

KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD

August 31, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kent County Water Authority was held on the 31st day of August, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at the offices of the Authority in West Warwick, RI, in the Joseph D. Richard Board Room in person.

Chairman Boyer opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Board members Vice Chairman Jeff Giusti, Brian Kortz and Charles Donovan were all in attendance along with Executive Director/Chief Engineer David L. Simmons, Director of Administration John Duchesneau, Legal Counsel Patrick J. Sullivan, Esq. and Director of Human Resources and Finance Michael Lanfredi. Water Project Engineer Nicole Campagnone and Richard Burns were also in attendance.

Mr. Burns led the group in the pledge of allegiance

Approval Of The Minutes

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on July 21, 2022 were presented for approval. Mr. Rousselle moved the minutes approval, seconded by Mr. Crossman. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Legal Counsel

CONE Receivership

Mr. Sullivan updated the board on the Center of New England receivership. He indicated there was a disagreement about the sale of a parcel of land that was to be sold to a marijuana dispensary which could affect the financing of terminating the receivership by one side. The receivership was still winding down.

West Warwick Agreement PRV

Mr. Sullivan discussed the KCWAs acquisition of land from the town of West Warwick, near the sewer plant on Pontiac Ave. This land was to house the pressure reducing valves that

serves the Oaklawn Ave. area. Mr. Sullivan said he sent over a proposal to the council via the solicitor, and he awaits a decision. He said they meet on September 6, 2022. The council was authorized to sell the land at their financial town meeting which was a requirement.

Mr. Simmons expressed some concern about the steep grade that goes up to Providence Street, but Mr. Sullivan said the Authority is adequately insured for these issues.

In Re Carol Wagner 1:22-bk-10202 Bankruptcy Collection

Mr. Sullivan said the Authority had been stymied with a particular account which had been in bankruptcy for years. He said the amount owed was in the area of \$7k from a residential account. He said Ms. Wagner lived in the home but the amount owed was actually from her husband. Her husband went to prison for fraud. He said he filed paperwork to collect the account from the bankruptcy court, and the motion was approved. He said he would continue to work with Mr. Lanfredi collecting this account.

Director of Finance Report:

Closing Report July 2022, Cash Report, Billed Sales July 2022

Mr. Lanfredi, Finance Director, explained and submitted the financial report. He reported on the Cash Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Cash Location FY 2021-2022 as of July 2022 and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance as of July 2022, attached as exhibit "A", and a thorough discussion ensued regarding the sales and revenue.

Mr. Lanfredi said there were 1444 accounts that were delinquent for a total of \$378k. He contrasted that with 2021 at this time, where there were 2000 delinquent accounts for a total of \$324k.

Chairman Boyer asked if all delinquent accounts were paid current, the accounts would run even. Mr. Lanfredi agreed with him.

Mr. Simmons showed the board a graphic showing the increased sale of water due to the low rainfall and drought conditions mostly driven by outdoor irrigation similar to what was experienced in 2020.

Mr. Giusti asked about the condition of the water supply. Mr. Simmons said the Authority is currently receiving 100% of its water from wholesale purchases from Providence Water and hence water treated from the Scituate reservoir. He stated that Providence Water does not have water restrictions in place and the reservoir volumes are sufficiently meeting the extreme demands. Mr. Simmons said that the Mishnock facility is currently offline due to lower than usual groundwater levels and opined that there may be a possible connection to the disputed lower

maintenance levels of Johnsons Pond might be hydrologically influencing the water table. He said that he was planning on restarting the plant in the coming weeks depending on the groundwater levels and the ability the running the plant effectively at lower production levels. It was expressed that there are failsafe measures in the well controls that will automatically shut them down when trying to balance production. Mr. Duchesneau said when the reservoir is up, reliance upon groundwater is reduced.

There was a brief discussion on Quonset Point water sales.

Mr. Rousselle moved, seconded by Mr. Kortz, to accept the reports and attach the same as an exhibit and that the same be incorporated by reference and be made a part of these minutes.

Upon Motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously,

VOTED: That the Cash Receipts and Disbursements and Statement of Cash Location FY 2021-2022 as of July 2022 and Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance as of July 2022, attached as exhibit "A", be approved as presented and be incorporated herein and are made a part hereof.

Point of Personal Privilege & Communication:

Chairman Boyer said things were coming along with the new facility's site. He said he wants to push the architect and engineer to adhere to all deadlines. He said the whole site was scrubbed, and that we are awaiting on RIDEM approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

ONGOING PROJECTS:

IFR 2021

Update Action Items Task Order No. 3 (Design additions in Warwick and Coventry) & Change Order No. 9 (Relocation of main on Tiogue Ave at RIDOT Bridge 259).

Mr. Simmons introduced the agenda item. He said the task order #3 is adding to the existing design contract. He said the Authority will be required to replace both galvanized and lead service lines in the system in the near future. The Hopkins Hill area of Coventry has been identified as primary areas of interest to start this effort. Mr. Burns said these galvanized lines

were in bad shape with plenty of leaks. He said they would replace the streets of Idaho, Arizona and Lakeside.

Chairman Boyer asked if there were still lead pipes in the system. Ms. Campagnone indicated there were 85 lines they knew of as a result of the survey completed during the meter change out program. Mr. Simmons said that lead and galvanized lines will be required to be replaced. He said there was money being made available under the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and that KCWA, along with other RI Water regulated and unregulated utilities, were meeting with the infrastructure bank and the PUC. He said the Authority is responsible for the replacement public side which is from the main to the curbstop and currently the homeowner has to absorb the replacement cost of the private side from the curbstop into the building. He estimated the average cost at roughly \$5k for each side for a total balance of \$10k. The purpose of the PUC and RIIB meeting is to discuss both grant and loans being made available by EPA to RIIB under the BIL to offset both public and private side replacement costs.

Mr. Rousselle moved, seconded by Mr. Kortz, to approve the Task Order #3 to complete the design to replace the lines for \$35,450.00.

Motion made and duly seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That KCWA approves the Task Order #3 to perform the design services for future replacement of the water lines for \$35,450.00.

Next Change Order #9 was discussed. Mr. Simmons said this was sort of an emergency, located at Tiogue Ave and New London Tpk. Mr. Burns said the water main was laying across the riverbed. Mr. Simmons said anyone could have thrown a rock at it and ruptured it easily. The CO funded the repair at \$99,838.00.

Mr. Giusti moved, seconded by to approve CO #9 to replace the 12" main for \$99,838.00.

Motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: That KCWA approves change order no. 9 to replace the 12' main on Tiogue Ave. at New London Tpk. For \$99,838.00.

Update – Large Meter Program

She said the large meter program is 64% complete. 196 of 305 had been replaced, including new radios on older meters. She said KCWA just received a shipment of large meters last week and they expect more in a couple of weeks.

Chairman Boyer asked if there was any cost to the customer? Ms. Campagnone replied that there was no cost. She said they were covering the cost of testing as well.

Mr. Simmons said 20% of KCWA metered revenue comes from just over 300 large meters.

Office and Maintenance Facility

Contract Documents and Final Plans for bidding- Update

Mr. Simmons shows the board the schedule related to the construction of the new facility. He predicted completion done by April 2024. He outlined the bidding process, discussed electronic delivery of the bidding documents and a change of delivery for security reasons.

Mr. Kortz indicated that it generally takes more than 2 days to advertise in the Providence Journal. Mr. Simmons said at a minimum, the invitation to bid can get done early, and the plans are pretty much done.

East Greenwich Well

Design Update – Incorporation of PFAS treatment alternatives considerations into final design

Mr. Simmons discussed the recently passed legislation regarding the PFAS maximum level at 20 ppt. He said the EG well is below that at 9 ppt. He discussed revamped PFAS treatment alternatives to the current design plan to include a final polishing step using granulated activated carbonfilters to remove PFAS. He said the current design only handles iron and manganese removal through greensand filtration and the backwash water to used clean those filters is currently designed to go into a pond and percolate back into the soil. Now, he said, with potential PFAS treatment, they will need more real estate to house the infrastructure place the anticipated PFAS filters. As a result of this future need, the percolation ponds would be removed from the design and the backwash water from the greensand filters would need to discharge to the sanitary sewer. He said that while the volume of backwash water is minimal and does not contain contaminants that may affect a RIPDES permit, but the final design will need to be coordinated with East Greenwich sewer to determine feasibility of this plan.

Mr. Kortz confirmed that they were not planning to build the PFAS component of the treatment plant currently.

Executive Session:


Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(2): Discussions pertaining to litigation -RIDOT- Construction-

Pipe Gantry Issues-KCWA v. D'Ambra Construction and RIDOT- KC-2021-0704

Mr. Sullivan indicated that there was no need for executive session. The discovery phase continues.

There being no further business before this board, on motion duly made by Mr. Rousselle, seconded by Mr. Kortz and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Dated: September 22, 2022



Patrick J. Sullivan
Legal Counsel