

**WEIRTON AREA WATER BOARD
REGULAR SESSION- 2023 AGENDA**

August 10, 2023

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2023, in Room 201 of the City Building, by Ron Jones, Chairman, who called in on the phone. James Shockley, who was in physical attendance, presided over the meeting.

Those members in attendance were Ron Jones (phone); George Ash, Sr. (phone); Don Gianni, Jr.; Jim Shockley; Rocky Bragg; and Flora Perrone (ex officio).

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Jasen Havens; Lori Veltri; Brent Reckner; Brian Kuntz; Jeff Bertha; Chuck Tenaglio; Brandon Gelder; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Steve Hamit of Thrasher Engineering and Ben Erste of the BHJ.

MINUTES

Mr. Gianni made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2023, Board meeting. Mr. Bragg seconded.

REPORTS

Administrative Report – With no discussion from Board members regarding the Administrative Report, it was approved as submitted.

Finance Report: Mr. Kuntz reviewed the finance report, which was included in the Board packet. Mr. Jones made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for our shared expense in the amount of \$3,660.00 for the month of July 2023. Mr. Gianni seconded. Mr. Jones made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for our shared expense in the amount of \$3,660.00 for the month of August 2023. Mr. Gianni seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gianni made a motion to pay the Smart Bill for the month of July 2023 in the amount of \$2,691.99. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut off date for the June 2023 bill run was August 2, 2023. The 30-day cycle ends on August 31, 2023. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the August 2, 2023, shut off date were 1,204. Of this number, 312 were more than one bill past due, 47 have paid in full, 14 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 15 have been shut off, 83 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay as agreed, 24 customers received pledges, and 17 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Eight hundred nineteen single bills are past due.

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Citizens Comments and Communications: There were no citizens comments and communications.

Utility Director Communications: There were no Utility Director communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the WTP Expansion Project – Mr. Hamit reported that Thrasher is currently working with Mr. Erste to complete all the items needed for the WV IJDC in order to get an authorization to bid. Thrasher is updating the front-end documents to include the Buy America Build America requirements. The plan is to put the project out to bid including BABA and deal with it after the fact. The project team is continuing to meet bi-weekly. The next meeting is tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Erste reported that there was no draw this month. He stated that since they decided to include the BABA requirements in the front-end documents, things are taking longer to prepare than they otherwise would have. Mr. Mastrantoni added that with Form Energy expected to need water service around October 2024, this project really needs to go to bid. The senator's office has been working to get a waiver passed so that we would not need to include BABA in our bid documents, but that may be five to six months down the road. If the issue with BABA is resolved during the bid advertisement period, they will eliminate the need to submit a BABA compliant bid by amendment to the bid spec. He hopes that during the conference call they will be a little more precise in establishing a firm date for when they will be going out to bid, hopefully in September.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Next Meeting Date** – September 14, 2023


INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. WV Board of Risk and Insurance Management (Brim)** – Mr. Mastrantoni stated that at the last meeting he informed the Board that Brim had notified us that they are limiting the number of abuse cases they will cover and eliminating coverage for punitive damages effective July 1. At the Board's request at last month's meeting to seek out other alternatives, he contacted Travis Blossor at the WV Municipal League. He led him to a company called WV Corp. A packet of information from Steve Rawlings from WV Corp was included in the Board packet. Our payments to Brim are made on a quarterly basis, so we have a window of opportunity to cease our coverage relationship with them on October 1. His associate, Vivian Parsons, is doing a site-specific program for us to consider. We will bring that to the Board hopefully in September. He tried to pursue the idea of just getting the abuse and punitive damages covered by them, but they wanted to quote us a whole program. The City of New Cumberland has signed over with WV Corp, and they have a sizeable number of county governments and public service districts. He is not sure what the cost impact will be. We will be without coverage until October 1. Mr. Gianni asked if he had reached out to any independent insurers to see if they could offer coverage. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that he had spoken to George Gresko at Assure America, and Mr. Gresko was not aware of any other program that he would be able to offer. It was decided that when the city renegotiates a new contract for its' umbrella coverage, we might want to consider jumping back on board with their coverage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before this August 10, 2023, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Gianni. The next Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board was set for September 14, 2023.



Ron Jones, Chairman