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**Reading Area Water Authority
Board Meeting
Tuesday April 16, 2019**

The Stated Board Meeting of the Reading Area Water Authority was held on Tuesday April 16, 2019 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, Dr. Phillip Dougherty, Reverend Steven McCracken, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Executive Director Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mr. Kim Mazur, Mr. Carl Scott, SSM Engineering, and Attorney Ed Stock, Solicitor. Absent was Vice Chairman Steve Symons. Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Public Comment

Mrs. Johanny Freytiz addressed the Board of directors on a recent Right to Know concerning the property 144 Walnut Street, in which she resides. Mrs. Freytiz asked the board what the procedure is on a person coming to the RAWA office and finding out information on the property. Mrs. Freytiz showed the board a copy of the information she received when she came into the RAWA office and requested it. She asked why a person is allowed to receive this information. Mr. Murray explained that a Right to Know request was given to the person and that it is then provided to them. Attorney Stock also explained to Mrs. Freytiz that recently RAWA had tried to challenge such a request and it was denied through the Court of Common Pleas and the information had to be shared. Mrs. Freytiz thanked the board for their information.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to pass the stated Board meeting minutes from March 19, 2019. Dr. Dougherty made motion and Rev. McCracken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the invoices for April 2019, for the General fund \$484,002.33, Capital fund \$911,571.62, Escrow fund \$7,537.00 and the Birdsboro Power escrow fund \$13,920.94. Dr. Dougherty made the motion to approve the April 2019 invoices and Mrs. Grimshaw seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Carl went over the Engineering projects currently under way. Mr. Carl went over the Proposal of the 3rd well at the North Heidelberg location. Questions were raised by Dr. Dougherty concerning farming waste and chemicals. Mr. Carl went over the location and the distance it is away from the farm. Dr. Dougherty has a concern about the ground water in that location. Chairman Johnson asked about the quality of the water in that location. Mr. Murray explained that this is just a proposal for SSM to due a test and see what the quality is. Chairman Johnson asked that we do more preliminary work and then bring the proposal back with that information.

Mr. Carl asked for a motion to approve the bid for the repair of the roof to the building at High Service 2 after the trees had come down and damaged it. 3 bids were received and the low bid is from Straub Construction at \$19,280.00. Dr. Dougherty made a motion to accept this bid and Rev. McCracken seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion passed

Mr. Carl asked for a motion to approve and award the contract for the GPS Data Collection project. 10 bids were received and the low bid is through Bogia Engineering Inc., Wyomissing pa in the amount of \$113,580.00. Dr. Dougherty made the motion to accept this contract and Rev. McCracken seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed

Lastly Mr. Carl asked for a motion to approve the contract for the work at High & Colston and 18th Street to Doli Construction at a cost of \$351,350.00. 3 Bids were received and Doli was the low bidder. Motion made by Rev. McCracken and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed

Executive Director Report:

Mr. Murray asked the Board for approval to purchase a second used Box Truck at a cost of \$17,500.00 delivered. Mr. Murray went over the advantages that the first one has given the Distribution crew and how well it works out on the main breaks. Rev. McCracken made the motion and Dr. Dougherty seconded the approval of the purchase of a second Box truck at a cost of \$17,500. All in favor. Motion passed

Mr. Murray asked for an Executive Session for a personnel matter.

Meeting recessed at 4:40PM for Executive Session

Reconvened at 4:43PM

Mr. Murray made a recommendation for a 3% increase for non-union staff, not including himself, stating he is keeping this in line with the union contracted increase of 2.9% given this

year. Rev. McCracken made the motion to give the Non-Union staff members a 3% salary increase. Dr. Dougherty seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed

Mr. Murray gave an update on the Birdsboro Power Plant. He explained they are in line with taking on water full time by the summer. He gave City Council an update the previous week and what is budgeted for this year will probably exceed those amounts.

The Siphon Chamber project has been moving along and DEP has issued the permit for the approval of 2500 gallons per minute because the 3rd filter upgrade has been completed. The 4th one is under way now. Mr. Murray explained that he was uncomfortable with the emergency plan currently in place with the project going on at the filter plant and the temporary line. He approved the purchase of enough equipment to have a temporary line in place, in case of an accident along the road causing a break in the current line.

Reverend Evelyn Morrison asked if she could just ask a few questions regarding the current topics of the meeting. Chairman Johnson granted her a few minutes to make comments. Rev. Morrison asked about the process of contract change orders and how they are handled. Rev. Morrison also mentioned that Minority Contract awards are an important issue. She wanted to encourage this practice. Thirdly Rev. Morrison mentioned her concern for the Birdsboro Power Plant is near the Mascaro landfill and was wondering about any seepage that could occur. Mr. Murray explained the process of change orders and let her know that they do not occur often. Chairman Johnson agreed with Rev. Morrison that it is important to have minority participation in the bidding process.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM

Next Meeting to be held on May 21, 2019 at the RAWA Administrative office