

LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES Wednesday, March 6, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Lehigh Water Authority was held on the above date in the Municipal Building. Vice-Chairman; Lamont Ebbert called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Attendance:

Lamont Ebbert; Vice Chairman, Gordon Ripkey; Treasurer, Larry Markley; Asst. Treasurer, Tucker Haberman; Superintendent, Jeffrey Ebbert; Asst. Superintendent, Nicole Nothstein; Administrative Secretary and Jenny Cheng; Solicitor

David Harleman; Chairman and Russell Schoenberger; Secretary were absent.

Minutes:

The minutes of the last regular monthly meeting of Wednesday, February 7, 2024 were approved on a motion by Gordon Ripkey seconded by Larry Markley and passed.

Visitor's:

1. Dane DeWire was present per the board's invitation to form a relationship and communication between the borough and the authority.
2. Dawn Gorham; Wildland's Conservancy was present to discuss the possibility of moving forward on a potential DCNR grant. The appraisal came in for what they consider the "T-shirt" area 1,187 acres for \$1,425,000 about \$1,200 per acre. She has been playing with numbers and her goal is to try to get enough funding for due diligence cost to cover survey work of property that is estimated to be about \$250,000 and in the end that the authority would get \$1,000,000. All board members in attendance were in favor of Dawn moving forward.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report:

1. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Larry Markley, and passed for Lamont Ebbert to sign the representation letter for Buckno Lisicky & Co.
2. Mike Stoller; Manits Innovation sent an email to see if the board would be interested in purchasing our electricity by using an auction method. The board is not interested at this time.
3. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Larry Markley, and passed to have Industrial Appraisal complete appraisal services of our properties and inventory at a cost of \$6,795, not interested in having the annual services done.
4. A motion was made by Larry Markley, seconded by Gordon Ripkey, and passed to charge \$1,125 (half of our actual cost of tapping fee \$2,250) for a new tap at 606-608 Iron Street. A new policy will be written for unusual circumstances like this property when a service line needs to be separated.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Larry Markley, and passed to roll over the Edward Jones 3-months CD that matures on 3/21/24 for the best rate.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Larry Markley made a motion, seconded by Gordon Ripkey, and passed to advertise for bids to replace the garage roof.
2. Tucker Haberman wanted to clarify if employees should enter a home if no one is present over the age of 18. Jenny Cheng advised that an adult (meaning owner or tenant) must be present, someone that has authorization to allow work to be done within the residents or business.

Old Business:

1. Solar Energy—had a zoom call with Stetson Tchividjian; D3Energy LLC about the floating solar, he felt our reservoir may be too small and running the wiring to the filtration plant would be too costly to be beneficial. He was going to take a better look and get back to us.

Approval of all Reports, Account Payables and Additional Account Payables:

On a motion by Gordon Ripkey seconded by Larry Markley to accept all reports and pay all bills.

Executive Session:

On a motion by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to go into executive session at 7:15 p.m. for personnel matters.

Regular Session:

On a motion by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to go back into regular session at 7:33 p.m.

Action Taken on Executive Session Items:

No action taken.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Larry Markley the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Nicole Nothstein
Administrative Secretary