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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING

Held via ZOOM virtual conference ID 813 6250 4616 at 4:00 PM  
Tuesday September 15, 2020

In attendance were Chairman Reverend Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman, Board Members, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Richard Carpenter, Mr. Jamal Abodalo, Mr. Earl Lucas, and Mr. Dan Luckey, 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, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering and Reading Eagle reporter Mr. Jeremy Long. Absent, Dr. Phillip Dougherty.

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

Mr. Frank Denbowski, City of Reading Mayor's Assistant relayed a message from the Mayor, expressing the appreciation that he has for the hard work and dedication the Board of Directors has been doing. Additionally, he thanked Mr. Murray for the outstanding job in working together the past 9 months with The City on different projects, such as the Lead Abatement program and Wacky Water Wednesday, and he looks forward to continuing the great relationship.

Chairman McCracken welcomed the newest Board Member Mr. Daniel Luckey to the RAWA Board of Directors.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the August 18, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor, Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the September 2020 invoices for the General Fund \$288,059.16, the Capital Fund for \$23,316.15, the Escrow Fund for \$16,335.33 and the Birdsboro Fund for \$352.00. Motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. There was discussion concerning the Capital projects and the matter in how things are listed for payment. Mr. Murray let the Board of Directors know that he will review the processes. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked if any Board Members had any comments, Mr. Abodalo mentioned that he is very happy with the continued bond that RAWA is making with the City of Reading and the continued help given to the City on events going on such as the Clean Up events.

Mr. Murray gave a power point presentation of the things that were completed through out the month in distribution and at the Filtration Plant.

Mr. Murray went over the Store Yard project bids – approximately 7 bids were received and the low bid was much lower than all the others, so he wanted to place the awarding of it on hold until more information on the company is obtained. More information would be provided on this project next board meeting.

A discussion was had on replacing the current phone system with a cloud-based phone system. Mr. Murray said he would also have further information on this next month.

Mr. Hassinger from SSM asked Chairman McCracken to request a motion to approve the payment to Construction Master Serves for additional paving projects in the amount of \$6,996.76. A motion was made by Mr. Abodalo and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the payment of \$6,996.76 to CMS for paving. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Hassinger asked the Chairman to request a motion to award Eastern Environmental Contractors to perform the Filter Rehabilitation project. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the award of the Filter Rehabilitation project to Eastern Environmental Contractors in the amount of \$928,800.00. A motion was made by Mr. Luckey and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. A discussion was had concerning the project. Mr. Murray went over the need for the project to be completed, explaining that 2 filters will be completed at a time until all are completely done. All in favor. Motion passed.

Solicitor Stock went over proposal for agreement with Amerigreen for the removal and disposal of the sludge that is produced at the filtration plant. Attorney Stock asked the Chairman to request a motion to allow the Executive Director to sign the appropriate paperwork when prepared. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the agreement between RAWA and Amerigreen for the removal and disposal of the residual sludge that is produced at the filtration plant. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. A discussion was had concerning the agreement. Mr. Abodalo asked who had prepared the Bids. Mr. Murray let him know it was SSM Engineering per DEP. Additionally, Mr. Abodalo asked if there was a indemnification statement signed and Attorney Stock said that there was. There was a discussion on the quality of the sludge and if other avenues were explored on the removal and disposal, and Mr. Murray let the Board of directors know that this process has been being explored for many years and the time has come due to the amount of space that is currently left at the present disposal area that a plan needed to be executed. He also let the Board know that should a different plan be brought up and found to be beneficial to RAWA the contract can be ended fairly quickly with notice. All in favor. Motion passed.

Solicitor Stock explained to the Board of Directors the agreement for the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Reading Parking Authority. He asked the Chairman to request a motion to have the Executive Director execute this agreement. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Reading Area Water Authority and the Reading Parking Authority. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Luckey asked that a copy of this be sent out so he can see it in full. Mr. Denbowski was still on the call and said that the RPA had reviewed and approved this at their last Board meeting and Attorney Stock had given a very good overview of everything. All in favor. Motion passed.

Attorney Stock discussed the settlement with the County of Berks for the unpaid water/sewer usage for the Services Center. The negotiations have been on going and an agreement has been made to settle the total amount for \$750,000. Attorney Stock asked the Chairman of the Board to request a motion. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the agreement between the County of Berks, The City of Reading and the Reading Area Water Authority to accept \$750,000 as settlement in full for the unpaid water/sewer charges

and to have the amount split evenly to go to The City of Reading for Sewer charges and The Reading Area Water Authority for unpaid water charges. A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken let the Board of Directors know the next board meeting would be held on October 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Mrs. Grimshaw at 5:20 PM.