

The regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Minersville was held at 7:00 P.M. on September 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; Robert Kane Jr., Authority Laborer; Mr. Steven Darosh, Councilman; Mr. Bob Umbenhen, Councilman and numerous guests.

Five Authority members were present, which constituted a quorum.

**Minutes:**

Mr. James Kimmel made a motion to accept the August's meeting minutes with the following corrections.

1. Change all Mr. Spittler to Mrs. Spittler
2. *Mr. Edward Butler* made a motion to hire Brennan Chapman and Robert Kane Jr as apprentices at a rate approved by the board and accepted by the new employees
3. *Mr. Allen Reber* seconded the motion.
4. *Mr. Edward Butler* seconded the motion.

**Guests**

Marlin Beach presented the board, Mrs. Spittler and Attorney Evans with a petition of over 200 names and a questionnaire. The group is requesting the questions be completed by the November meeting.

A discussion occurred between the following guests; Marlin Beach, Cathleen Stone, Mike Gretskey, Mrs. Yeager, Jim Murphy, Ricky Soto, Susan Castle, Mr. Keiser, Kathleen Fahey, Kim Raczka, Monica Raczka, John Marnickas, Alysia Bierman, Mrs. Spittler, Mr. Cuff, Mr. Andruchek and Megan Paul. The discussion involved holding a public hearing, DEP contact, telephone & email notifications, grants, credits on accounts, increasing rates, delinquent accounts and policy, plot study map, investments in the system, main challenges, Direnzo Coal Breaker, levels of bacteria & chlorine, run-off from 81 and alternative ways generate money.

Mrs. Spittler urged customers to call the Borough office or the after-hours emergency line to report discolored water.

Megan Paul welcomed everyone to stay for the rest of the meeting or said they were able to leave if they chose.

**Engineers Report:**

Mr. Cuff stated the Authority has been asking for opportunities for financing for improvements to the water system. He handed pamphlets that was prepared by Scott Kramer of RBC to the board members. He presented 3 scenarios to the board to save money.

Scenario 1: Refinance to save around \$40,000 in debt service payments.

Scenario 2: Refinance and parlay the savings. Which allows to refinance and to free up almost \$3,000,000 in new money and your debt service remains the same.

Scenario 3: Meld financing together if DEP approves the grants for the engineering of spillway of Dam 4.

Mrs. Spittler gave the board numerous project suggestions.

Megan Paul explained the loan structure.

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion for the refunding analysis on Scenario 2 and also included the refunding analysis if they get approved for the spillway money in a time frame that is annotated on pg #6 in the document provided by Mr. Cuff. Mr. James Kimmel Seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Kimmel-yes, Mr. Butler-yes, Mr. Andruchek-yes, Mr Wigoda-yes and Mr. Reber-yes. With all in favor the motion passed as presented.

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to allow Attorney Evans to work with the Borough Bond council. Mr. Allen Reber seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**Solicitors Report:**

Nothing to report

**Managers' Report:**

Mrs. Spittler reported the Authority received 1 check from S&J Coal Co. in the amount of \$504.40 for 4 loads totaling 100.88 tons.

**Filtration Plant Report:**

Mrs. Spittler reported the filter plant has a performance evaluation by DEP has been completed but she has not received the report yet.

**Treasurers Report:**

Mr. Kevin Wigoda made a motion to accept the August's Treasurer's Report. Mr. Edward Butler seconded the motion. The motion was passed as presented.

**Presentation of Bills:**

With no questions, Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to approve the September's bills properly presented and signed. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

**Correspondence:**

A certified letter was sent to Dizenzo Coal Breaker stating that our regulations prohibit any customer from affecting the operation of the water system and the service rendered to other customers. Along with suggestions on how to resolve the issue. If the issues continue the Authority will require them to install a check valve.

The Dizenzo Coal Breaker has a large line going into the breaker. Previously it would be opened slowly. Currently it is being opened full force. The Authority conducted a 2-week study where the dirty water calls in that area coincided with the breaker running.

Mr. Dizenzo called Mrs. Spittler after receiving the letter, stating that he will try to have the guys not open the valve too much anymore.

Mrs. Spittler stated they will be installing 2 automatic flushers. 1 will be installed above the breaker on Hickory St and 1 below the breaker. They will be set to run for 30 minutes at 3am every morning. If this does not work. They may have to require the breaker to install the check valve.

Mrs. Spittler stated they use an automatic flusher on Hill Terrace Dr. and it has made incredible improvements.

Mr. Reber questioned the pump house line, stating they should have backflow pumps on it. Mrs. Spittler said they just came across this information and needs to be investigated. If it is not separate, the water will be shut off at the curb until it is isolated. It is illegal to have a non-potable source hooked up to a public drinking water source, regardless of flow direction.

Mr. Reber asked Mr. Cuff if the Authority could inspect the property. Mr. Cuff said yes. Mr. Reber will go tomorrow with laborer, JR Troutman and check. Mr. Cuff stated there needs to be an airgap.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Spittler reported they received the insurance quotes. Selective Insurance is the only one who put in a bid for general liability. Wesco was the lowest bid for worker's compensation.

If they went with Selective and Wesco, the total would be \$29,767 for the year.

If they stay with Selective and Rockwood, who is the current worker's comp insurance, the total would be \$31,620.

Mr. Kevin Wigoda made a motion to choose Selective and Wesco. Mr. Edward Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Green Energy contact Mrs. Spittler, they would like to come to the next meeting to bring a proposal and lease for a windmill lease. The board is interested. Mrs. Spittler will contact Mr. Green.

**New Business:**

Mr. Edward Butler made a motion to advertise the new oil quotes. Mr. Allen Reber seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mrs. Spittler reported that she and Megan Paul have a meeting in October for Blue Cross Insurance to get the new rates.

Melanie will go through the questionnaire from the citizen's and answer what she can and will contact the board for other items.

Megan Paul explained the Water Authority is completely separated entity than the Borough.

Mr. Andruchek thanked Mr. Cuff for helping field questions. He also thanked the group for attending and reiterated to call when dirty water is being experienced.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn Hossler