

**ABINGTON REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

December 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Abington Regional Wastewater Authority was called to order by Chairman Pullo and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting took place at the Abington Area Wastewater Treatment Plant on December 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

John Pullo	Lauren Elliot	Paul Lockett
Gloria Lance	Donald Snyder	Donald Jensen, Esquire
Frank Besten	Murli Rajan	David Rinaldi, Esquire
Wayne Thorpe	Casey Monagan	

Absent: Michael Bisignani, Engineer

Guest: Bob Knowles- Knowles Insurance

**Mr. Thorpe made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023, seconded by Mr. Snyder, unanimously passed.**

**Insurance Renewal**

At this time, Bob Knowles from Knowles Insurance Discussed the 2024 Insurance Contract. He discussed that with the current state of the insurance market due to the extensive natural disasters (floods, wildfires, windstorms, etc.) the insurance market has shifted to a hard cycle where insurance companies are not competing for business. This shift has increased rates country wide. Mr. Knowles discussed that ARWA’s rates are based on 2 (two) major factors the change in exposure increased the premium 3% and a Workman’s Compensation claim increased the Premium 25%. Mr. Knowles discussed at length the factors that affect market and premiums. He discussed that the Cyber Attack coverage increased 22%. Mr. Rinaldi asked if the terrorism Coverage would overlap Cyber Attacks because they are both terrorism. Mr. Knowles stated a Terrorism act would be the attack against the plant structure and a Cyber Attack would be against the Technology that runs the plant.

Mr. Knowles discussed Flood coverage and their different levels. He discussed that Flood Plain A would be uninsurable with a standard company but could obtain flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program. He discussed that ARWA falls under an X Plain and is covered under the policy. He stated that no insurance company covers the following: Walls, Driveways, or back filling. The damage that ARWA suffered was to equipment, the fence, backfilling, and the wall. He discussed that currently there is some discerption on if the wall is covered or not. Currently the authority and Knowles are awaiting a decision from the insurance company on what damage caused by the September 9, 2023 storm will be covered under the policy. The board members discussed their concern for the equipment and being covered under the current policy. Mr. Knowles recommends renewing the policy and reevaluate if there is unsatisfactory response to the current claim.

**Mr. Rinaldi made a motion to accept the Insurance Renewal Package as presented by Knowles Insurance in the amount of \$53,103, seconded by Mr. Thorpe, unanimously passed.**

**Mr. Rinaldi wanted to know if ARWA was the owner of the wall. He said that there is a plaque on the bridge with the date of the bridge was built and questioned if the wall was built in conjunction with the bridge. Chairman Pullo wanted to have GHD and Mike Bisignani continue to research the ownership of the wall.**

**Executive Session:**

Start: 7:39 PM

End: 7:57 PM

**Directors Report:**

Ms. Elliot presented her directors report including Plant Worker Position, Flood Update, Insurance Renewal and Special Meeting and Employee Luncheon.

Ms. Elliot reported that a job advertisement was placed on the Scranton Times and is currently listed on Indeed. Resumes will be accepted until December 15<sup>th</sup>. A lot of resumes were received.

Ms. Elliot reported that Sproul Construction began work repairing the retaining wall on December 11, 2023. Work is scheduled to be completed in a few weeks.

Ms. Elliot discussed that the Special Meeting and Employee Luncheon to Thank staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year will take place on December 18, 2023 at 12:00 PM and was advertised.

Ms. Elliot discussed she received a phone call from Tom Welby from Bridget Kosierowski Office. He asked questions on the grant applications and stated they were hoping to award grants by next Thursday/Friday.

Ms. Elliot presented the Operational Data for November 2023, reporting an average daily influent flow of 3.77 MGD. Average daily effluent flow was 2.39MGD.

Ms. Elliot presented the rain vs flow chart.

Ms. Elliot presented Anthony Luongo Operations and Maintenance report highlighting staff cleaned rags and debris from clarifier return pumps and replaced couplings; Staff installed heating units in all Enviromix compressed gas cabinets; Koberlein was on site to perform wet well vac-staff drained and flushed grease from the grit chamber; A seal leak was repaired on the process operations building recirculating pump for the boiler hot water system; Staff drained and flushed out the scut pit and both pumps were cleaned an rotated-the transducer was also cleaned; ARWA experienced the following high flow events: 11/21/23 with max influent flow of 10.4 MGD and rainfall total of 1.29 inches and 11/26/23 with max influent flow of 11.4 MGD and rainfall total of 0.87 inches.

December 13, 2023

Abington Regional Wastewater Authority

12/14/2023 8:17 AM

Register: Fidelity Operating Expenses

From 11/09/2023 through 12/14/2023

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
12/13/2023	5011	Admin Partners	Accounts Payable	Pension Compl...	250.00			215.10
12/13/2023	5012	Amy Waters	Accounts Payable	Recording Secr...	100.00			115.10
12/13/2023	5013	Anthracite Rubber C...	Accounts Payable	Brass Hose No...	114.76			0.34
12/13/2023	5014	CCI Waste & Recycli...	Accounts Payable	Sludge Hauling	2,488.25			-2,487.91
12/13/2023	5015	Chapman Supply Co.	Accounts Payable	2 inch hydrant ...	60.26			-2,548.17
12/13/2023	5016	Convenient Food Mart	Accounts Payable	Gasoline	255.47			-2,803.64
12/13/2023	5017	Dempsey Uniform	Accounts Payable	Mud Rug Rental	38.99			-2,842.63
12/13/2023	5018	Elan Financial Services	Accounts Payable	Credit Card pa...	322.07			-3,164.70
12/13/2023	5019	Eric M. Allegrucci	Accounts Payable	Reimbursement...	5.00			-3,169.70
12/13/2023	5020	Fox Ledge, Inc.	Accounts Payable	Bottled Drinkin...	37.55			-3,207.25
12/13/2023	5021	GHD	Accounts Payable	Biosolids Build...	9,789.74			-12,996.99
12/13/2023	5022	Greenfield Power Eq...	Accounts Payable	uniform	44.99			-13,041.98
12/13/2023	5023	HACH	Accounts Payable	021805-001	2,581.39			-15,623.37
12/13/2023	5024	Hawk Mountain Lab...	Accounts Payable	Contract Lab A...	2,600.25			-18,223.62
12/13/2023	5025	Higher Informaiton ...	Accounts Payable	Printer overage...	22.22			-18,245.84
12/13/2023	5026	Highmark Blue Shield	Accounts Payable	Health Insurance	4,039.27			-22,285.11
12/13/2023	5027	ICON Technologies	Accounts Payable		132.38			-22,417.49
12/13/2023	5028	Jensen & Jensen	Accounts Payable	Legal fees	750.00			-23,167.49
12/13/2023	5029	JGF Funding	Accounts Payable	Monthly Printe...	80.02			-23,247.51
12/13/2023	5030	Justus Home & Garden	Accounts Payable	Step ladder, sur...	409.40			-23,656.91
12/13/2023	5031	Keystone Sanitary La...	Accounts Payable	Sludge Disposal	6,572.46			-30,229.37
12/13/2023	5032	Lackawanna County ...	Accounts Payable	Wireless Intern...	130.00			-30,359.37
12/13/2023	5033	North End Electric	Accounts Payable	NCSS02	1,656.87			-32,016.24
12/13/2023	5034	OnePoint	Accounts Payable	2226	118.20			-32,134.44
12/13/2023	5035	PA American Water ...	Accounts Payable	Domestic Water	475.26			-32,609.70
12/13/2023	5036	PA Rural Water	Accounts Payable	Collection Syst...	345.00			-32,954.70
12/13/2023	5037	PPL	Accounts Payable	Electric	15,205.06			-48,159.76
12/13/2023	5038	Saul Ewing Arnstein ...	Accounts Payable	Special Counsel	3,176.24			-51,336.00
12/13/2023	5039	Smith Air Center Inc.	Accounts Payable	Compressor Oi...	715.24			-52,051.24
12/13/2023	5040	SyTech, Inc.	Accounts Payable	Two year softw...	700.00			-52,751.24
12/13/2023	5041	TeamLogic IT	Accounts Payable	New computer ...	894.38			-53,645.62
12/13/2023	5042	U.S. Postal Service	Accounts Payable	PO Box Annu...	166.00			-53,811.62
12/13/2023	5043	UGI	Accounts Payable	2379801011-4	1,869.32			-55,680.94
12/13/2023	5044	United Concordia	Accounts Payable	364001819	230.65			-55,911.59
12/13/2023	5045	USALCO	Accounts Payable	Alum	6,923.20			-62,834.79
12/13/2023	5046	Waste Management .	Accounts Payable	Refuse Hauling...	66.90			-62,901.69
12/13/2023	5047	Wind River Environ...	Accounts Payable	Semi Annual ...	3,191.40			-66,093.09
12/13/2023	5048	Zen Design Firm	Accounts Payable		170.00			-66,263.09
12/13/2023	5049	American Arbitration...	Accounts Payable	Arbitrator Fees	231.25			-66,494.34
12/13/2023	5050	Amy Waters	Accounts Payable	Special Meeting	100.00			-66,594.34

Ms. Elliot would like to add the following bills for payment: American Arbitration Association \$231.25, BDI \$213.84, Amy Waters (Special Meeting) \$100.00, Sal Ewing \$12,137.36.

**Motion was made by Ms. Lance to approve payment of bills 12/13/2023 totaling \$79,410.64, seconded by Mr. Rinaldi, unanimously passed.**

**Review of Operating Budget and Administration Budget.**

**Statement of balances**

Ms. Elliot would like to advise the board that there will be 3 (three) CD's up for renewal or move. 1/2/24 \$249,456.43, 1/8/24 \$249,387.61, 2/29/24 \$247,607.42. She also mentioned that on 11/15/24 the \$958,554.69 CD will become available. A plan will be developed for these in the coming months.

### **Engineers Report**

Mr. Bisignani's report discussed GHD continues provide support on an as needed/requested basis in support of the ongoing litigation. Minimal services were provided this month.

Mr. Bisignani's report discussed that GHD facilitated the solicitation for quoted for the retaining wall repairs. Competitive quoted were received and recommendations to proceed with Sproul Construction were provided. Since then, a pre-construction kick off meeting was held and the project was started on December 11, 2023.

Mr. Bisignani's report discussed that GHD has been working on design of the bio solids building improvements and has a progress meeting scheduled with Ms. Elliot and the operation team on 12/18/23 with a scheduled draft deliverable in January.

**The Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ms. Elliott as follows:

Fidelity Bank as of December 13, 2023 = \$3,548.04

Peoples Security Bank Money Market Account as of December 13,2023 = \$92,792.27 (Done Quarterly)

Requisitions: #581- \$40,000 to Payroll Account  
#582- \$1,000 to Treasurers Account  
#583- \$29,554.75 Environmental Service Corp

**Mr. Thorpe made a motion to approve requisition #580- \$40,000 to the Payroll Account, #581 \$1,000 to Treasurer's Account and #583- \$29,554.75 Environmental Service Corp, seconded by Mr. Rinaldi, unanimously passed.**

**Biosolids Committee:** No Report

**Public Relations Committee:** No Report

**Executive Session: Personnel Committee Discussion**

Start: 8:12 PM

End: 8:32

**Personnel Committee:**

**Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the Personnel Committees recommendations for the 2024 Raises and Bonus as presented in the addendum, seconded by Mr. Rinaldi, unanimously passed.**

Mr. Thorpe reported that Health, Dental and Vision will increase 7.9% or an increase of \$ 3,866.52.

**Ms. Lance made a motion to keep the Health, Dental and Vision carriers the same for 2024 for a 7.9% increase, seconded by Mr. Besten, unanimously passed.**

**Litigation Committee:** No Report

**Finance Committee:** No Report

**Solicitor's Report:** No Report

**Board Member Comments:**

**There were no members of the public present and no public comment.**

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:40 PM by Mr. Lockett seconded by Ms. Lance, unanimously passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Casey Monagan, Secretary