

**Minutes of the  
Regular Board Meeting  
Of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority  
Held on November 18, 2022**

This Regular Board Meeting of The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, having been duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Act, was called to order on Friday, November 18, 2022, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL** – All members of the Board were present.

**Participants from PWSA**: Will Pickering, Debby Gibson, Adam Longwill, Jason Felser, Elaine Hinrichs, Hali Hetz, Rebecca Zito, Edward Barca, Barry King, BJ McFaddin, Jennifer Presutti, Kevin Pawlos, Giuseppe Sciulli, Frank Sidari, Megan Thiessan, Amanda Castro, Kelly Morgano, Rachel Romano, Lee Haller, Juan Hirmas, John Nagle, Emily Pontarelli.

Also present was Solicitor Danny Cerrone of Clark Hill.

A total of 45 participants were in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Michael Murphy of Squirrel Hill addressed the Board regarding a water main break that occurred near his property in 2016 and the extent of the repair work that was done.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Executive Session was held prior to the Board Meeting, wherein legal and personnel matters were discussed. No votes were taken.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on October 28, 2022. Ms. McCormick Barron so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ed Barca, Director of Finance, presented the details of the report through October 31, 2022. Year-to-date receipts are up 6.7% or approximately \$10.1 million led by water collections, which are up 5.0% or \$4.4 million. Compared to this point in the prior year, direct operating expenses are up 3.3% or approximately \$3.3 million and debt service is up 9.7% or approximately \$6.1 million. These increases are driven by growth throughout the organization, which was planned for in the 2022 Operating Budget.

PWSA's cash balance remains near an all-time high with the Finance Department forecasting a \$13.1 million cash-basis year-end 2022 surplus compared to the \$5.2 million surplus within the 2022 budget. This strong financial performance will allow PWSA to maintain financial metrics that are comparable with other peer utilities, with the goal to exceed these metrics in the future.

I will be bringing the 2023 Operating Budget to the Board for approval in December.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Barry King, Director of Engineering, presented the details of this report.

Drinking Water Programs - Lead Service Lines continue to be replaced through the active Small Diameter Water Main Replacement (SDWMR) and Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Projects Priority, Neighborhood and Urgent Contracts. Through November 11, 2022, Contractors have completed an additional 178 Lead Service Replacement Lines since October, for a total of 737 public and 729 private Lead Service Replacement Lines across the active projects. The grand total number of Lead Service Replacement Lines completed between July 1, 2016 and November 11, 2022 is 9,745 Public and 6,628 Private-side replacements. The current Small Diameter Water Main Replacement contracts are now over 80% complete, with the replacement of more than 26,900 linear feet or over 5.1 miles of water main.

Water Reliability Plan Projects - Final steps are in progress to return the Highland No. 2 Reservoir and Rising Main No. 3 back to service. Filling and disinfection of Rising Main #3 began Tuesday, November 15th, followed by the initial filling of the first 5% of Highland Reservoir No. 2 for disinfection on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Two rounds of bacteriological samples were collected for Rising Main 3 on November 16th and November 17th. The first sample results were clear, and we anticipate the second and final results today, after which PWSA will submit the Certification of Construction Completion for both the Rising Main 3. We are currently in the process of filling the reservoir to capacity, anticipated to take 15 days. Filling at a rate of 2 feet per day ensures the safety of the cover and the reservoir dam slope. Filling is anticipated to be complete on or around Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Final bacteriological samples for Highland Reservoir #2 will then be collected and tested. Upon receiving passing results, PWSA will submit the Certification of Construction Completion for Highland Reservoir #2.

It should be noted that partial Certifications of Construction Completion have been submitted for Highland Reservoir #2 and Rising Main #3, to expedite approval of the operating permits. An Operating Permit issuance can take up to 30 days. The Notice to Proceed for the Rising Main No. 4 Rehabilitation and Replacement Project will be issued next week, with construction in the field beginning in early 2023. Construction of the Highland Reservoir Rising and Supply Mains continues.

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office - Staff held a meeting related to the designation of the Aspinwall Pump Station and Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant on the national historic register. PWSA has been requested to contact the Heinz History Museum for their input. Staff is now scheduling a tour of the Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant with the consulting parties so they can better understand how the planned demo fits into the larger overall future of the Water Treatment Plant.

Storm Water and Green Infrastructure - The Volunteers Field Drainage and Regrading Project in the Carrick neighborhood was completed this month, with a successful ribbon cutting event taking place onsite yesterday.

Construction of the Lawn and Ophelia Stormwater Project in South Oakland is now substantially complete.

The PWSA Team completed the 4 Mile Run Community Meeting on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to communicate the current rescoping of the project.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS OFFICER**

Frank Sidari, Chief Environmental Compliance and Ethics Officer, presented the details of this report. One of the primary goals of PWSA's Environmental Compliance and Ethics Program is to detect any non-compliant activities at an early stage before they may impact water quality or compliance with regulations. A way we achieve this goal is through periodic audits and assessments of our facilities to help identify potential gaps, ensure systems are in place to maintain programs going forward, and raise awareness of environmental compliance responsibilities.

This week concluded the field audit portion of our annual environmental compliance audit of the Water Treatment Plant. This audit is required under our Plea Agreement and is performed by an independent environmental consultant. The auditor reviewed various activities at the plant associated with drinking water production, chemical management, waste management, air, spill prevention, wastewater, stormwater, and general environmental compliance practices. We will be working with the auditor to finalize the report. However based on the closing meeting from the field audit, there were no major compliance issues identified.

In 2022, we have also undergone other audits and assessments most notably:

- In July a Sanitary Survey conducted by PA DEP of PWSA's drinking water production and distribution system.
- In September an environmental compliance and safety assessment of eleven representative PWSA facilities was conducted to guide expansion of our Environmental Compliance Manual.
- In December a Filter Plant Performance Evaluation is scheduled by PA DEP of PWSA's water treatment plant.

The findings from these audits and assessments allow corrective actions to be implemented and adjustments made to continue to advance our drinking water, environmental compliance, and ethics programs.

I wanted to conclude my remarks this month with a reminder that I will be sharing with PWSA staff ethics considerations during the upcoming holidays. Our Code of Ethics requires us to act independently, impartially, and responsibly without conflict of interest and in the best interest of the Authority and our ratepayers. To that end, the Code of Ethics includes standards of conduct and prohibited activities, which among other items addresses limitations on the receipt of gifts and meals to a nominal value.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Will Pickering, Chief Executive Officer, explained the details of this report. It has been a busy week, especially on some public outreach events. Our Public Affairs team put on a forum for our contractors in what is hopefully one of several future events focused on networking between our supplier, our prime suppliers and our more diverse suppliers. We held the event for over 50 attendees. We had a really good turnout from prime contractors, as well as MBE firms that are interested in partnering with those primes. Barry King did a presentation on our forward-looking contract opportunities so that people were aware of the work that we have coming up. I also want to thank Dr. Audrey Murrell, our current Chair of the Supplier Diversity Committee, who helped inform the planning for that event, as well as Lee Haller and Emily Pontarelli, who are focused on the Supplier Diversity Program. As Barry mentioned, we had a walkthrough for the Volunteers Field Stormwater Project in Carrick, which is in the South Hills District 4 Council District. It was an excellent opportunity to see some stormwater improvements. We partnered with the City of Pittsburgh. They did work on the ballfield. We were able to pair those two projects with what we needed to do to manage stormwater, and the outcome is one that we're really excited for the community.

We had a public meeting on Monday for the Four Mile Run Stormwater Project and discussed our shift in focus toward the neighborhood elements of the project. I'm grateful for all the work given by the Board, staff consultants and contractor partners that help us deliver these projects on which we rely. Finally, I want to thank our customers.

Chair Sciuilli – I know that the contracting forum was very successful. So, congratulations to you and to the procurement team and to Audrey for chairing the committee. We ought to think about doing this on a regular basis and try to get our prime and our diversity suppliers as close as we can. I also want to thank the public relations staff on the work on Four Mile Run. Tony Igwe and staff did a very nice job of presenting our change in direction, which I think is important. Hopefully we will get the residents relief quicker now.

Mr. Pickering – I would also like to commend Ana Bennett, who is on the Stormwater Team, and led the walking tour of Volunteers Field.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 128 of 2022      Authorizing a Financial Assistance Application in the Amount of \$500,000 to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Covid-19 APRA PA Small Water and Sewer Program.**

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The proposed funding request is to support the 2023 Urgent Lead Line Replacement Program.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

**No. 129 of 2022      Approving the Award of Water and Sewer Inventory Supplies to Bingham and Taylor Corporation, Core & Main LP, EJ USA, Inc., Ferguson Waterworks, LB Water Services, Inc., National Road Utility Supply, Inc., Pipelines Inc., and Trumbull Industries. Cumulative Operating Budget not-to-exceed \$10,130,218.67.**

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This is a not-to-exceed amount that will be spent in 2023. Higher quantities and items that may not be used were bid out to ensure that material is available if needed. The inventory supplies include street repaving sewer risers and lids, ductile iron pipe and fittings, ductile iron transition couplings, tapping and gate valves, tapping sleeves, stainless steel repair clamps, pvc sewer pipe, brass fittings, and hydrants.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. McCormick Barron so moved, and Ms. Strassburger seconded the motion.

Ms. Leber – Why the large gap between the budgeted amount and the not-to-exceed amount?

Mr. McFaddin – Based on our current infrastructure, we put quantities in the budget and the numbers add up very quickly.

No further discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

**No. 130 of 2022      Approving the Award of a Professional Services Agreement for Design and Engineering Services for the 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Sewer Pump Station and Appurtenances – Phase 2 Project to Gannett Fleming, Inc. Capital Budget \$1,667,339.**

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Both existing pump stations have exceeded their useful life expectancies and are in need of replacement. This project is located in the Lincoln Place Neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Mr. Domach seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 124 of 2022      Approving the Award of Option Year 2 of Multiple Capital Contracts for the 2022 Small Meter Replacement Project to Neptune Technology Group Inc., and L/B Water Inc. Cumulative Capital Budget \$1,801,800.**

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The scope of work is for the necessary purchase of replacement water meters. The new meters will replace aging meters, which are either malfunctioning, underestimating the actual amount of water being measured, or beyond their useful life.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Mr. Domach so moved, and Ms. Strassburger seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 131 of 2022      Approval to Enter Into a Grant Agreement to Accept an Award of \$304,000 from the ALCOSAN GROW Grant Program for the 2022 Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation – Contract 2 – Maytide Phase 3 Project.**

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This application was approved via Resolution 71 during the April 22, 2022 Board of Directors Regular Meeting. ALCOSAN approved the grant for one of the points of connection they named POC MH80A.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. McCormick Barron so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

Ms. Leber – Thank you to ALCOSAN and the GROW Program.

Mr. Sciulli – We obviously benefit significantly from the GROW program. Thank you to ALCOSAN.

No further discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**No. 132 of 2022      Approval to Enter Into a Permanent Easement Agreement and to Provide Compensation, if Necessary, to the Owner of Center City Terminal for Construction of the 2022 Large Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Project.**

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This project consists of the structural rehabilitation of a 60-inch circular brick sewer that is located within the surface parking lot of Center City Terminal owned by the Buncher Company. With this Resolution, we are requesting three approvals--approval of the Easement Agreement; approval of compensation, if necessary, within the CEO's delegation authority range; and approval to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into the permanent easement agreement with the owner of the Center City Terminal on behalf of PWSA.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to approve for discussion. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Ms. McCormick Barron seconded the motion.

No discussion held. The Board unanimously approved, and the Resolution was adopted.

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**ADJOURNMENT OF THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

Chair Sciulli - On behalf of the Board, I want to wish everyone, our ratepayers, consultants, partners, staff, and Board Members, a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Chair Sciulli entertained a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Ms. Strassburger so moved, and Ms. Leber seconded the motion.

The next scheduled Regular Board Meeting will take place on Friday, December 16, 2022.

*BJ Leber*

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BJ Leber, Secretary