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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
Held via ZOOM virtual conference at 4:00 PM
Tuesday March 16, 2021

In attendance were, Chairman Reverend Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Dr. Phillip Dougherty, 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. Anthony Reynolds, Administrator Mrs. Sue Ruotolo, Human Resources Manager Mrs. Wendalin Marrero, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Engineering Manager Mr. Yuri Evans, Accounting Manager Mrs. Sandie Kieffer, Meter Reading Manager Mrs. Amy Styer, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, Mr. Brian Hassinger and Ralph Johnson from SSM Engineering.

Meeting was brought to order at 4:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed. There was no public comment.

Mr. Luckey asked that the minutes be more detailed. Reverend McCracken asked to approve the February 19, 2021 Board minutes at the next Board Meeting with the corrections Mr. Luckey would like.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the March 2021 invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$487,556.73, Capital Fund in the amount of \$21,217.63 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$87,032.28. A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and second by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the payments of the March Invoices as presented. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chairman McCracken brought up a discussion on how many Board Members have received the Covid19 Vaccination. Board Members that have been vaccinated let the Board know. Chairman McCracken said that he feels that the Board can start to move towards in person board Meetings.

Mr. Luckey asked Mr. Murray about Micro Plastics in water. Mr. Murray let everyone know that it is a concern, and with the change in the Federal Administration there will be more tests required. Mr. Bauer explained that Carbon Filters are used to try to contain the particles.

Mr. Murray let the board of Directors know that the monthly internal audits were completed and included in their packets along with the monthly department reports.

Mr. Murray gave a reminder that the Financial Statements, (State Ethics reports) were sent out and please return back to the office by May 1, 2021.

Mr. Murray explained to the Board of Directors that after last months approval of the purchase of the Chevy Trailblazer, Chevy has discontinued the production. RAWA personnel found a less expensive alternative in a Chevy Trax at a lower cost than the Chevy Trailblazer at \$18,931.47. A motion was made by Dr Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the purchase of the Chevy Trax at a cost of \$18,931.47. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray reminded the Board about the Lead Replacement program that had been approved by the Board of Directors a few months ago. A new development has arisen since implementing the program. RAWA has only found 2 properties at this point that have been replaced. By using the software that we currently have, there has been a property found that is not owner occupied, it is a 4-unit rental. Mr. Murray is asking the Board of Directors to make an amendment to the program to allow the program being offered to any property that is 1 1/2" service or lower. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Lucas. Mrs. Grimshaw asked if the Codes department of Reading has been notified. Mr. Murray went over the process that RAWA is currently following and attempting to locate any property that could have potential lead pipes feeding their property. Mr. Carpenter asked if this was a law for full Lead services. Mr. Murray said that this is in reference to the curb to the meter replacement. Mr. Abodalo reviewed the issues with the ability to find the properties that have lead services. He also mentioned that the lead in the paint and carpeting in the homes, needs to be addressed and they are all trying to help the less fortunate in the city have these things replaced and appreciates all the hard work being done. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray gave a update on the Filter Replacement project. Everything has been moving along smoothly and the project should be completed soon.

Mr. Phillips gave a presentation of the purpose of the Rosemont meters and what their purpose is. This project was put on the Capital budget at \$105,000 and was put out to bid. Mr. Murray said 3 different companies placed bids on the replacement of these meters. The low bidder came in at \$40,976.00 for labor and materials. The winning bidder was Proconex from Royersford PA. A motion to award the bid was given by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Attorney Stock let the board of Directors know he sent Mr. Murray a draft policy and amendment for professional services.

Mr. Abodalo asked if there was a update on the request from a developer to wave tapping fees. Mr. Murray let him know that a meeting request was sent out and he was waiting on a response.

An executive session was called for at 5:00 pm.

Meeting resumed at 5:22 pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Dougherty and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve the non-union RAWA employees to receive a 3% annual increase. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Dr. Dougherty at 5:25 pm