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**Reading Area Water Authority  
Board Meeting  
Tuesday September 18, 2018**

The Stated Board Meeting of the Reading Area Water Authority was held on Tuesday September 18, 2018 at 4:00 PM in the Board room of the RAWA Administration office, 1801 Kutztown Road, Reading PA 19604. Present were: Board Members: Chairman Ralph E. Johnson, Vice Chairman Steve Symons, Mr. Steven McCracken, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Dr. Phillip Dougherty, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mr. Kim Mazur, Mr. Carl Scott, SSM Engineering, and Attorney Ed Stock, Solicitor. Absent was Executive Director Bill Murray.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Leor Slechingser, owner of Properties America spoke on behalf of one of his properties with a high read from a leaking toilet. He also mentioned that he is working on a devise to help Chairman Johnson referred him to meet with the Review Panel Committee for a resolution.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to pass the stated Board meeting minutes from August 21, 2018. Dr. Dougherty made a motion to accept the August 21, 2018 board minutes as stated.

Mr. McCracken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the invoices for September 2018, for the General fund \$261,221.96, Capital fund \$354,639.27, Escrow fund \$24,978.50 and the Birdsboro Power escrow fund \$2,166,811.96. Mr. McCracken made the motion to approve the September 2018 invoices and Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Director of Maintenance and Operations Report:**

Mr. Mazur gave presentation on the recent water main breaks. He began with the 36" main on Route 61. He explained that the integrity of the pipe was okay. Mr. Symons commented that there was not an over pressurization of the system, or the integrity of the pipe. He explained that there was some work being done in the area and that could have been a contributor to the issue but there are professional's looking into this.

The next Main Break was on Buttonwood Street at Tulpehocken Street at the bridge. The cross pipe was in need of replacement. Mr. Symons explained that the type of connection at this intersection is something that would not be normally done today, it was something that was done when the service lines were installed. Mr. Johnson asked what the age of the pipe was, and Mr. Mazur said it was installed in the 1920's. Mr. Mazur explained this type of pipe is not something that is readily available. Exeter Supply found a "T" pipe in New Jersey and sent for it immediately. The work to get it to fit exactly was done at the RAWA shop and brought over to the site of the break.

The next main break was on the 30" main on Route 61 and is thought to be caused by a sink hole. Upon researching the investigating, the area around the pipe, it was determined that the crew would start pulling pipe until a sound area under the pipe was found. This was done and then the area was trenched to work on the broken pipe. Mr. Symons asked the Engineer, Scott Carl about testing the quality of the ground under the pipe. He said that there is a way to test the integrity of the ground around the pipe and it has been discussed doing opening up the ground and exposing the pipe.

Mr. Mazur explained that he has a plan prepared to replace about 700 feet of pipe and renew the line. Mr. Symons asked if it was state highway and asked why we wouldn't get them involved in the project because of the water flow on the road. Mr. Mazur said that he has been in contact with PennDot about their continuation of the road improvement. PennDot indicated that they would not be working on the road for some time due to other projects. Mr. Mazur proposed that RAWA work on replacing parts of the 30" main, approx. 700 feet of the pipe. PennDot has said they will work with RAWA on the regulations that would need to be met. Mr. Symons asked if PennDot did come in and do their road improvements, would the placement of the pipes be put in a position that they are not directly under the current road way. Mr. Carl said that he would be working on the PennDot on the placement before the work would be done. Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Mazur how he came up with the proposed amount of pipe to be replaced. Mr. Mazur explained the area of where the break was and then working north towards the already replaced pipe is. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Carl is he was in agreement with the 700 feet replacement and the start and stop points. Mr. Carl said yes that he is. He believes that eliminating potential problems as soon as possible is the way to go and the timeline that is being presented is good. Mr. Symons asked Anthony Reynolds his opinion of the replacement of the line and he agrees that the lines need to be done. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Mazur if this project was in our capital plan, Mr. Mazur said it is but was in the future. Mr. Johnson said that it is okay, being that the plan can be updated. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Carl what if both mains would become an issue at the same time and where unable to deliver water to the city. Mr. Carl said that for they did a model of this scenario and that for about 48 hours there would be water, and after that the model is showing a significant drop of water pressure and no water service to the customer. Mr. Johnson said that is what he was looking for and that it is showing the urgency of

becoming proactive, get competitive pricing and move on this project timely and cost effectively. Mr. Johnson asked Attorney Stock about internal purchasing practices and asked for advice on this. Attorney Stock said he and Mr. Mazur had a conversation about this and a potential emergency, and said that putting a plan together and to have the project put out to bid on a short bid time table and have a competitive bid process done.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion that we authorize SSM to work with RAWA to put specifications together for the project of replacing 700 foot of pipe and that we expedite the advertising and bidding project. Mr. Symons made the motion, and Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion that authorize SSM to work with RAWA to work on an emergency plan to line up supplies and materials. Mr. Symons made a motion and Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Chairman Johnson asked Attorney Stock if there is Bond money to help fund this project and Attorney Stock said that yes the bond does mention that emergency infrastructure repairs. Mr. Weld said that the bond project report does mention Route 61 replacement.

Chairman Johnson closed with complimenting the entire RAWA Team for their efforts during the main breaks, have worked long hours and done an excellent job. The work that they do impacts the community and it shows in their work.

Mr. Mazur asked for a motion to pre purchase the valves for the siphon chambers under costars pricing at \$163,900.00 for 8 30" valves. Mr. McCracken made a motion to approve the purchase of the 8 -30" valves at a cost of \$163,900.00 and Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Mazur stated that DEP has told RAWA that 4 filters need to be redone in order to get the permit for the Birdsboro project. There would be a change order for filters 6, 5 and 8 for \$418,800, \$473,400 and \$426,400 respectively. Attorney Stock said that he and Mr. Mazur reviewed this under the Municipal Authority's act and it is legal to do the change order to add the additional 2 filter rehab's (#5 and #8) and also the additional cost of filter 6. Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the change order. Mr. McCracken made a motion to approve the change order as mentioned. Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Mazur said that DEP has issued the water allocation permit to RAWA. No changes were made to the water releases from the Lake or the Stream. The permit is 25 years.

### Engineers Report:

Mr. Tom Weld said that the Penn Street bridge pipe is laid and ready for testing very shortly.

Mr. Weld gave a presentation on the pipe line from the 18<sup>th</sup> ward down to the Birdsboro project site. He went over the different stages of the project showing the pipe that is operational and the pipe that is out of service for cleaning and lining. Mr. Weld said that Birdsboro Power is testing their equipment and would want to take some water to be able to let them fill their tank. Once the partial permit is released we will be able to release water to them. Mr. Weld is hoping that will be completed in a week.

Mr. Carl presented his monthly SSM engineering report to the board of directors. He said that RAWA did receive notification today that the grant was approved for \$125,000 to be used towards the filter rehabilitation project.

Executive Session called at 5:45 pm for legal matter.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm

The next Reading Area Water Authority Board meeting will be held on October 16, 2018 at 4:00 pm at the RAWA Administration Building, 1801 Kutztown Road, Reading PA 19604