

AT A MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE MEETING ROOM

PRESENT: MEMBERS: GRIGG MULLEN-VIA TELEPHONE, RICK MAST,
JAY MELVIN, DAVID RENALDS, AND
DAVID MCDANIEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MELISSA ALEXANDER
ABSENT: NONE

Vice Chair Mast called the meeting to order and informed everyone present that Mr. Mullen would be participating through electronic means pursuant to the Continuity of Government Ordinance originally adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 6, 2020, and was granted extensions on May 26, 2020, September 28, 2020 and April 5, 2021, due to the threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and in accordance with the recommendations, guidelines and requirements of federal, state and local authorities.

Vice Chair Mast then introduced the first order of business, which was the review of the minutes from the February 8, 2022, meeting presented to the board. The Chair asked for any corrections or comments. No comments were made. On motion of Mr. Melvin, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, the board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

The next item of business was the review of the bills for February. Mrs. Alexander presented the updated bills list to account for bills received since the original list was sent, a copy of which was provided to each member and made available to the public. Mrs. Alexander explained that the county would be refunding both the capacity study and Rt. 60 bond payments. She also stated that this was the last payment for the Natural Bridge Bond. On motion of Mr. Melvin, seconded by Mr. Renalds, the board unanimously approved the payments shown on the final bills list for \$340,870.28 and customer deposits refunds in the amount of \$77.78.

Vice Chair Mast then moved to the monthly financial reports. No comments were received.

Vice Chair Mast asked Mrs. Alexander to give the Director's Report. Mrs. Alexander read a correspondence from Spencer Suter, County Administrator, thanking the PSA and staff for their quick response in assisting the Town of Goshen during the recent water emergency.

The next Directors Report item was an update on the most recent round of ARPA funds. The PSA received \$17,068.17. Staff was able to apply \$12,823.97, of the funds to accounts who met the criteria. The remainder, \$4,244.20, will be returned to the state.

The next item was the budget for fiscal year 2023. Mrs. Alexander reported that the staff was working hard on the budget. The budget committee will be meeting before the next board meeting. Next board meeting, staff will present the proposed rates and resolution. The resolution must be advertised prior to the public hearing. The public hearing will be held during the June board meeting.

The last item on the Directors report was an update on the issue with Paymentus. Mrs. Alexander asked Mrs. Tomlin to give the update. She summarized the history of the issue for the board. She explained that the issue was presented to management at Paymentus. She and Mrs. Alexander met with Paymentus and Paymentus proposed splitting the cost. That would mean that the PSA would have to write off \$1,063.25 that was not deposited into our account and Paymentus would have to write off a little over \$2,000.00. Mrs. Alexander explained the steps taken to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Melvin asked if we checked with the auditor about accepting the proposed solution. Mrs. Tomlin stated that she would speak with the accountant and auditor before formally accepting the solution. Mrs. Alexander explained that we have had issues with Paymentus in the past and that we have already informed them that we would not be renewing our contract next January. PubliQ, our billing and accounting software, offers the same service that integrates with our current software and online bill presentment.

Vice Chair Mast then moved to Unfinished Business, the capacity studies. Mrs. Alexander told the board that she received an estimate of \$6,400 from Whitman Requardt and Associates to add the Natural Bridge Park and hotel vicinity to the existing study. Mrs. Alexander asked if the board would like to fund the addition, ask the Board of Supervisors if there are any funds remaining that could fund it, or wait until the state contacts us to move forward on providing services to the park. Mrs. Alexander stated that the engineers would need to know in the next few months to add it to the study; however, it can still be done later. If it is done later, the cost would be a bit higher. The board instructed Mrs. Alexander to contact Mr. Suter regarding the possibility of the Board of Supervisors adding the cost to the capacity study.

Vice Chair Mast moved to New Business. Mrs. Alexander asked the board to approve the fiscal year 2021 audit provided to them in the board packet. On motion of Mr. McDaniel, seconded by Mr. Melvin, the board unanimously voted to approve the audit as presented.

Vice Chair Mast asked for Public and Board member comments. None were received.

Vice Chair Mast then asked the board and members of the public to move downstairs to join the Board of Supervisors in the board meeting room for a joint meeting.

Presentation by Maury Service Authority (MSA) Staff on Capital Improvements:

Executive Director Jordan Combs introduced members of Ramboll, who conducted a water treatment facilities study for the MSA. Members present were: Drinking Water Specialist George Rest and Project Manager Matt Wimmer who were both present in-person to provide the Board of Supervisors and Public Service Authority with a presentation of the study. The presentation included project objectives; a chronology of key events; water facilities assessment key findings and recommendations for next steps; and, details of the next steps. In conclusion, the following recommendations were presented:

Raw Water Intake:

Conclusions:

- The intake is aged and unpermitted.
- A Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit from the Virginia DEQ will be required in order to replace or significantly modify the existing intake.
- VDEQ may not be supportive of the MSA's withdrawal expectations.

Recommendations and "Next Steps":

- MSA to initiate discussions with VDEQ regarding the permitting process and likely outcomes before deciding how best to apply for a permit.

Raw Water Pumping Station (RWPS):

Conclusions:

- RWPS should be replaced.
- New RWPS should be located outside the 100-year flood plain.

Recommendations and "Next Steps":

- Prepare a RWPS Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
 - o Raw Water Intake interconnection
 - o New RWPS siting & preliminary layouts

- o Pump selection
- o Electrical and controls considerations
- Final Design, Bidding, and Construction

Water Treatment Plant:

Conclusions:

- Existing water treatment processes and operations are producing high-quality finished water.
- Significant investment decisions required.
- Concrete pre-treatment structure is in very poor condition. **Continued repairs and rehabilitation are not cost effective or sustainable.**
 - Need to fix hydraulic bottlenecks.
 - Additional deficiencies to be addressed:
 - Process Equipment: Dry chemical systems, chlorine system, finished water pumps, rapid mix, flocculators, valves, etc. Generally functional, but mostly original from 1975 and beyond expected useful life.
 - Residuals Lagoons: Engineered lagoon (underdrain & cleaning access), replace splitter box, pipe lagoon effluent.
 - Standby Power: Currently limited to appx. 1 MGD capacity.
 - 3rd Floor HVAC: Ventilation in chemical storage areas and fluoride room, replace AC units in Hypo room.
 - Instrumentation & SCADA Upgrades: New system to be tailored to treatment process upgrades.

Recommendations and “Next Steps”:

- Prepare a WTP Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to include:
 - o Conventional treatment alternatives evaluation (Replace in-kind, Replace w/high-rate pre-treatment process)
 - o Filter gallery modifications vs. 4th filter evaluation
 - o Lagoon improvements
 - o Up-front capital cost and life-cycle cost comparison of current treatment system, and high-rate pre-treatment system
 - o HVAC, electrical and controls considerations

- o Evaluate constructability and phasing considerations
- Final Design, Bidding, and Construction

Water Storage & Transmission System:

Conclusions:

- Tank is generally in good condition, but inspection identified some necessary near-term and medium-term repairs.
- Enfield Pump Station is in good condition; MSA should consider replacing the existing monorail with a traveling bridge crane.
- Develop a hydraulic model of its water transmission and distribution system
- Complete the replacement of the MSA's aged "loop" piping (approx. 2.6 miles)

Recommendations and "Next Steps":

- Complete the hydraulic model
- Prepare Water Storage and Transmission System PER
- Final Design, Bidding, and Construction

Next Steps (Already Underway):

- Raw Water Pumping Station PER
- Water Treatment Plant PER
- Water Storage & Transmission System PER
- Distribution System Hydraulic Model
- Raw Water Intake Discussions with DEQ
- Loan Application through VDH's Financial & Construction Assistance Programs (FCAP)
- Continue community communications

Following the presentation, the following questions and comments were received:

PSA Board Member David Renalds shared his concern regarding the raw water intake permitting requirements along with some of the piping materials and other Virginia Department of Health (VDH) requirements.

Mr. Combs stated that a lot of those concerns are coming forward based on the planning that the Public Service Authority (PSA) and County are having to make for growth.

Mr. Suter commented that in terms of economic development, it is critically important to look at capacity levels while looking at repairs in order to be able to know what can be provided for potential business growth.

Mr. Combs noted that the MSA cannot expand unless customers are indicating that they need the expansion.

Mr. Suter confirmed that the County would provide any necessary supporting documentation to justify an expansion.

With no further matters, the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Approved by

Chair