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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
4:00 PM
Tuesday January 16 2024

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard L. Carpenter, Mr. Daniel Luckey, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mr. Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, 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 Reader Manager Amy Styer, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering. Absent/excused Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Earl Lucas and Mr. Jamal Abodalo.

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

Chairman McCracken turned the meeting over to Solicitor Ed Stock for reorganization.

Solicitor Stock asked for nominations for the position of Chair, Mr. Lucky nominated Richard Carpenter. Solicitor Stock asked for a second Mrs. Jefferson seconded the nomination. Solicitor Stock for any other nominations for Chair, Mr. Carpenter nominated Steve McCracken, Mrs. Jefferson seconded the motion. No other nominations were made for Chair.

Solicitor Stock asked all in favor of Mr. Carpenter serving as Chair for 2024 say I, Mr. Luckey stated I. Solicitor Stock asked all in favor of Mr. McCracken servicing as Chair of 2024 say I, Mrs. Jefferson, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. McCracken all stated I. Solicitor Stock advised three to one vote Mr. McCracken is Chair. Solicitor Stock asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. McCracken nominated Richard Carpenter. Mrs. Jefferson seconded the nomination. Solicitor Stock asked for any other nominations, hearing none he closed the nomination. All in favor of Mr. Carpenter as Vice Chair for 2024. All in favor motion passed. Solicitor Stock asked for a motion to nominate all remaining board members Mrs. Grimshaw, Mrs. Jefferson, Mr. Luckey, Mr. Abodalo and Mr. Lucas as assistant secretaries, Mr. McCracken made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in Favor, motion passed.

Meeting was turned back over to the Chairman McCracken.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion for the Appointment of Professionals in keeping the Professionals that are already in place. RKL as auditor, SSM for engineering and Ed Stock as Solicitor. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for motion to approve the December 19, 2023, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Lucky. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the January invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$596,486.71 Capital Fund in the amount of \$370,719.38 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$22,093.96. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray asked Brian Hassinger for an update on the High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Application. Mr. Hassinger advised over last year the redesign and rehabilitation of the Dam has been in play. Bill and SSM have both been talking with D.E.P. also Bill talked with the Governor. Mr. Hassinger stated about a month ago Bill received a letter from D.E.P. that there is grant money coming out of FEMA for High Hazard Potential Dams. Part of the Grant requires a commitment from RAWA. A 65% support from FEMA and a 35% support from RAWA. We are still in the process of the paperwork since the paperwork needs to be submitted to DEP by February 1, 2024. The proposed budget was put together for this board meeting, a design, finishing the conceptual and all the application questions. The cost estimate \$763,000 to get this project through DEP and permitting. The permits would also be for erosion control, H.O.P. with PennDOT. Mr. Hassinger stated the cost split would be 65% of the \$763,000 would come from the Federal Government of \$495,950 and that would leave RAWA's 35% of the cost share at \$267,050. Mr. Hassinger advised this would need to be approved by the board for a resolution or a motion. Mr. Murray added the federal government made funds available for each of the 50 states. Each state is able to make submissions. Pennsylvania, though the DEP wanted to make our Dam a subrecipient of the grant. Mr. Murray advised there are still other grants available, this is just the FEMA grant. Mr. Lucky stated we should come up with the number of people that are dependent upon the Dam and the water. Mr. Lucky stated in his experience with grants and funding the more people effective make a difference. Mr. McCracken asked for a motion to approve the grant application. A motion was made by Mr. Lucky and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. Mr. Carpenter asked if this was the one from the Covid money. Mr. Murray advised we are trying to get a large amount of money from the grants to get the project done without having to take loans. Mr. Carpenter asked if there is a timeline for the money to be spent. Mr. Murray advised the deadline is only if the money was awarded not if it is given. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray provided an update of the Asterra Image. He stated RAWA reviewed 6 or 7 points of interest, including the two recent main breaks and all were on the satellite image. We are using the image and having great success.

Mr. Murray advised that every two years RAWA goes to City Council, RAWA will be going to the meeting in February, with all the new council members it will be a who we are and what is going on.

Mr. Murray advised the Lead inventory needs to be completed by October 2024. RAWA is making progress and has been working on this for 3 years. Mr. Murray advised there are many projects going on and will be providing updates at every meeting. Mr. Murray advised we are working with a company to take our paper documents and digitize the information. Mr. Murray advised will have information on our website and a lot more to come in the next few months. He will provide updates at every meeting.

Mr. Murray advised there was a report of water on Route 61. This was not RAWA and it was right in front of Mr. Wolf's office, right in the area of the railroad crossing. It turns out the line was Muhlenberg's, and they were able to repair the pipe, but the line is not incased.

Mr. Murray advised since we are talking about Muhlenberg he did reach out to discuss selling Muhlenberg water and was politely emailed but that Muhlenberg is not interested but if RAWA would like to send them information

they will look at it. Mr. Murray advised the Muhlenberg Township Manager was in today to discuss another matter. He advised there is a lot going on in Muhlenberg and in the coming weeks there could be a better avenue to have an open discussion with the township.

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