



1801 Kutztown Road  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19604  
Phone: 610-406-6300  
Fax: 610-406-6307  
TDD: 610-655-6442

READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
4:00 PM  
Tuesday September 19, 2023

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Richard L. Carpenter, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Jamal Abodalo, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Director of Asset Management Mr. Yuri Evans, Administrator 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 Tracey Karish, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering. Absent from the meeting were Mr. Earl Lucas & Mr. Daniel Luckey.

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

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. 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 \$790,135.36 Capital Fund in the amount of \$294,220.99 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$13,858.73. A motion was made by Mr. Abodalo and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray provided an update on the Asterra Satellite Image Proposal. Finalizing the agreement, five other municipalities will be participating in the imaging which will take the cost to \$32,000. Mr. McCracken asked who the other municipalities are, Mr. Murray advised Hamburg, Maiden Creek, Muhlenberg, West Reading, and Wyomissing.

Mr. Murray provided an update on Route 61 Railroad. During the negotiations it led to some work needing to be done. RAWA is working with SSM to get the information to meet the minimum requirements.

Mr. Murray presented the Public Workers Memorial to the board. He advised this idea started when West Reading asked for a connection to install a water fountain by the Pickle Ball courts. Mr. Murray proposed the memorial site with fountain to West Reading. West Reading liked the idea very much and suggested they can help raise funds and support. Mr. Murray also showed Mayor Moran, who agrees and supports the idea. Mr. Murray advised the location would be on Parkside Drive, this is the point where Reading, West Reading and Wyomissing meet.

Mr. Murray advised there is a property, owned by the Heidelberg County Club, that SSM verified would be a very good site for a third well location in North Heidelberg. Mr. Murray is working with the owner on an agreement to run a test drill on the site.

Mr. Murray gave an update on the Dam project. DEP was funded and started to review the project. DEP will be meeting with RAWA in the next few weeks on the project. Mr. Hassinger advised all the information was submitted 5 years ago for the project and also stated the Chief of Dams will be meeting with Gannett Flemming. Mr. Abodalo asked if this was the project that we took initiative with the Governor. Mr. Murray advised yes, this is one with Chrissy Houlahan and Anthony Luker. Mr. Murray advised now that the project is moving forward RAWA can approach PennVest on the permit application.

Mrs. Ruotolo gave an update on New Journey. The goal was for 100 cases of water, which would be 4000 bottles of water. With the generous employee donations, 3 pallets of water were provided which is 5760 bottles of water. With the remaining donations we could provide the making for 300 sandwiches.

Mr. Hassinger gave an update on Filter 3 stating the testing starting on the underdrains. Mr. Hassinger advised the payment that was approved early puts us 82% paid on the \$1.4million dollar project.

Mr. Hassinger advised the grand opening on the grants to be pushed back to November.

Mr. Abodalo asked when filters 7 & 3 are done, are there any more that need to be done. Mr. Hassinger advised Filter 7 and Filter 3 are the last ones to be completed, there were 8 filters all together and this project was going on for 4 years. Mr. Abodalo asked what the plant capacity is at this point. Mr. Hassinger asked Pat Bauer to answer. Mr. Bauer advised with 7 filters it is 35 million, with 8 filters it is 40 million, but RAWA is only permitted for 35 million. RAWA can produce more, however RAWA is only allowed to produce 35 million. Mr. Abodalo asked how long a filter lasts. Mr. Bauer advised the last filters were rehabbed in the 1990's and last 30 years. Mr. Philips advised the media may last 14 years, but the new underdrains could last 40 years. The new underdrains are 316 stainless steel and should last. Mr. Abodalo asked would it behoove us to have a schedule in the budget to replace these filters every 10 or 15 years so the next time there won't be a need for millions of dollars to replace 3 filters at the same time. Mr. Murray advised since they took 4 to 6 years to replace, in hopes that not all the filters will come to an end at the same time. Mr. Murray advised that part of the lease and with Birdsboro Plant coming online is that 25% percent the 2 million from Birdsboro goes back into the Filter Plant.

Solicitor Ed Stock advised an Executive Session is needed.

Chairman McCracken called the executive session to order at 4:30pm

Chairman McCracken called the regular meeting back to order at 4:45pm

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the contract between RAWA and First Level Forman Contract Ratification. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in favor. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Grimshaw at 4:46pm