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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
4:00 PM  
Tuesday October 18, 2023

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard L. Carpenter, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Jamal Abodalo, Mr. Earl Lucas, Mr. Daniel Luckey, 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, Administrator Mrs. Suzanne Ruotolo, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Meter Reader Manager Mrs. Amy Styer, H.R. Manager Mrs. Wendy Marrero, Lake Ontelaunee Manager Mr. Michael Reider, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, 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.

Tom Tosti Director of AFSCME District Council 88 along with union members were present for public comment. Mr. Tosti thanked the Board of Directors for the recent negotiations on the 2 union contracts that had been worked on and one has been signed and one has been ratified, and awaiting signatures. Mr. Tosti went on to say that some members of the Union here at RAWA are unhappy with the Director and would like to see things change. Mr. Tosti went on to make remarks on how he felt the union members were being treated and Chairman McCracken let Mr. Tosti know that his comments would be taken under advisement since it is a personnel matter.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Earl Lucas and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the September invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$701,167.12 Capital Fund in the amount of \$283,479.99 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$20,803.16. A motion was made by Mr. Earl Lucas and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray provided an update on Muhlenberg. There was a meeting last night and about 100 people showed up to the township meeting. The residents of Muhlenberg do not want the Authority to be dissolved. Mr. Murray advised the board that the Muhlenberg issues are not water issues but political issues. Mr. Murray reached out to both the Authority and the Township if there are water related issues, we will be here to help the intergovernmental agreement still exists.

Mr. Murray updated the board on the property at 415 Gregg Ave. This property is a cold storage building that was being sold. At the final inspection for settlement, the meter pit was filled with a dark oil like substance. Mr. Murray reached out to DEP to see who handles these issues. He explained the owner pumped the pit out and pumped the substance out of the pit into the street down to the storm sewer. In the meantime, RAWA did get a

quote from Elk Environmental for cleanup in the event of an emergency. DEP advised there is nothing they can do to the owner and it is RAWA responsibility to clean. This property is not RAWA property, this is the owner's responsibility to maintain. To prevent contamination to the RAWA system, RAWA abandoned the service connection.

Mr. Murray provided an update on the Ontelaunee Dam. The engineers have had many conversations now Gannett Flemming is involved, and this is a 20million dollar project it will take time. There was an accident on Route 78 two weeks ago and the detour took all vehicles over the dam. There were about 500 large trucks going over the dam to Route 61. Mr. Murray called Penn Dot to see about traffic control and explained we can not have 500 trucks going over the Dam, he will be reaching out to the police department to see steps can be done when there is an accident. Mr. Murray advised when Anthony Luker was at the Dam he saw the trucks going over the speed limit and across the Dam. The Dam Bridge sits on top of the Dam, the road is Penn Dots.

Mr. Murray advised there was a burglary in the StoreYard. A few weeks ago, there were 6 youths that were walking the train tracks and the gate to the yard was open. They entered the yard walked around did not take anything but the youths did open a door. About two weeks later two guys entered the yard, one guy jumped the fence and went to the two Box Trucks- which is where the equipment is. The guy in the yard made a pile of equipment and then handed it over the fence to the other guy. Police report was filed, it was about \$20,000 worth of equipment. Mr. Murry advised additional security is going into the yard, cameras, lights. We had a car driving around a few nights after, so two 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers came down and watched the yard.

Mr. Abodalo joined the meeting via Zoom at 4:29pm

Mr. Hassinger presented the Resolution for the LSA Grant due November 30,2023. This grant will be in the amount of \$201,041.00 for a new Dump Truck.

Solicitor Ed Stock asked for a motion to approval Resolution number 05-2023. A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Mr. Hassinger asked for administration approval on the Route 12 Water Main Repair. Advising the bid will close on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He wanted to bring this to the board due to the urgency, there were delays over the summer due to permitting. Mr. Hassinger is asking the board for permission for SSM, RAWA Solicitor and the Executive Director to review the bids and award the bid if they find the bids to be acceptable. Mr. Murray advised this is the interconnection to Wyomissing and the City. This is the connection Wyomissing was going to do and RAWA was going to share the cost. When the permits were received the permits were in RAWA's name, which is why RAWA put the job out to bid. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to accept the bid and award the contract upon the agreement with the Engineer, Executive Director and the Solicitor, a motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. Chairman McCracken asked if there are any questions.

Mr. Abodalo asked if the bid called for a mandatory pre-bid open meeting. Mr. Hassinger advised it did not call for a mandatory pre-bid, due to the short notice and the two week bid time on Penn Bid if anyone called or wanted to come in later RAWA or SSM would meet them. Mr. Abodalo asked if there was a minimum time to bid for the job. Mr. Hassinger advised from experience and in the past two weeks was always used. Mr. Abodalo asked in Mr. Hassinger professional opinion of the contractors if he knew them and if they are reputable. Mr. Hassinger advised the one contractor, worked on the water main about 15 years ago. Mr. Hassinger stated he is out of town and has not been able to look into the second contractor yet. Mr. Abodalo stated he had no more questions.

Mr. Luckey asked Mr. Hassinger if he had an estimated cost for the project. Mr. Hassinger stated their estimate was \$95,000. Mr. Luckey asked what the cost is going to be, Chairman McCracken stated they do not have those cost yet. Chairman McCracken asked all in favor, motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked to enter an Executive Session.

Chairman McCracken called the executive session to order at 4:49pm

Chairman McCracken called the regular meeting back to order at 5:25pm

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lucas at 5:25pm