

**WEIRTON AREA WATER BOARD
EMERGENCY SESSION- 2025 AGENDA**

February 24, 2025

An Emergency session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2025, in Room 201 of the City Building by James Shockley, Chairman.

Members attending were James Shockley; Rocky Bragg (phone); Ron Jones; George Ash; and Bill Visnic, ex-officio member.

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Jasen Havens; Lori Veltri; Brian Kuntz; Brent Reckner; and Dan Guida, WAWB attorney.

Also attending were Chuck Kelly of Thrasher Engineering; Mayor Dean Harris; City Manager Michael Adams; and Bill Steinbach, News 9.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shockley commented that Mayor Harris and City Manager Adams were with us today. He asked the Utilities Director to give us a brief update on where we are today. Mr. Guida asked Mr. Shockley to amend the agenda to add a resolution to grant Mr. Shockley authority to sign a temporary easement agreement for the property owner of where this line will be placed. Mr. Ash made a motion to add an item to the agenda. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mastrantoni stated that the staff has been working with Thrasher and some outside contractors in order to expedite our recovery from the situation we have been in for the past few months. Today they believe they have a remedy, and that is why they asked for an emergency meeting of the Board to grant authority for them to move forward. Everyone knows that we have been a benefactor of a relationship with Cleveland Cliffs. They were gracious enough to allow us to rent a special pump to pump water from their system in order to stabilize the downtown and provide water back into our system. This pump is providing water at around 200 – 300 gallons per minute. While that is a sizeable amount of water, it is not 24/7. The point at which we are pumping water back from Cleveland Cliffs to our system is actually going against the grain of how water normally flows in the city. Our treatment plant is pushing water uptown from its location on the river. Cleveland Cliffs pump is pushing it into the center. In order to be prudent and not create more line breaks, we have to limit the pump that we have in place now so that it doesn't exceed 108 PSI. In order to get out of this situation we're in and diminish the time for recovery to the whole town, we got to thinking that it might be possible to pump directly from the reservoir at Cleveland Cliffs to our reservoir at Lee Ave. There is a great belief that this is a plausible project using a special kind of pipe called fusible pipe. We have contractors who can obtain the pipe and fuse it in place. We have a contractor that can provide a pumping mechanism that would enable us to pump directly from the 1-million-gallon reservoir at Cleveland Cliffs to the 3-million-gallon reservoir at Lee Ave. It is his

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guess that if we do not do this it could take several months before we could return enough water into our system. Therefore, staff is asking the Board to grant authority for them to move forward in making the project just detailed a reality. There are two contractors that we are going to ask for action on and the approval of an easement agreement that the Board would have to enact today that would let us move forward with this project. It is his hope that this project can come together quickly enough that by Friday or Saturday this weekend we would be transferring a million gallons of water a day from Cleveland Cliffs to Lee Ave., thereby changing our prospect of multiple months in recovery to a matter of multiple weeks in recovery.

- 1. Resolution #260 – To Authorize the Utilities Director to Enter into an Agreement with United Rentals for Labor/Equipment/Piping and Installation of 4,100’ of 8” fusible DR17 Potable Water Piping to Deliver Potable Water from the Cleveland Cliffs Water Reservoir to the WAWB Lee Ave. Reservoir not to Exceed \$75,694.40 to be Taken from SB 234 Account –** Mr. Ash made a motion to approve Resolution #260. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Resolution #261 – To Authorize the Utilities Director to Enter into an Agreement with National Tank & Equipment to Provide a 6” Water Pump to Transfer Potable Water from the Cleveland Cliffs Water Reservoir to the WAWB Lee Ave. Reservoir not to Exceed \$6,286.97 to be Taken from SB 234 Account –** Mr. Ash made a motion to approve Resolution #261. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Mr. Shockley stated the third item is for an easement. Mr. Guida explained that this is a temporary easement agreement. For security purposes he didn’t want to say who the property owner is. It is the property owner of where the line will run across. It contains standard language that an easement agreement contains. The time period is not to exceed sixty days because Mr. Mastrantoni told him that should be plenty of time. If it isn’t working by then, we have other problems. Mr. Ash asked if it was effective today. Mr. Guida replied that it needed to be signed. The gentleman was travelling, but he did get a verbal. We are responsible for all the maintenance, upkeep, etc. There is a confidentiality provision also that he can’t disclose it to any third parties because of the sensitive nature of the location of the above ground potable water line. Mr. Ash made a motion to accept the easement agreement. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before this February 24, 2025, Emergency session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ash and seconded by Mr. Jones. The next regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board is scheduled for March 13, 2025.



Jim Shockley, Chairman