

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF MANSFIELD

April 17, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Mansfield was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, Mansfield, Pennsylvania with the following people present:

Vaughn Hoyt, Chairman
Chad Rugar, Vice-Chairman
Barbara Carleton, Treasurer
Gerald Farrer, Secretary

Casandra Cowles, Administrative Assistant/Secretary-Treasurer
Christopher McGann, Borough Manager
Terra Koernig, Solicitor
Riley Kleinfelter, MU Intern

Absent: Kevin Green, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Visitors: Cheryl Clarke, Wellsboro Gazette
Jimmie Joe Carl, Engineer
Hank Hossler, CoStream
Melissa Underwood, Chamber of Commerce
Residents: Mary Farrer, Rob Fitzgerald, Dr. Kathryn Koury, Kathy Barrett, Dan Styborski, Susan Koury, Susan Coole, Joann Butters, Gary Butters, Dr. Roger Stager, Richard Correll
Employees: Steven Sargent, Amanda Adams

Hoyt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Hoyt called for recognition of visitors:

Resident Dan Styborski informed the board that he was attending regarding the fluoride issue and when that is discussed he has some questions.

Rugar motioned to leave all of the officers the same for 2024, Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.

Farrer motioned to leave the depository, meeting day & time, and solicitor the same for 2024.

Rugar asked for the meeting day and time to be tabled until next month. Farrer amended his motion to leave the depository and solicitor the same for 2024. Rugar seconded the amended motion and it was approved.

Rugar motioned to have next month's meeting on the same day and time, and table the discussion to designate the day and time of the meeting until next month. Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on March 20, 2024, treasurer's report, bills paid report, and administrative report were reviewed. Carleton made a motion to approve the minutes, treasurer's report, bills paid report and administrative report. Farrer seconded the motion, and the reports were approved.

Administrative Report:

Month End:

Month end statements and reports were completed for March.

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Monthly Reports:

I completed and submitted the monthly DEP Water Reports for March. The meter readers were loaded on April 12th, for the operators to start reading on 15th. The billing was completed and the bills were mailed on March 27th.

Misc.:

There were 43 termination notices mailed.
The annual DEP Chapter 110 report was submitted on 3/19/2024.
The annual consumption report was completed and submitted to the auditor's 3/19/2024.

We received three notes in with the water bill payments thanking us for working to remove fluoride from the system. (Peggy Mattison, Connie Brant & Jeremy Brooks)
I also received a phone call from Rose Mase saying that she wanted to thank the board for working towards removing the fluoride. She is so happy to hear this.

Borough Managers Report:

Action Items

Unfinished: South Main Street retainer agreement – As previously discussed, PennDOT is planning a street project on Business Route 15 (South Main Street). The project will require the relocation of some water lines. Larson Design Group is currently assisting with the water/sewer relocations on the in-town project. For that reason, I would ask for approval of this agreement to handle the South Main Street project. The retainer is 75 percent reimbursable from PennDOT and the actual work will likely be reimbursable as well.

Unfinished: CoStream proposal – I have asked Hank Hossler from CoStream to attend the meeting to discuss this proposal. CoStream is the company that provides SCADA services for the treatment plant, the old plant and the tanks. (CoStream separated from Martz Technologies at the beginning of this year.) Currently, the Authority has CoStream's basic service package. I have asked the company to discuss their enhanced service package, including pricing.

Balance forgiveness – Michael and Tondelaya Ayewoh, owners of 10 Meadow Street, received a high water/sewer bill due to a water leak inside the house. The details are laid out in the enclosed letter. The requested forgiveness amounts to \$1,272.

St. James pay application #2 – The second pay application for the St. James Street project amounts to \$62,760.36. We can expect to see similar monthly pay applications throughout the project. I have been working closely with the contractor, engineer and PennVEST to ensure that the pay applications are received in time for MMA Board meetings and submitted in a timely manner.

Generator maintenance proposal – Brodrick Hughes Energy installed the Townview generator last year. As part of the conversations, I asked if they would be willing to do the routine maintenance on the units. They are able to do that work, excepting two larger generators at the wastewater treatment plant. To date, we have been using Cleveland Brothers for generator maintenance. Here is the cost comparison.

Unit	Hughes	Cleveland
Water plant	\$617.87	\$1,510
Well House	\$617.87	\$669
Townview	\$362	N/A

Cleveland Brothers did not quote Townview because it is not on their current maintenance list. Even without that generator, Hughes is the least expensive option.

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Informational Items:

Fluoride – The final paperwork to discontinue fluoridation was submitted to DEP on Tuesday, April 16.

New employee – Amanda has started and she is doing well. She is scheduled to take her operator exam Tuesday, April 16. She will still need to have six months on the job to obtain a full license.

Lead and Copper Inventory – We have a hard deadline of October 2024 to produce an inventory, even if some of the lines are listed as “unknown.” At this point, I have met with PA Rural Water for help with the spreadsheet. Cassie has offered to help with inputting the service addresses and Amanda has volunteered to help with the actual inventory. At this point, I do not feel it is necessary to hire outside help.

Water treatment plant roof – With everything else going on, I have not had the time to focus on this. My goal is to have some proposals for the May meeting. McGann introduced Amanda Adams to the Authority Board.

Old Business:

- A. Rugar motioned to table the South Main Street retainer agreement with Larson Design Group until more information is obtained from the PennDOT meeting on Monday, April 22. Farrer seconded the motion and it was tabled.
- B. After a discussion with Hank Hossler from CoStream and some concerns were addressed, Rugar motioned to approve the enhanced service package for the SCADA system at a cost of \$12,000 annually, the board will then review this again in November to see where things stand and then go from there. Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.
- C. Fluoride Discussion

Hoyt stated that he has no opinion on the removal of fluoride from the system. He also stated that there would be no vote on the fluoride at today’s meeting and no action will be taken today regarding this.

Dr. Kathryn Koury handed out a note from the PA Coalition of Oral Health and expressed her disappointment to learn of the plan to remove the fluoride. She asked about possible grant funding for the repairs. Dr. Koury stated that at the Borough Council meeting they were quoted a six figure about to repair the system, she was told that it would be more like \$20,000- \$25,000.

Solicitor Koernig addressed questions about no current fluoridation. She also explained that the water not being fluoridated and the process of removing fluoride from the DEP permit are not tied together. They are two separate issues. It had been determined that the fluoride had been shut off when an operator realized that there was an equipment failure that could have led to excessive levels of fluoride in the water. She explained that the Authority board had decided to listen to the community before deciding whether to submit the permit to remove the fluoride. Solicitor Koernig stated that Tier II notices were done in February as required by DEP when you are working towards removing fluoride. She also stated that there was a breakdown of communication between the manager and the Authority board.

Dan Styborski discussed the benefits of fluoride and also expressed his concern and confusion on how and when the public was notified that fluoride had already been discontinued. He asked if remedies for rehabilitating the fluoride room had been explored. He said that if we are not fluoridating currently then that means the Authority is out of compliance with their DEP permit. He feels that there should have been a public notification about the changes being made to the public water, the same as there would be for a boil

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order. Has the final decision been made as to whether the fluoride will for sure be permanently removed or not? There should be a special meeting to notify the public of the plan to discuss removing fluoride.

Melissa Underwood asked if it was because of money that the board discussed removing the fluoride. She asked if there is proper training in place for the operators that would be handling the fluoride and asked if Operator Steven Sargent is uncomfortable with handling the fluoride. Sargent replied that his biggest concern is the lack of ventilation.

Susan Coole asked the interest in removing the fluoride was due to monetary reasons or due to the potential affect it could have on the operators.

Mary Farrer stated that she is in favor of reinstating fluoride back into the water. She asked if the faulty equipment is worth repairing or if it should be replaced. Are there better ways for the operators to handle the fluoride? People need facts and science before a decision can be made.

Dr. Stager stated that it costs about \$1800 a year for fluoride, which is nowhere equivalent to what dental work would cost.

Authority Engineer Jimmie Joe Carl stated that some of the concerns with the fluoride are that it is an acidic harsh chemical, there is the potential to overfeed which is dangerous, operator safety when handling it and containment of the chemical. He stated that the fluoride room is currently attached to the operations part of the plant, so they would need to make an exterior door and upgrade the ventilation of the room.

Joanne Butters gave a timeline of the events of the fluoride. After reviewing the minutes for the past two years of Authority meetings, she asked why there were no notices sent to the public and why there was no mention of the fluoride on the agendas. She asked why when there was awareness that fluoridation had stopped in September of 2022 the information was not shared with the board or the public. She also said that Helen Hawkey from the Pa Coalition for Oral Health would be more than willing to come speak regarding the importance of fluoride. The PA Coalition also offers free training for operators that have to handle fluoride. She asked if the board would be comfortable having people to come to a meeting to speak regarding the pros and cons of fluoride. The public just wants clarity. Manager McGann said it was discussed with DEP and they told what was required for notifications and how to do that. He mailed notices to Mansfield dental practices. Martz Technologies estimated the cost of repairing/upgrading the fluoride room and equipment at around \$50,000-\$75,000 to upgrade the fluoride room, install a new HVAC system, containment, the feed system and install downstream detection. That number does not include the cost of bidding the project and the engineering. He also stated that the date in the notices is a "projected" end date, May 20th is not a hard and fast date.

Susan Koury stated that she was in favor of continuing the fluoride. She traveled to schools as a dental hygienist for years and the fluoride in the water helped stop decay. When she retired in 2002, she had not seen many cavities. She asked if someone could meet with the PA Coalition prior to deciding.

Gary Butters quoted a council member, stating that "we can do better". He said any major decision to be made by Borough council or the Authority board should be advertised. There is a lot of room to do a lot better.

Hoyt called the board into executive session at 11:49 AM to discuss contractual issues, McGann and Cowles were excused.

Regular session of the board reconvened at 12:47 PM.

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New Business:

- A. Rugar motioned to approve a one-time 50 percent reduction (\$1,272) of the water portion of Tondelaya Ayewoh's bill at 10 Meadow Street after a significant leak. Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.
 - B. Farrer motioned to approve pay application #2 for the St. James Street project in the amount of \$62,760.36. Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.
 - C. Rugar motioned to table the generator maintenance agreement with Brodrick Hughes Energy. Farrer seconded the motion and it was tabled.
- Rugar made a motion to add unaccounted for water to the agenda. Carleton seconded the motion and it was added to the agenda.
- D. Rugar motioned to request the Borough Manager to give the Authority a corrective action plan for the unaccounted-for water. The plan should include the plan for within 30 days, 90 days and 1 year. Rugar amended the motion to say he wants to receive the corrective action plan one week from today. Carleton seconded the motion and it was approved.

Correspondence:

- A. Letters regarding fluoride removal.
- B. UTRRA Update

Farrer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gerald Farrer, Secretary