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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
4:00 PM
Tuesday November 15, 2022

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Richard Carpenter, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mr. Earl Lucas, Mr. Jamal Abodalo, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations & Maintenance Mr. Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Engineering Manager Mr. Yuri Evans, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, Administrator Mrs. Sue Ruotolo, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Mr. Brian Hassinger from SSM Engineering. Absent was Dr. Phillip Dougherty, and Mr. Daniel Luckey.

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

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the October 18, 2022, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the November 2022 invoices, for General Fund in the amount of \$732,413.74 Capital Fund in the amount of \$250,822.42 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$16,246.00 A motion was made by Mr. Abodalo and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Murray let the Board of Directors know that the monthly department reports were included in the information given to each Board Member. There were no questions.

Mr. Murray gave an update on the meeting with DEP concerning the Dam. Mr. Murray met with the Safety people from DEP, and they let Mr. Murray know they do not have the staff or money to assign to an outside vendor to work on these projects. Mr. Murray said that the money that was given to the State from the Government was intended to go specifically to Pennvest, and that RAWA cannot apply for funding unless there are permits issued and DEP is stating they cannot comply due to the staffing/money issues. Mr. Murray reached out to Senator Swanks Office and the Mayor of Reading who both fully back this project and suggested he speak to Representative Houlahan. He has reached out to her office for support and is waiting on a call back.

Mr. Murray gave an update on the Interconnections between RAWA and WBWA. WBWA will be having a shutdown for repairs and wanted to make sure all the connections are in working condition. RAWA went out and inspected them, had one area of issue and is being handled.

Mr. Murray said the recent visit to the Filtration Plant by State Representative Houlahan went great. Mr. Murray said it was a very positive visit and she reached out saying she enjoyed the presentation given while there.

Mr. Hassinger from SSM Engineering presented to the Board of Directors 5 grants to be prepared and submitted for RAWA.

Mr. Hassinger presented to the Board of Directors 5 H2O small water grant applications and CA H2O applications. There would be 3 separate things to be approved by the Board for each grant, a Resolution, a Funding Commitment, and a Project Ownership document. The total commitment from RAWA for all 5 grants would be \$3.2 Million and the States commitment would be \$3.8 Million.

Attorney Stock asked if the Board would be okay with approving all 5 grants together. Mr. Abodalo stated he would have questions on the grants as presented. Mr. Murray suggested each grant be introduced separately to avoid confusion.

Attorney Stock asked for a motion to approve Resolution 4-2022 for the PA Small Water Grant Application Actuator Replacement and Sedimentation Basin 3 Repairs at WTP and Resolution 5-2022 for the PA Small Water Grant Application: Replacement Valves in Northwest Transmission Main. Mr. Abodalo asked if the project had soft costs included in the amount of the project. Mr. Hassinger said that the Engineering part of the costs are included. A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw to approve Resolutions 4-2022 and 5-2022, the Funding Commitments and the Project Ownership for the grants applied for total amount of the grant application: for resolution 4-2022 not to exceed \$420,826 (or 85% of the estimated project cost of \$495,090) and resolution 5-2022 not to exceed \$392,641 (or 85% of the estimated project cost of \$461,931). All in favor. Motion passed. Chairman McCracken asked if these projects would be done if the grants were not approved. Mr. Murray said yes, these are projects that must be done regardless of the grant approval.

Attorney Stock asked for a motion be made to approve Resolution 6-2022 and authorize the submission of the grant application CFA H2O for Fire Hydrant Thread Replacements, Funding Commitment and the Project Ownership. A motion was made by Mr. Lucas and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. Mr. Murray explained that the Reading Fire Department received a grant to outfit their engines with hose and adapters, which would then require them to have a adaptor on the current fire hydrants. The Fire Department asked RAWA to apply for this grant to help offset the costs. Mr. Murray stated that this is not a project that RAWA would of funded, and if we were not awarded we would not fund. Mr. Abodalo asked what the cost of this project is and what RAWA would be committed to. Mr. Murray said the cost of the project is \$1,416,692 and RAWA would commit to 50%, and if awarded RAWA would then go to the City of Reding and request that the 50% be shared between the two since this is a project to benefit the city as a whole. Mr. Abodalo asked if this is a change in Standards. Mr. Murray said yes this is a change, and surrounding communities have already done this change. All in favor, motion passed

Attorney Stock asked for a motion be made to approve Resolution 7-2022 and authorize the submission of the grant application CFA H2O for the North Heidelberg New Well Source, the Funding Commitment and the Project Ownership, at a amount not more than \$1,073,261 or 50% of the project estimated amount of \$2,146,523. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mr. Abodalo. Mr. Murray explained that NH Well #3 is in process and are in negotiations on the site location with an owner. Mr. Abodalo asked if this is something that would be done whether we get the grant or not. Mr. Murray said yes, it has been a long process trying to negotiate with the owner's attorney. Mr. Abodalo asked if the soft engineering costs are included in the project costs. Mr. Hassinger said yes. Mr. Abodalo asked what the grant commitment would be. Mr. Hassinger said it is a 50% commitment. Mr. Abodalo asked if past engineering bills could be included and compensated in this grant. Mr. Murray said no they cannot. All in favor, motion passed

Attorney Stock asked for a motion to approve Resolution 8-2022 and authorize the submission of CFA H2O Grant for the Hegel Gehl Booster Station, along with the Funding Commitment and Project Ownership. A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mr. Lucas. Mr. Murray explained that Hegel Gehl was put out of service about 10 years ago due to maintaining water quality. This eliminated the backup service for a part of the High Service areas. After discussion on the pros of having this as a backup system if the grant is not received the work will not be done. Mr. Carpenter asked that each month there is an update on the grant process and where it stands on being approved or not. All in favor motion passed.

Attorney Stock asked for an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

An Executive Session was called at 4:55 pm for a Personnel issue, specifically Mr. Murray's Professional Contract.

Meeting resumed at 5:45 pm. No Board action is required.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lucas at 5:46 PM