

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 P.M. on December 16, 2019 in the Council Chambers on North Delaware Ave and East Carbon St.

Mr. Michael Andruchek presided and opened the meeting with the Flag Ceremony.

Attendance:

The following Authority members attended: Mr. Michael Andruchek, Chairman; Mr. James Kimmel, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Edward Butler, Treasurer; Mr. Kevin Wigoda and Mr. Allen Reber. Also, in attendance were: Solicitor Albert Evans; Melanie Spittler, Manager; Jenn Hossler, Secretary; Megan Paul, Borough Office Manager; Don Cuff, Entech Engineering; Donald Troutman, Authority Laborer; Mr. Steven Darosh, Councilman; 4 guests; 1 cameraman, Matt Haslam of MHP.

Five authority members were present, which constituted a quorum.

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion for an executive session for a personnel matter. Mr. Kevin Wigoda seconded the motion. The motion was passed as presented. The executive session started at 7:02pm, it ended at 7:15pm.

Minutes:

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to accept the November's meeting minutes. Mr. Allen Reber seconded the motion. The motion was passed as presented.

Guests

Mr. Gene Haslam questioned why the number of lost gallons of water was missing in the answers from the Q&A paper they received last month. Mrs. Spittler said that was an oversight and she will have it at the next meeting. Mr. Haslam also asked how recent the pipes were replaced in certain areas. Mrs. Spittler responded with the street locations and the years they were done.

Mr. Matt Haslam questions why the schools are not a regular testing location. Mrs. Spittler explained the Authority needs to test certain locations throughout the system for, the current locations were set some time ago. If they were to change any locations or add they would need to file a new plan with PA DEP. The Authority needs to follow the rules and regulations of PA DEP.

Mrs. Cathleen Stone questioned the PA Municipal Code. Mr. Cuff responded that the PA Municipal Code does not have any jurisdiction over the Minersville Water Authority, they operate under PA DEP. The PA Municipal Code governs boroughs, townships & cities and what they have the right to do. The Authority works under the PA Municipal Authorities Act and PA DEP implements the regulations. Mrs. Stone asked for a copy of the PA Municipal Authorities Act. Mr. Cuff stated they can provide a link of where to get it.

Mr. Matt Haslam asked for a copy of every test done in the water system. Mrs. Spittler stated that is provided in the annual drinking water quality report that is published on the Borough's website every year.

Mrs. Spittler stated lead & copper testing is done every 3 years at different set locations. These tests need to be the first draw of the day. The highest number results are included in the annual drinking water report.

Mrs. Spittler also stated they do all different testing at different locations. Mr. Matt Haslam questioned if these locations are set or vary. Mrs. Spittler stated the lead and copper test sites vary because of ease of access & participation. There are also certain criteria the home must meet. Mrs. Monica Raczka asked if the tests are done at businesses. Mrs. Spittler stated they are done at businesses and at residences.

Mr. Matt Haslam asked if the Authority would consider making the school one of the set locations for lead and copper testing. Mrs. Spittler said yes, it is a possibility, that would be up to the Board to contact the school since the school has not contacted them.

Mr. John Harvilla asked if there are other projects coming up, other than the highway. Mr. Cuff explained the Authority took action to put \$3,000,000.00 to make investments into the system, line replacement and new lines in dead ends. Mr. Harvilla also submitted a cluster of breaks that have happened over the last 5-7 years. Mrs. Spittler stated that area is on the list.

Mr. Matt Haslam questioned how do they know the areas that are being tested are spread throughout the system with actual legitimate proof and asked why some of the locations could not be businesses. Mrs. Spittler stated if they were not testing the proper areas, PA DEP, who governs the Authority, would issue a violation. She also stated the locations are private residences which is why they are not published. Mr. Cuff explained if there are residence being tested in the same location as a business, the results would be representative of that area. The procedure is the same whether it be a business or residence. He also said by keeping sample points the same, as they proceed, they are all comparable.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Cuff confirmed that the 2 grant applications were submitted to DCED in compliance with the deadline. He expects they should hear a decision by September or the end of the year. He also reported many political offices representing the Minersville area wrote letters of support for the projects that were submitted in the grants.

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to approve Requisition #1 of the 2019 project funds in the amount of \$12,465.66. Mr. James Kimmel seconded the motion. The motion was passed as presented. Once approved, it will be submitted to M&T Bank to release the funds for payment of the invoice.

Mr. Cuff reported there will be a meeting at the filter plant next month for an inspection of the filter media. Following the meeting, they will be coming to the Authority for replacement of the media once they get it qualified.

Solicitors Report:

Attorney Evans reported the financing for the improvements will be in place by tomorrow.

Attorney Evans reported a default letter was sent to the deep mining tenant on the Authority's property.

Managers' Report:

Mrs. Spittler reported survey and the dam inspections were completed in November.

Mrs. Spittler reported the Authority received \$2,142.15 from S&J Coal Co. for 428.43 tons. The Authority also received \$20,000.00 from S&J Coal Co. towards the Kimmel Coal balance. They also included a letter asking to get caught up with the royalty payments by making regularly weekly payments after submitting a substantial check in April and asking permission to continue to mine and pay down the debt. Attorney Evans said the Authority can wait until April to see if they fulfill their obligations, if not, they will reinstitute the default.

Filtration Plant Report:

Nothing to report

Treasurers Report:

Nothing to report

Presentation of Bills:

With no questions, Mr. Allen Reber made a motion to approve the December's bills properly presented and signed. Mr. Kevin Wigoda seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Correspondence:

Mrs. Spittler received an email from Dave Bonkavich, who is providing the full system leak detection survey. At the time of the email he has completed 25 miles in Minersville, MarLin, West West Terrace & Branch Township. two confirmed leaks were reported. One on Second Ave in West West Terrace (15,000 gallons per day) and one on Josephine St in Teaberry Hill (5,000-7,000 gallons per day). And two other possible small leaks, one on Hill Terrace Dr and one on Maple Ave in MarLin. He wrote that he is impressed with how tight the residential distribution areas are. Whatever the guys are doing, keep it up. He would have normally expected to find 10-12 leaks so far.

Mrs. Spittler reported the leaks he found are on customer service lines and the one possible leak in MarLin was a gas line. He still has Heckersville to survey yet.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. James Kimmel made a motion to amend last month's motion to accept the Blue Cross change of option 6 to implement Option 3 per the Borough Council's recommendation. Mr. Edward Butler seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Michael Andruczek-yes, Mr. James Kimmel-yes, Mr. Edward Butler-yes, Mr. Kevin Wigoda-yes and Mr. Allen Reber-yes. With all in favor, the motion passed as presented.

The board decided to table the handbook changes until they hear from the Borough Council.

New Business:

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to accept and advertise the 2020 meeting dates. Mr. Allen Reber seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Spittler presented a draft of the 2020 budget to the board for their review. A decision will be made at January's meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. James Kimmel made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Allen Reber seconded the motion. The motion was passed as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn Hossler