

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

February 16, 2023

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2023, in Room 201 of the City Building, with Ron Jones, Chairman, presiding.

Those members in attendance were: Ron Jones; George Ash; 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; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden of Thrasher Engineering; Ben Erste of the BHJ; and Craig Howell of the Weirton Daily Times.

MINUTES

Mr. Bragg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023, Board meeting. Mr. Shockley seconded. The motion passed with Mr. Ash abstaining as he was not in attendance.

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. Ash made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for our shared expense in the amount of \$3,683.00 for the month of February 2023. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ash made a motion to pay the Smart Bill for the month of December 2022 in the amount of \$2,228.30. Mr. Gianni seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ash made a motion to pay the Smart Bill for the month of January 2023 in the amount of \$2,478.70. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut off date for the December 2022 bill run was February 1, 2023. The 30-day cycle ends on March 2, 2023. Total accounts to be collected or terminated as of the February 1, 2023, shut off date were 1,190. Of this number, 229 were more than one bill past due, 11 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 22 have been shut off, 8 paid and were reconnected, 45 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should

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they fail to pay as agreed, 35 customers received pledges, and 12 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Seven hundred eighty single bills are past due.

Citizens' comments and communications: There were no citizens' comments or communications.

Utility Director Communications: Mr. Mastrantoni had no communications.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the WTP Expansion Project – Mr. Alden reported that he was in Weirton last week and met with staff to review some of the SCADA and instrumentation for the treatment plant. The meeting went very well. They are trying to make sure with all the new equipment and the upgrade as a whole that the control and monitoring of the treatment plant is all upgraded as well. Most of the programming and software is near obsolete. They are setting it up so that it will work for the upgrade but also be compatible to receive any upgrades in the future and move forward seamlessly. They plan to sit down and have a final review of plans and specs before they get to the point of bidding. They have had several project team conference calls and are looking at a bid date of late April or early May. They've had several discussions with the EPA regarding getting the CDS money and getting all the information they need in front of them to approve everything on their side. Mr. Shockley asked about the release of funds. Mr. Erste reported that when we close on the design and move into the construction phase, that is when the funds will become available for our usage. The money has already been earmarked for us. We just did our final funding change request with the IJDC to get everything apportioned properly. That should be approved at their meeting on Tuesday the 21st. They are still working through the final application with the EPA for the actual CDS allocation. How it works is they give you the money first and then you fill out the application afterwards. Funding wise that is the last paperwork that we have to do. The funds themselves through the CDS grant will be available once we start the construction phase. Mr. Shockley asked if we were going to have to delay when we go to bid because the funds have not been approved to be released. Mr. Erste stated that he did not anticipate that at this time, but it was always a possibility.

Mr. Erste presented Draw #30 in the amount of \$487.89 to BHJ-MPC. Mr. Shockley made a motion to approve Draw #30. Mr. Ash seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr.

Erste reported that they are requesting a binding commitment from the IJDC along with the funding change request. That should also be approved at the meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that the binding commitment is an important step toward getting an authorization to bid.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Resolution #219 – Authorize Utilities Director to Enter Into a 3 Year Agreement with Preiser Scientific for Service and Data Monitoring for the Early Monitoring Equipment** – Mr. Mastrantoni stated that this is for the petrochemical detection system that we got a grant for a few years back. Mr. Havens reported that Aridea was the software provider for the early monitoring probes for the petrochemicals, algae, and pH. They are ceasing to provide that information in less than 30 days. Preiser is going to be providing that service for us, and we have to sign a three year contract. We do have some money available from that grant that we can still use before we have to tap into the General Fund. Right now we have \$5,050.00 left out of the original grant. After that, we will have to take \$8,810.00 out of the General Fund. Mr. Kuntz explained that amount would be spread over the three years. Next year we would have to take \$1,460.00, the following year we would have to take \$4,620.00, and the following year we would have to take the balance. Mr. Ash made a motion to approve Resolution #219. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Next Meeting Date** – March 16, 2023

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. East Palestine Train Derailment** - Mr. Mastrantoni reported that on Tuesday afternoon we started getting reports of butyl acrylate in the water. He, Mr. Havens, and Mr. Tenaglio decided that it was best to throttle down the river intake and use

tank levels to buffer any decline in the system. In addition, the well would continue to run at 800 gallons per minute. Orsanco asked us to double our testing regime, and we agreed to do that. We discovered by conducting these tests that the plume had almost passed us by at the water treatment facility. We began taking tests on our finished water to determine if any of the butyl acrylate had made it into the finished water. We are happy to report that our treatment regime was successful in preventing the chemical from getting into our finished water. None of the water being delivered to our customers was contaminated with butyl acrylate and has not been since. We will continue to test through the end of next week on both raw water and finished water. We have tried to maintain good communication with the community. Mr. Mastrantoni reported on the news, at this body, and at the City Council meeting. We do participate in the Heads Up Community cell phone alert system. Should any subsequent contamination occur, we will use that contact system to alert our customer base. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that Mr. Erste reminded him of a fund that was set up by the USDA so that if we needed a chemical to assist in the treatment of our water that we might be able to get some financial assistance. Mr. Bragg asked Mr. Erste if the fund would be available to cover some of the costs of the additional testing that we had to do. Mr. Erste said that he could take a look at it. He has preliminary communications but has not been given any parameters yet. The USDA is just looking to gauge potential need in our area and see what they can do to help. Mr. Guida asked Mr. Mastrantoni how much he thought the extra testing cost. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that the biggest cost was the helium. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Mastrantoni and the staff on behalf of himself and the Board for doing what they did to protect the community. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that the City Manager echoed the comments of Governor Justice at the City Council meeting in praise of the staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

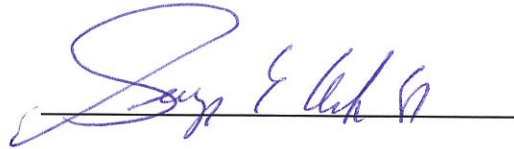
CITIZENS COMMENTS

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before this February 16, 2023, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ash and seconded by Mr. Gianni. The next Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board was set for March 16, 2023.



~~Ron Jones, Chairman~~
George E. Ash Sr.
Vice Chairman