminates the need verify high consumption at the time the meter is read.

Bennett stated that he informed the customer PUB has never given sewer adjustments for filling pools and that the Board provides customers the option of installing a water only account that can be utilized to fill their pools.

Bennett stated some utilities do provide for an annual sewer adjustment for filling pools and he asked Board members if they would like him to look into this matter further. Bennett stated that we probably have 6 calls a year about pool filling sewer adjustments. Board members did not indicate a need to change the current practice.

Consideration of Minutes

Vice Chairman Herrick requested the Board consider the minutes of the August 4, 2020 regular Board meeting for acceptance into the record.

Motion and Vote

Robert Wright moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes of the August 4th meeting as presented to the Board. Paul Hoblitzell seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board members present.

Update on Water System Improvement Project

Bennett stated that funding for the project has been approved by WV IJDC. Bennet further stated that the application requested \$14,690,000 from WV IJDC loan funds, but the funding committee revised funding for \$7,690,000 for 3% @ 20 years from WV IJDC and \$7,000,000 for 2.25% & .25% admin @ 20 years from DWTRF (WV BPH). Bennett stated the reason WV IJDC funds were requested was due to the multiple stipulations and bureaucratic requirements that are required for DWTRF funds. Bennett stated there has already been multiple calls and meeting to insure we are capable of meeting the administrative requirements.

Bennett stated plans are currently 50% to 60% complete. BPH permit application is scheduled for January, approval to bid assumed for early June and bid opening in July, with loan closing August or September. Bennett stated that was the current schedule which could shift slightly up or back.

Bennett reminded Board members the project includes the replacement of approximately 60,000 LF of water main, installation of 200,000 gallon elevated water storage tank and booster station to improve pressure and flows in a section of Southside that includes Blizzard Drive and 15th Avenue, rehabilitation of the filter wash water settling basin at the WTP, system wide tank improvements including the addition of mixing and additional minor improvements raised in the previous tank inspection, demolition of the old South Reservoir (that has been out of service for 40 years), East St. Valve Station flow improvements.

Hoblitzell questioned where the new tank was proposed to be built. Bennett responded the proposed location is behind 14th Avenue off of Blizzard Drive, this property is owned by the BOE and is probably the highest location in that area. Bennett stated that initial conversations with Mike Fling have indicated that this should not be a problem.

Herrick questioned if we had any easements or rights of way to procure. Bennett stated there were but for a project of this size they should be pretty minimal, as most of the line replacement is currently proposed to be constructed in existing street rights of ways.

Discussion Concerning AO 4566 Compliance Schedule

Bennett stated the current deadline for elimination of all SSO's is October 31, 2020. Bennett stated this deadline would not be met and that was known when the date was put in the schedule. Bennett stated a 6 month extension has been requested and as he understands that has been forwarded to WV DEP legal department for approval. Bennett stated the extension was requested due to the magnitude of the improvements proposed in the Strand report. Bennett stated it currently proposes \$150 million in improvements over a 40 year term so that it remains affordable to Parkersburg's rate payers.

Bennett further stated he was not prepared to commit to a compliance schedule until some issues have been resolved or explored. Bennett stated the proposed deep interceptors to replace two existing pump stations and increase capacity required the completion of a feasibility study to insure the project could be completed. The probable construction cost from the report to the study was drastically higher. Bennett stated that recent calls and meetings with Strand personnel has ironed out the increase in cost and the proposed cost is now back in line with the original report. Bennett stated the cost increases were associated with long bores that were not originally assumed, so the routing has been revised to eliminate those additional costs.

Bennett stated that a proposal for a peer review of Strand's original report was requested from Burgess & Niple due to the cost and time associated with the completion of the recommendations proposed in the report. Bennett stated that proposal has been provided, but we are not requesting action on that proposal until one other option has been investigated.

Bennett stated that option is to be re-designated as a CSO community. Bennett stated this was brought up as a possibility by DEP personnel and was also stated they had recently taken such action with South Charleston. Bennett stated in recent conversations with Scott Stearns from Strand he was informed that some other states will not change your classification even when all separation projects have been completed, once a CSO always a CSO. Bennett stated this is the most logical approach because to actually eliminate all connections to storm water is not very likely.

Bennett stated we are currently attempting to get some guidance from DEP on what they need to actually make this change. Bennett further stated that after raising this possibility they have not been very forthcoming with guidance on what would be necessary.

Bennett then stated if we are fortunate enough to be re-designated as a CSO the required projects and their costs will likely change.

Hoblitzell stated even with the lack of DEP guidance he believes we should still make a formal request for re-designation. Bennett stated he would draft a correspondence requesting re-designation. Hoblitzell stated if a formal request is made they will need to address the request one way or the other.

Evans questioned what CSO meant. Bennett responded a CSO stands for Combined Sewer Overflow and SSO stands for Sanitary Sewer Overflow. Bennett further stated that SSO's are not mentioned in the Clean Water Act and therefore they are considered illegal, whereas CSO's are legal but are limited to a minimal number of events per year.

Bennett stated that to his knowledge the downtown system was built with the design intent to carry both storm and sanitary flows. Bennett also stated in the 80's the then Sanitary Board completed the last of the separation projects so when NPDES permits were issued in the late 80's or early 90's Parkersburg was designated as an SSO.

Richards stated there are more pros than cons to being designated as a CSO community. Richards stated that for one CSO communities have regulations in place where SSO communities do not. Richards stated the second would be SSO abatement report states that we would control flows up to a 5 year storm event, whereas CSO communities are required to control flow for a much smaller rainfall event as they are allowed to overflow 4 to 6 times per year, plus they would likely allow more time to meet compliance. Bennett stated with CSO's you also have the ability to install remote site treatment, where this is currently not an approved practice for SSO's.

Consideration of Invoices in Excess of \$750

The following invoices totaling \$419,459.06 were considered for approval:

A&A Safety	12- stainless steel operating nut- water maint.	2,520.00
Atlas Towing	38.14 tons #57- water maint.	820.02
Atlas Towing	9.6 tons #57, 18.16 tons 1/2 crusher run and 28.44 pit run- sewer maint.	1,005.29
Atlas Towing	19.27 tons #57, 18.92 tons 1/2 crusher run and 9.44 pit run- sewer maint.	943.77
Atlas Towing	27.42 tons #57, 20.15 tons 1/2 crusher run and 31.15 pit run- sewer maint.	1,469.87
Atlas Towing	60.04 pit run- water maint.	900.60
Bortek Industries	Foot control- 12-008- sewer maint.	889.43
Brenntag Mid-South Inc.	4459.57 gal of sodium hypochlorite - WTP	3,395.39
Brenntag Mid-South Inc.	3627.22 gal of sodium hypochlorite - WWTP	3,082.65
Burgess & Niple	Professional services thru June 30, 2020-Water System Improvements- Design	39,020.68
Burgess & Niple	Professional services thru June 30, 2020-Water System Improvements- Advertise	3,218.00
C.I. Thornburg	3- 2" meter with strainer, 1 1/2" meter with strainer- meter shop	5,059.42
C.I. Thornburg	2- 2" meter with strainer- meter shop	2,645.78
C.I. Thornburg	40- wall mount touchpad- meter shop	1,000.00
Camden Material	16.06 tons blacktop - sewer maint.	1,107.72
City of Parkersburg	Workers Compensation- July 2020	9,660.27
Continental Utility Solutions	Credit card fees- July- billing	8,378.87
Corpro Companies	Cathodic testing for reservoirs- North, Pettyville, Lee's Hill, Rosemar, and Martown	3,450.00
Curry Warehouse	Work related to leak in abandon main- Wincore on Rt. 47- water maint	12,207.10
Dearborn National Insurance	Employee life insurance- August 2020	844.24
Dominion Energy	Waste Water Treatment Plant - July 2020	1,004.60
Enviro-Care Company	Shaft for grit washer- WWTP	1,665.71
Ferguson Waterworks	11- 3/4" curb stop, 2- head assembly, 2- head, 2- 3/4" couplings, 2- dye, 6- ring, 6- nut- water maint.	1,370.78
Ferguson Waterworks	8- 5/8" tandemsetter coppersetter- water maint	2,184.56
Ferguson Waterworks	10" brass saddle, 180' of 3/4" copper tube, and 10- 3/4" corp stop- water maint.	1,219.68
Ferguson Waterworks	40- 3/4" coupling- water maint.	788.80
Frontier	Phone service - August 2020	974.64
Hach Company	Chlorine, 4 pk- ammonia, 5- indicator solution, 5- buffer solution, and 3- filter- WWTP	791.75
Hach Company	New compressor for influent sampler- WWTP	1,799.91
Johnstone Supply	4- electronic control and 2- relay- WTP	984.50
Kappe Associates	Building 15 grit pump replacement- WWTP	17,340.00
Kent Welding, Inc.	Hot water tank repair- WTP	1,268.48
Lawson Products	Stock for shop- facilities maint	1,353.32
Lubeck PSD	Parkersburg revenue collected by Lubeck PSD 7.5% fee - July 2020	1,524.83
Mahone Tire	2- new tires- 71-502- WTP	750.00
Mahone Tire Service	4 new tires- 12-105- sewer maint	1,546.00
Martin Marietta	56.29 tons #57, 19.76 tons 1 1/2" limestone and 5.26 tons oversize gravel- water maint.	2,182.41
Martin Marietta	47.88 tons #57- water maint.	1,316.71
Matheny Motor Truck Company	Panel, channel, and door- 12-017- sewer maint	1,126.58
Matheny Motor Truck Company	Insulator and pipe sub assembly- 72-012- water maint.	871.97
MonPower	Neal Run Pump Station - July 2020	784.45
MonPower	Agnes St. Pump Station - August 2020	1,042.83
MonPower	Sayre Ave. Pump Station - August 2020	1,121.82
MonPower	6th St. Pump Station - August 2020	5,087.12
MonPower	1st. Ave. Pump Station - August 2020	3,231.72
MonPower	Neal Run Pump Station - August 2020	850.66
Pace Analytical	3rd quarter water testing- WTP	904.85
Pace Analytical	Pretreatment compliance sampling- City of Vienna	1,063.36
Pace Analytical	Pretreatment compliance sampling- Northwestern Landfill	1,063.36
Parkersburg Utility Board	Water bill - WWTP - July 2020	1,309.42
Parkersburg Utility Board	Sewer bill - WTP - July 2020	35,295.37
Perma-Liner Industries	3- lateral resin part B, 300' of 4" lateral inversion liner, and 600' of 6" lateral calibration heat tube- sewer maint	6,913.20
Perma-Liner Industries	600' of 4" lateral calibration heat tube- sewer maint	1,950.00
Pipelines, Inc.	21- 5/8" coppersetter- MIP- water maint.	3,705.87
Pipelines, Inc.	26-20" meter pit- water maint	1,585.74
Pipelines, Inc.	6- 6" elbow, 3- 6" tee, 2- 4" adapter, 4- 6" adapter, 4- 4" mega lug, 3- 8" reducer, and 4- 2" brass saddle- water	1,521.51
Pollard Water	30- 3/4" plug lock, 150- barrel lock, and 50- water valve lock- meter shop	2,432.50
POSM Software	Camera truck annual software maintenance - sewer maint.	2,750.00
Reagle and Padden	Quarterly insurance- admin	56,916.00
Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund	Contribution for retired employee health insurance - August 2020	12,129.72
SmartBill	June postage and service fee- billing	7,748.33
SmartBill	July postage and service fee- billing	7,749.00
Smith Concrete	5.5 yds. of 9 bag 2% Hi-Early concrete - sewer maint.	797.50
Smith Concrete	6 yds. of 9 bag concrete - water maint.	834.00
Smith Concrete	5.75 yds. of 9 bag 2% Hi-Early concrete - sewer maint.	833.75
Smith Concrete	7.5 yds. of 9 bag 2% Hi-Early concrete - water maint.	1,087.50
Southern Ionics	4293.15 gal sodium bisulfite- WWTP	5,538.17
State Electric	4 point digital input- WTP	1,643.88
State Equipment	Fuel pump, ring, 2- filters- 72-104- water maint.	2,830.12
Strand Associates, Inc.	Professional services thru July 31, 2020 - Misc. & Computer Services	909.15
Strand Associates, Inc.	Professional services thru July 31, 2020 - SSO Abatement Report	4,661.20
Stuart Oil Co.	329 gallons diesel - all depts.	633.82
Stuart Oil Co.	1073 gallons unleaded- all depts.	2,054.26
Stuart Oil Co.	600 gallons diesel - all depts.	1,140.00
Stuart Oil Co.	750 gallons unleaded- all depts.	1,444.50
Stuart Oil Co.	450 gallons diesel - all depts.	870.30
Stuart Oil Co.	644 gallons unleaded- all depts.	1,255.16
US Postmaster	Postage for postage machine- admin & billing	2,500.00
Walker Machinery	Mini excavator rental- water maint	3,255.00
WVPEIA	Employee Health Insurance - August 2020	60,325.92
WVPERS	Pension expense - August 2020	26,003.67
	TOTAL APPROVED	419,459.06
	Total amount of checks paid from sewer operating fund July 30- August 27, 2020	468,834.31
		Check # 83948-84076

Motion and Vote

Robert Wright moved the list of invoices over \$750, dated September 1, 2020 in the amount of \$419,459.06 be approved for payment as submitted to the Board. Paul Hoblitzell seconded the motion and it was approved with a unanimous vote of the Board members present.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting Date

Chris Pauley stated the next regular meeting would be September 15, 2020.

Board members agreed to meet in regular session, at the Parkersburg Utility Board Administration Building in the conference room, at 9:00 a.m. on September 15, 2020.

Adjournment

Paul Hoblitzell moved the meeting be adjourned. Robert Wright seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board members present. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Bennett, General Manager