



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

READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING

Held via ZOOM virtual conference ID 863 3349 6166 at 4:00 PM
Tuesday August 18, 2020

In attendance were Chairman Reverend Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Dr. Phillip Dougherty, Board Members, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Richard Carpenter, Mr. Jamal Abodalo and Mr. Earl Lucas, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Maintenance and Operations Mr. Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Tony Reynolds, Administrator Mrs. Sue Ruotolo, Accounting Manager Mrs. Sandie Kieffer, Human Relations Manager Mrs. Wendalin Marrero, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering and Reading Eagle reporter Mr. Ron Devlin.

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

RKL, CPA presented the 2019 RAWA Annual Audit. Mr. Mark Zettlemyer and Mr. Adam Waszkiewicz presented the audit to the Board of Directors. There were no findings in this audit and was presented to the Board for approval.

Rev. McCracken asked for a motion to approve the 2019 RAWA annual Audit as presented by RKL, CPA. Dr. Dougherty made a motion to approve the audit as presented and Mrs. Grimshaw seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the July 21, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Dr. Dougherty. Mr. Abodalo abstained since he was absent at the last meeting. Dr. Dougherty, Mrs. Grimshaw, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Lucas, and Reverend McCracken voted Yes. There were no - No's. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the August 2020 invoices. Motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the General Fund invoices for \$502,948.23, Capital Fund Invoices for \$27,961.16, Escrow Fund invoices for \$25,475.70 and the Birdsboro Invoices for \$66.00. Mr. Abodalo had a question concerning the legal charges. Mr. Murray explained the differences between different firms representing different aspects of the business. All in favor. Motion passed.

Board Member report: Dr. Dougherty asked to have 3 questions asked by the department heads when appropriate: a) What caused the main break in the Schuylkill River, b) Why is so much activated charcoal being used and c) what is the project on the store yard building project. Mr. Murray said these things will be addressed in the department reports.

Mr. Abodalo thanks the Board of Directors and Mr. Murray on building a stronger bond between the Authority and the City of Reading. He is very pleased also with the work RAWA has been doing on the Lead Abatement project.

Mr. Murray presented the monthly Internal Accounting audits for the board's information. There were no questions.

Mr. Murray went over the current main break that had been discovered in the Schuylkill River by a passing kayaker. Crews were able to get into the river and put a clamp around the pipe and stop the leak. RAWA has shut off both valves on either side of the river. The remedy will be to cut and cap both sides of this pipe and there is no problems anticipated in doing so. Dr. Dougherty asked if this should be on a list for redamation. Mr. Murray said that discussions are being had as to what the best next step is to take.

Mr. Phillips explained the use of the activated charcoal is because of the heat that causes the smells and tastes in the water. The lab keeps a close watch on the testing and when it hits a certain number there is more activated charcoal used. In the winter there is not. Dr. Dougherty asked if this could be a alga bloom, but Mr. Phillips said it is from a few different causes and the heat is usually the cause and this is something that is usual in the summer.

Mr. Murray said that by next month there will be a recommendation for an award for the rehabilitation of the store yard building.

Mrs. Ruotolo went over the recent activity for the new Bill Pay site. All information needed to go live by the end of August looks good and the last day to be able to use Xpress Bill will be September 10, 2020 and Invoice Cloud will be the only online company that will be able to take payments. There is still the ability for customers to pay at any Money Gram location or mail in a check to the Lock box. The hope is customers take advantage of all the great ways that Invoice Cloud presents to the customer to pay their bill free of charges.

Mr. Murray presented a monthly review via a slide show.

Mr. Brain Hassinger gave an update on the Berks Park 183 project. BCIDA has proposed a water line, constructed and paid for by BCIDA in the location of Rt 183 just south of the Reading Airport. Once the construction is completed, the water line will be dedicated to RAWA. An 18 month warranty period will be in effect post construction, and during that time BCIDA will be responsible for any repairs or problems. An escrow, in a cash amount or Letter of Credit of \$240,000 will be required during the construction period. Attorney Stock asked the board to make a motion to allow the Executive Director, Mr. Bill Murray to sign the agreement between BCIDA and RAWA for this project. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mr. Lucas. Mr. Murray went over the costs involved and stated that as new buildings are constructed tapping fees will be charged to the new owners of the facilities not to BCIDA. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray explained to the Board of Directors that we have not received a grant to help pay for the projects that were set aside in hopes for the grant money to come through. Mr. Murray will have more information next meeting on the Filter Rehabilitation and what RAWA will do as far as the capital project portion of this will be.

Attorney Stock presented easement information on the Birdsboro Power Plant and asked the Board of Directors to make a motion to allow the Executive Director, Mr. Murray to sign 3 documents, The Dedication and Acceptance of Agreement, Assignment of Easement Agreement and the Easement Agreement and then this will close out the

Birdsboro Power Plant project. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Attorney Stock asked for an executive session. This session was done by allowing the Board Members, Executive Director and the Solicitor to a breakout room in ZOOM at 5:30 PM

Executive session ended at 5:58 PM

Attorney Stock asked the Chairman of the Board to authorize a motion to allow the Executive Director to sign an agreement for settlement with TMAP Realty LLC in case 16-210219 TMAP vs RAWA. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion, and Dr. Dougherty made a motion and Mrs. Grimshaw seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken let the Board of Directors know the next board meeting would be held on September 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Mrs. Grimshaw at 6:05 PM.