

TOWNSHIP OF FALLS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Township of Falls Authority Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 7:02 P.M.

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call – James Goodwin, Chairperson, Brian Binney, Vice Chairperson, Thomas Miles, Secretary, John Haney, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, William Beier, Treasurer, were present. Michael Levin, Authority Solicitor, was present via teleconference. Vanessa Nedrick, Authority Engineer was present and James Bulicki, Authority Engineer, was absent. Timothy Hartman, Executive Director, John Ryba, Operations Manager, Megan Parmer, Business Manager and Tammy McAnulty, Recording Secretary, were present.

Solicitor's Report on the Executive Session – Mr. Levin reported that Executive Session consisted of discussions regarding operational and financial matters.

Approve Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2022 Meeting – Mr. Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes for December 14, 2022. Mr. Miles seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Abstain
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Approve Re-Organization Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2023 – Mr. Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes for January 4, 2023. Mr. Beier seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

Public Comment – No comment.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Levin reported that he has spoken with someone on-behalf of Aqua regarding the Lower Makefield termination of agreement. They have requested that the Board approve pushing off the date of termination. Mr. Levin recommended the Board not push off the termination date.

Mr. Binney made a motion to not push off the termination of agreement date with Aqua. Mr. Haney seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes

Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

Mr. Goodwin asked if KVK has been sending there tapping fee payments. Ms. Parmer responded that KVK is a month behind, but we have been receiving the payments.

Engineer's Report –

Ms. Nedrick is recommending Board approval to award the restoration contract to Mecco Constructors for on-call paving. She noted pricing will vary according to the work that is needed. Mr. Haney asked if there is a minimum needed and Ms. Nedrick noted there is no minimum. Mr. Ryba stated that he typically waits until there is 2 or 3 jobs at one time.

Mr. Binney made a motion to award the on-call paving contract to Mecco Constructors. Mr. Beier seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

Executive Director's Report –

2023 Rates – Mr. Hartman advised the Board that the approved 2023 Budget anticipated a ten percent (10%) increase in sewer rates to cover the 16.6% sewer disposal increase levied on the Authority by the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. However, he added, as of yet, the Board had not approved the ten percent (10%) sewer rate increase consistent with the 2023 Budget.

Mr. Binney made a motion to raise sewer rates ten percent (10%) consistent with the 2023 Budget. Mr. Beier seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

2023 Budget Amendment – Mr. Hartman advised the Board that the approved 2023 Budget did not contain funds to address the need for new office flooring, new office building awnings and a riding forklift. He requested the Board consider adding \$86,000 to the Capital Improvements Budget for these items.

Mr. Binney made a motion to add \$86,000 to the 2023 Capital Improvements Budgets for the flooring, awnings, and forklift. Mr. Beier seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

2023-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement Approval – Mr. Hartman presented to the Board for approval consideration the recently negotiated 2023-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ. He told the Board that this was essentially the same agreement the Board had approved earlier in principle with a few clarifications, including that the agreement would be for a five-year term beginning on January 1, 2023, and terminating on December 31, 2027.

Mr. Binney made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ for a five-year term as presented by Labor Counsel and the Executive Director. Mr. Beier seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

Statement of Financial Interests – Mr. Hartman drew the Board members' attention to the Statement of Financial Interests Form which had been provided to them. He explained that it was a requirement of the Pennsylvania Ethics Act that Board members complete these forms annually for the previous year. Mr. Hartman requested that the completed forms be returned to the Authority staff no later than the April 26, 2023, Board meeting or preferably sooner.

Training Opportunities – Mr. Hartman Advised the Board of two training opportunities: 1) The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association annual Board member training to be held in Valley Forge on Thursday, March 30, and 2) the annual Pennsylvania American Water Works Association (PA AWWA) conference to be held at the Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos on May 9-11. Mr. Hartman requested that interested Board members contact the Authority staff as soon as possible to be registered. He added that the early registration discount for the PA AWWA conference ends on Friday, January 27, 2023.

Operation Manager's Report –

Mr. Ryba reported that water main breaks are being handled in-house. He noted that moving forward we will be utilizing the Township's dump truck which has already been discussed with Jason Lawson.

Mr. Ryba stated that the TOFA field staff had a flagger and traffic safety class which gave the field staff a 3-year certification.

Mr. Ryba reported there has been a few sewer blockages that he has called on MMA to assist.

Mr. Ryba noted that he has had a few meetings exploring AMI capabilities for something further down the line when we have our next meter change program. Mr. Binney stated it is very expensive. Mr. Hartman stated that Utility Services, the company that approached the Authority about AMI meter reading

technology, also bid for our tank maintenance work. He noted that this company is willing to do a free survey of the area and provide us pricing with no obligation. It was the sense of the Board to allow Utility Services to proceed with the survey.

Mr. Ryba reported that the lining project is on schedule for April.

Mr. Binney asked if we lost a pump at Tyburn station. Mr. Ryba stated that they tried cleaning it and taking it apart however it was mechanical, so KAPPI took the pump for repair however we still have 2 pumps. Mr. Goodwin asked how old the pumps are there. Mr. Ryba responded that one has a rebuilt motor the others are from the 90's. He has ordered a back-up kit so if one goes down it can be repaired on site.

Business Manager's Report -

Ms. Parmer reported that the annual sprinklers have been billed and are due February 8. She stated that Cycle 2 bills will be out by next week and there are no customers off for non-payment.

Mr. Binney asked about the escrow list. Ms. Parmer stated that she is waiting for Mr. Bulicki to return to finish cleaning up the past accounts.

Review of the Bill List -

Mr. Binney asked if HomeServe changed ownership. Mr. Levin stated that there was an acquisition, however nothing has changed.

Bills for Payment - Mr. Beier made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$1,375,619.03. Mr. Binney seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Haney	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Beier	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

Board Comment

Mr. Haney – No comment.

Mr. Miles – No comment.

Mr. Beier – Mr. Beier thanked everyone for their efforts especially the office staff with putting together all the figures.

Mr. Binney – Mr. Binney stated that raising the rates is necessary since we are a business.

Mr. Goodwin – Mr. Goodwin agreed with Mr. Binney's statement.

Adjournment – Mr. Goodwin suggested a motion be made to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. He noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The Board was unanimously in favor.