

KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD

September 15, 2016

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kent County Water Authority was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016, at 3:30 p.m. at the offices of the Authority in West Warwick, RI, in the Joseph D. Richard Board Room.

Vice-Chairman Masterson opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Board members Treasurer Joseph Gallucci, Mr. Duckworth and Mr. Giorgio were all present together, along with the General Manager/Chief Engineer Timothy J. Brown, Legal Counsel Patrick J. Sullivan, Esq., Treatment Manager/Water Project Engineer Dave Simmons and Director of Technical Services John Duchesneau. Mr. Gallucci led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular board meeting of August 18, 2016 were presented for approval. Mr. Gallucci moved passage of the amended minutes, seconded by Mr. Duckworth and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Guests**

No guests appeared before the board.

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Legal Counsel Mr. Sullivan reported on the Center of New England ongoing receivership. He advised the board that he had communications with the receiver who wanted to utilize staff from KCWA as his witnesses in evidentiary hearings that showed a pattern of non payment of water charges prior to the receivership. Mr. Sullivan told the board that he wanted years of billing records and witnesses that following week. Mr. Sullivan told the board that he met with Mr. Brown regarding the request and that Mr. Sullivan's, and staff's, schedule wouldn't permit this so quickly. Mr. Sullivan reported this back to Mr. McGowan the receiver.

Mr. Sullivan also reported to the board that he was contacted by Mr. Russo regarding the potential receivership to replace the water infrastructure at the CONE. Mr. Sullivan said he would advise the board and let them make the decision if they wanted to explore that path.

He then reported that the Cardi lawsuit. He indicated that he had served the initial discovery to the defendant Cardi Corp. that involved their defenses contained in their answer to the complaint and to the third party claims against the state. They were still within their time to

answer.

He then spoke of the KCWA v. Colbea matter. He said the Colbea had answered the amended complaint and that Motiva had not. He said based upon their answer, the motions being prepared were being amended as well. He also said Colbea had responded to his Request for Admissions, and that he expected a conference with Judge Stern.

Mr. Masterson asked Mr. Brown about the status on the Highlands at Hopkins Hill and their ongoing water problems. Mr. Brown indicated there was nothing new and went into the as built being nonexistent or unable to retrieve from a hard drive that Crossman Engineering had.

Mr. Duckworth discussed Mr. Alviti's offer to dig random test pits. Mr. Masterson thought there were bad wells located there. Mr. Brown added that he heard some had bad color and that DEM had shut expansion of future wells as they were too close together. Mr. Duckworth added that there was an old lace mill and they would have dye pits that they would dump the dye into the ground.

#### **Director of Finance Report:**

Mr. Brown reported that there was no cash report resulting from staff sick leave.

He did add that the audit was complete and was currently being printed. He said the results were good and it would be ready for the October meeting.

#### **Point of Personal Privilege and Communication**

Mr. Duckworth indicated that as the Vice Commander at the Post 9494 VFW, he received a letter regarding a back flow preventer. He said there was a 60-90 day backlog on the 009 back flow preventer.

Mr. Brown added that KCWA knows they are hard to get. So long as the customer provides KCWA with a schedule, that is satisfactory. He added that he knew they were hard to obtain.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

##### **GENERAL:**

##### **PUC Docket #4461 KCWA Rate Case Status**

Mr. Brown updated the board on the case. He said the case was to be heard in the beginning of December, 2016. He said they answered all data requests. He said there were objections filed by Coventry Fire District. He indicated there was some confusion on behalf of the CFD attorney, and at one point he was hospitalized.

He said Division's case is in. He said there were eight weeks to answer it. He said a settlement is always possible, and not all interveners have to approve of a settlement. He advised that he thought the PUC prefers settlements.

Mr. Brown added that the division's position is not to accept the proposal to remove the hydrant charges. Their consultant said they were unfair.

#### PUC Docket #4618 PWSB Intervention of Rate Case - Status

Mr. Brown updated the board on this rate case. He said our consultant reviewed the data requests and found that their model had mistakes, including one that saved KCWA \$40,000.00.

#### Board Consideration of "Smart Notice" Proposal \$8,100.00 Annual Cost

Mr. Brown provided the board with an overview of this notification system for customers. He said it was the same as "code red". He added that when they met with EMA, they didn't get the feeling of cooperation and mutual assistance. He said this program was on the state site for bidding, and it was the cheapest.

Mr. Simmons then gave a presentation. He described it as a mass notification system, great for a boil water alert. He said it could be used for the annual hydrant flushing program, and notice could be isolated to the area of the flushing. He indicated that the cost would include 81,000 text/SMS credits. This amount would be replenished annually. He thought this would be more than adequate, but additional credits could be purchased in any event.

He went over additional benefits that may or may not be utilized by KCWA but added they went with the overall package.

Mr. Brown informed the board that the Dept. of Health notified them of a hit from Warwick that wasn't confirmed. He said they learned that Warwick had a second hit earlier that month at fire station #6.

Mr. Brown recommended the Smart Notice to the board. He said it need not be bid as it was on the state MPA. He thought it was a prudent way to go. He added that KCWA cannot use code red as it isn't a municipality.

Mr. Gallucci asked how this would coordinate with Warwick. He asked if KCWA would notify Warwick. Mr. Brown said KCWA would indeed notify Warwick, but Warwick needed to notify its customers on its own.

Mr. Masterson thought it to be a good idea.

Mr. Gallucci said Warwick had non KCWA customers and suggested that these customers could be notified as well; he said he supports the program.

Mr. Brown said Warwick already has the code red program.

Mr. Duckworth asked Mr. Brown if it impacted internal staffing. Mr. Brown said existing staff would suffice. He said it is as automated as it can get. He said he researched it for some time and was impressed. He said it was one year commitment at a time.

Mr. Masterson added that the program appears great, but asked whether the company is a startup or if they had any experience. Mr. Brown added that they had been around a long time, and Mr. Simmons added that the company was nationally recognized.

Mr. Gallucci moved, seconded by Mr. Duckworth, to approve the purchase of Smart Notice at the cost of \$8,100.00 for one year.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That KCWA approves the purchase of Smart Notice at the cost of \$8,100.00 for one year.

#### Truck Bid – Replacement of Truck #2 – Approval

Mr. Brown explained that this was rebid from the action at the last meeting. He said the same two bidders bid again, and that Tri Center bid \$81,476.00 and RI Truck Center bid \$80,197.00. He said he recommends RI Truck Center. Both bids included a trade.

Mr. Gallucci moved, seconded by Mr. Duckworth, to award the truck bid to RI Truck Center for \$80,197.00.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That KCWA awards the bid for truck #2 to RI Truck Center for \$80,197.00.

#### Approval- RFP Water Main Design North/South Interconnection High Service Gradient

Mr. Brown advised the board that KCWA needs the interconnection with the north and south high service gradient. He said funding was authorized by the PUC. He said two companies bid, James Geremia and Associates at not to exceed \$64,298.00 and C & E Engineers at \$132,895.00. He said he called both bidders to discuss the disparity, and both defended their number. Mr. Brown recommended awarding the bid to James Geremia and Associates.

Mr. Gallucci moved, seconded by Mr. Giorgio, to award the design services for the north/south interconnection of the high service gradient to James Geremia and Associates for an amount not to exceed \$64,298.00.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That KCWA awards the bid for the design services for the north/south interconnection of the high service gradient to James Geremia and Associates for an amount not to exceed \$64,298.00.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

### **Apponaug Circulator Water Main Replacement**

Mr. Brown informed the board that work is ongoing and that it is being monitored by KCWA personnel.

### **East Greenwich Well Refurbishment**

Mr. Brown reported that the permits were submitted and that surveyors were onsite.

### **IFR 2014A**

Mr. Brown informed the board that this construction is ongoing and at its last stages of paving preparation.

### **IFR 2014B**

Mr. Brown informed the board that construction is ongoing in the Noxon, Mary and Mason Street areas.

### **IFR 2015A**

Mr. Brown informed the board that the construction is going very well. He said the contractor is breaking some temporary services and they will be meeting soon.

### **IFR 2015B**

Mr. Brown said the construction was ongoing in the Factory Street area. The work is away from the school.

### **IFR 2016 Design (Project Status)**

Mr. Brown updated the board that the design services are ongoing but the bid would be on hold for funding reasons.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Mishnock Area Transmission Main, Design Revision (Current Project Status)**

Mr. Brown indicated that the bid was scheduled for opening on September 20, 2016.

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Giorgio moved, seconded by Mr. Duckworth to adjourn the meeting.

Dated: October \_\_\_\_, 2016

---

Patrick J. Sullivan  
Legal Counsel