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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
4:00 PM
Tuesday February 20, 2024

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard L. Carpenter, Mr. Daniel Luckey, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Earl Lucas and Mr. Jamal Abodalo. RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mr. Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Administrator Suzanne Ruotolo, Director of Asset Management Mr. Yuri Evans, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Lake Ontelaunee Manager Mr. Michael Reider, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, Human Relations Manager Wendy Marrero, Meter Manager Amy Styer, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering.

The meeting was brought to order at 4:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

Chairman McCracken asked for motion to approve the January 16, 2024, minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mr. Lucas. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the February invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$839,518.27 Capital Fund in the amount of \$163,800.57 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$14,175.26. A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray advised the City Council Report went very well, with a lot of good positive feedback. All the council members were invited to come out and see RAWA.

Mr. Murray gave an update on the recent main breaks, starting with the fire on South 9th and main break on Cotton street. This introduced air into the system and the air went to a high point in the system which was by the Olivet's Club. The Olivet's Club was out of water for a few days. RAWA had to increase the pressure and the levels in the tanks to push more water through to get the air to come out. RAWA also placed a temporary hose into the hydrant. The combination of the two seemed to work. But due to the increase of pressure this caused an unusual amount of main breaks in the area to surface.

Mr. Murray advised the Asterra report has proven to be a valuable tool with main breaks. We are learning more everyday and taking the information from these breaks and applying them to the operations.

Mr. Murray advised this Friday the US Water Alliance will have about 15 people coming to RAWA from larger city's like Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Washington D.C to come and talk about the "No Turn Off" policy. Mr. Murray advised that Washington DC is in the process of creating an ordinance that will not allow you to shut off an owner occupied property, and they are coming here to talk about RAWA's process and success.

Engineer Mr. Hassinger advised the Letter of Reduction on the Letter of Credit for the Holiday Village project. He advised phase 1 and phase 2 have been completed and there is about 200 feet of main left to be completed for phase 3. Mr. Hassinger advised they are asked the original L.O.C be reduced from \$305,355.00 to \$56,510. Mr. Hassinger advised the \$56,510.00 would be to cover the cost of the remaining 200 feet of main in phase 3 to be installed along with a 10 percent contingency, and an addition to that a 15 percent maintenance escrow for phase 2. Mr. Abodalo asked what the total value of Letter of Credit. Mr Hassinger advised the total was \$305,355.00. Mr. Abodalo asked if the new Letter of Credit will be Evergreen as well. Mr. Hassinger advised it is the same, this is just a reduction. Mr. Abodalo asked if something would happen to the developer, would the reduced amount be enough for RAWA to do the work. Mr. Hassinger advised yes he received an estimate cost from the developer. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion in reduction to the letter of credit to \$56,510.00. A motion was made by Mr. Abodalo and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Solicitor Ed Stock advised the project known as Core 5, this is the project in upper Tulpehocken township. Mr. Stock advised SSM to design the system and the developer paid for the design and constructed the system. Mr. Stock stated the system is just about to go operational and DEP is coming tomorrow to inspect the system, this will follow with an operations permit. It is contemplated by the agreement that the water system will be dedicated to RAWA, so RAWA will own and operate the system, RAWA will also get the necessary easements to access the property. Mr. Stock is going to recommend the approval of the dedication and easement agreement conditioned on the issuance of the DEP operations permit and the satisfaction of any other conditions that management needs to approve.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion on dedication and easement agreement with conditions for the DEP operations permit. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. Mr. Murray asked Pat Bauer if he was aware of the DEP inspection tomorrow, Pat advised no. The Core 5 representatives that were in the room advised RAWA can be present for the inspection. Mr. Murray advised RAWA is ok with the agreement providing DEP gives the operating permit. Chairman McCracken advised the motion was moved and seconded. Mr. Abodalo asked if the motion was revised. Mr. Stock advised the motion was made with the condition that the dedication and easement agreement will not be executed until the DEP operations permit is issued and any other conditions to satisfied management. Chairman McCracken asked all in favor, the I's have it, motion passed.

Mr. Stock stated there was a situation recently where RAWA needed to take water from WBWA and the water flowed though Bern Township. This was an emergency. It was decided by all three Authorities to have an agreement for this type of emergency. BTMA agrees in an emergency either WBWA or RAWA can supply each other water through the distribution system owned by BTMA. All billing will be handled directly between WBWA and RAWA. BTMA will not be involved in billing or be paid for anything. Mr. Stock is asking for approval on the agreement. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Stock advised the next item is approval of the deed of dedication for a portion of Bowers Road in Ontelaunee Township. This is on a piece of property RAWA controls out by the lake. The township wants to vacant a small portion of the road , 4862 square feet , in exchange to loop the road so RAWA would dedicate the new portion of the road to the township which consists of 21,000 square feet. Mr. Stock advised everyone in management is in agreement with this and he would need a motion to approve the deed of dedication. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the deed of dedication for Bowers Road. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and

seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. Mr. Abodalo asked if RAWA is dedicating the road or if the Township is dedicating it to us. Mr. Stock advised the Township is realigning the road and a small portion of the road is being vacated and in exchange for realigning the road RAWA will be dedicating to the ownership of Ontelaunee Township 21,000 square feet to the township. Mr. Murray advised this is right at the dam breast and this will not affect RAWA at all. Mr. Abodalo asked if this is a paved road. Mr. Murray advised this is a dirt road next to the parking lot and by moving the road it will be safer for vehicles. Mr. Abodalo asked if RAWA will be responsible for maintaining the road. Mr. Stock advised this will become a township road and the township will have to maintain. Mr. Carpenter asked to exclude himself from the vote. Chairman McCracken asked all in favor, the I's have it with one exemption for Mr. Carpenter.

Mr. Stock advised the item listed as 10-D. on the Solicitors report, will be tabled until next month.

Chairman McCracken advised the next board meeting will be March 19, 2024.

Chairman McCracken asked a Motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Mr. Lucas at 4:30 pm.