

DATE OF MEETING: January 18, 2024

PLACE OF MEETING: Village Hall

KIND OF MEETING: Business

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Lauri Taylor  
Commissioner Jerry Locascio  
Commissioner John Burweger  
Commissioner Arthur Guzzo  
Commissioner James Schmitt  
Town Alternate Jim McCarthy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Stephen Pezzella

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: In person: Joe Eriole, Esq., Rich Kane, WWTP,  
Via conference call: Jon Soukup & Brian Suozzo, Cedarwood  
Engineering & Dan Stone, LaBella Associates.

At 7:00 p.m. the Business Meeting of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission was called to order by Chairperson Lauri Taylor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Burweger **MOTIONED** to open the Organizational Meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Schmitt. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor then turned over the Chairperson election to Mr. Eriole. Mr. Eriole asked if someone would make a Motion to elect Lauri Taylor as Chairperson. Commissioner Schmitt **MOTIONED** to elect Lauri Taylor as Chairperson to the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor **MOTIONED** to nominate James Schmitt as the Vice Chair Person to the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Guzzo made a **MOTION** to nominate Jerry Locascio as the Secretary with the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Schmitt. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor **MOTIONED** to nominate John Burweger as Treasurer to the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Locascio. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor made a **MOTION** to keep Daniels, Porco & Lusardi as an option for Attorney services with Van DeWater & Van DeWater as the Pawling Joint Sewer Commissions main Attorney. Commissioner Schmitt asked if Daniels, Porco & Lusardi would be used for such things like institutional knowledge. Chairperson Taylor concurred with Commissioner Schmitt that Daniels, Porco & Lusardi would be used for institutional knowledge – Commissioner Locascio added for transitioning services as well. Chairperson Taylor said she figured it would just be

smoother this way, but Van DeWater & Van DeWater will be the Attorney on record. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Schmitt. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor **MOTIONED** to keep LaBella on as our Engineering Firm for similar reasons while we transition over to Cedarwood Engineers. Chairperson Taylor added that as everyone knows, Dan Stone is retiring from LaBella, however LaBella does have some Contracts with the Sewer Commission that will continue, but she wanted to appoint Cedarwood Engineering as the primary engineer for the Sewer Commission. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor **MOTIONED** to set the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission Meetings for the second Thursday of each month. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor **MOTIONED** to set the next Organizational Meeting for December 12, 2024. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor and motion carried.

Commissioner Schmitt **MOTIONED** to close the Organizational Meeting and go back into the Regular Meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, and motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor asked if everyone had a chance to read the Minutes from last month and asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Locascio **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes from last month. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. Commissioner Schmitt said he wasn't at the last meeting, so he wasn't sure if he should abstain from voting. Commissioner Locascio said he had watched the last meeting on YouTube, so he felt comfortable in voting to approve the minutes. Mr. Eriole said Commissioner Schmitt should abstain. There was no further discussion; Commissioner Locascio, Commissioner Burweger, Commissioner Guzzo & Chairperson Taylor were all in favor. Commissioner Schmitt abstained. Motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Commissioner Locascio to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Commissioner Burweger to approve the December 2023 Vouchers & pre-paid Vouchers. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Locascio. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

**MOTIONED** by Chairperson Taylor to transfer \$79,256.37 from O&M Acct. to the Checking Acct. to pay December Vouchers. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Burweger. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor opened the discussion of Reference # 84.23 – Award Letter for the WIIA Grant for the MTA Trunk Line Sewer. Chairperson Taylor said the Grant was for \$500,000.00 however the Opinion of Probable Cost provided by LaBella was slightly above two million dollars. Chairperson Taylor said the Commission would need to discuss this further as the Grant was just a drop in the bucket for what we need. Commissioner Locascio asked if there was another Grant possible – Dan Stone responded that they had applied for a second WIIA Grant, but we were denied. Mr. Stone also said that it his experience that if you don't get at least 30% of what is

needed from EFC, it's not worth doing as it becomes a burden on the public, so it was his suggestion that we "kick the can" on this and go back next year and see if we can receive more Grants and not have to go through EFC to get them. Commissioner Schmitt asked if they normally award a lot more for a community of our size & is that just being hopeful or is it doable. Mr. Stone said it was doable. Mr. Stone added that an income survey was done, so he feels we would qualify for a zero percent interest which may modify those percentages benefits slightly, but he didn't see any downside in kicking the can for a year. He continued saying that we have a lot on our plate already and bowing out of the Grant pool now isn't looked at as a black eye at EFC, it's just everybody taking a breather. Commissioner Locascio asked if we can just hold on to this for the time being and not act on it. Chairperson Taylor asked if we just turn it back? Mr. Stone said there is a certain time where you have to accept the Grant or turn it back. Commissioner Schmitt asked what the amount was of the Grant that we were denied. Mr. Stone said it was a calculation that they do when you tell them what the total cost is going to be and then they come back and tell you what they are willing to give.

**MOTIONED** by Commissioner Schmitt to turn down the WIIA Grant in the amount of \$508,100.00 so we can re-apply next year and hope to get more. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Locascio. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried.

Chairperson Taylor opened the subject regarding the crane work at the WWTP and explained that due to the weather (rain) that we have been having, we haven't been able to get the tank low enough in order to install the safety ladder so we have postponed that work and we will reschedule it once we know we are going to have a stretch of good weather.

Commissioner Schmitt talked about the project at Castagna and said they are hoping to be marketing in the spring. All the buildings are up, but not complete. They have blacktop down in the entrance way and the circle, so they are planning on marketing in the spring. They already have 12-14 local Pawling families on their list that want to move into those buildings. Dan Stone added that they have ordered their water meters with Christine. Commissioner Schmitt added that they are trying to have Sue Serino come and do a walk of the property, but they have been unsuccessful due to the rain.

Commissioner Schmitt spoke about the ASPCA project and reported that they are moving along now that they have a new Contractor. Commissioner Schmitt added that Hannaford reached out to Town Hall last week and they are planning to move forward with their project and they are hoping that we have the sewer line down there by then, but will hook-up after the building has been built if it's not ready in time.

Dan Stone said he had spoken with the engineer for ASPCA as well and they expect us to be in a position to look at the sanitary part of it in late spring.

Brian from Cedarwood Engineering said he and Jonathan are working on getting the I&I Proposal together and they will be speaking with the operators to see what they will be providing which will help them to narrow down their scope of services.

Rich Kane of the WWTP reported that all of their last month's testing came back fine, the flows were a little bit high, but the averages were good.

Chairperson Taylor said that H2o, & Rich over these last few storm events have really worked with us where we could have been stuck with eating a lot of overtime, they worked out shift work

with the crew at the plant because when we have all of this I&I coming into the plant all at once, the plant has to be operated manually. By working the schedule out, they were able to have people at the plant 24-7 while being paid straight time. The Commission all thanked Rich for doing that.

Commission Locascio said while we were discussing I&I he wanted to know if we had put out to Bid for Sewer District 1. Chairperson Taylor said its actually for the Reservoir Road Sewer pipe that we had approved last month and we are moving forward with that.

Chairperson Taylor asked the Commission if they had anything they would like to add. Seeing none, Chairperson Taylor asked for a motion to close the meeting and go into visitor comments. **MOTIONED** by Commissioner Burweger to close the regular business meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Schmitt. There was no further discussion; all were in favor, motion carried. Time: 7:31PM

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Jerry Locascio, Secretary