

**SPRING TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Spring Township Water Authority of February 28th, 2007 was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Doug Weikel, Chairman, followed by Pledge to the Flag.

Authority Members: Doug Weikel, Greg Myers, Jack Bell & Gary Catalano
Solicitor: John Miller, Jr. – Not Present
Supervisors: None Present
Township Manager: William MacMath – Not Present
Water Operator: Greg Yearick
Engineer: Andrew Johnson – Gwin Dobson & Foreman Inc.
Guests: Van Jodon
Mr. & Mrs. William Bittner

HEARING OF VISITORS:

William Bittner – Water Usage (4th Qtr. 2006) – Mr. Bitter requested consideration on reducing his invoice he received for the 4th Quarter of 2006. Normal usage in the past has been between 10,000 to 15,000 gallons per quarter. However, the recent invoice received was for usage of 41,000. Mr. Bitter also reported he has checked for leaks and can not find any, and their usage at Rosewood Cove never use to be more than around \$60.00, normally less. The Water Operator did stop by to check and tried to explain options. Doug Weikel, Chairman, questioned if the meter was checked. Greg Yearick, Operator, reported yes. Awhile back there was a wire broke which was repaired. Doug Weikel also explained to the Bittner's how the meter works, and brought to their attention of some leaks that could be occurring they are not aware of. After some discussion, the Authority agreed to take Bittner's meter and have it tested. Bittner's were also informed that if the meter test results come back that the meter is working properly and is accurate, the would be responsible for the cost of testing the meter in addition to their invoice of \$167.85 they received for the 4th Quarter. Mr. Bittner thanked the Authority and an appointment was set up with Greg Yearick to remove the meter to have tested. No further discussion.

Van Jodon – The Oaks – Mr. Jodon reported he is employed by The Oaks and they have the 16 cottages in addition to the retirement home that he takes care of. He is requesting permission to purchase a shut off wrench for emergency purposes. Reason for the request is due to the meters and shut offs for the cottages being located back in crawl spaces that are not easily accessible, therefore if there were to be a break in the line etc. it would take more time to get the water shut off than if he had a wrench he could just shut off at the curb. Doug Weikel, Chairman, questioned if the meters were installed in un-conditioned crawl spaces? Mr. Jodon reported yes, cottages were built prior to the new code regulations were enforced.

Jack Bell, Vice-Chairman, reported he is not in favor of letting anyone purchase a wrench due to the fact everyone, such as other property owners that have several properties and/or town homes/condos would want one also. The Authority should be the only one accessing the system. Doug Weikel, Chairman, agreed that the Authority can not issue

equipment to operate their system. Gary Catalano questioned if the meters could be move to a better location.

Mr. Jodon reported The Oaks is simply trying to provide the best service to it's residents and if he needed to shut off water service for a break, leak etc. it is very hard to get to where the meter is currently, which was his reason for requesting approval to purchase a wrench to shut the water off at the curb. Doug Weikel, Chairman, reported another option would be for The Oaks to re-plumb and locate the meters at a more convenient location. The Authority's hands are tied, can not authorize purchasing equipment that would allow access to The Authority's system. Suggested to Mr. Jodon that they handle internally. No further discussion.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

It was on a motion of Gary Catalano seconded by Jack Bell to approve the minutes for January 24, 2007 as submitted. Doug Weikel abstained. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

It was on a motion of Greg Myers seconded by Jack Bell to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2007 as submitted. Unanimously approved motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Regular Monthly Invoices – Molly Baird, Secretary, reported an additional invoice was received today that was not included on the list of Bills for Approval. Invoice is from J.T. Coursen in the amount of \$575.00 for installing a 2" water meter at the new Pleasant Gap Fire Hall. The Authority commented that the invoice submitted from J.T. Coursen needs further clarification and itemization before approval of payment. Current invoice states \$575 for installation of 2" meter, no detail. It was on a motion of Doug Weikel seconded by Greg Myers to approve the bills for the month of January/February as submitted, and not to include the invoice from J.T. Coursen until further clarification and itemization is provided. Unanimously approved motion carried. A letter will be sent to J.T. Coursen requesting further clarification of invoice.

REPORT ON WORK PERFORMED:

Greg Yearick – Report on work performed for the Water Authority by Greg Yearick, Operator, was submitted by Greg Yearick and is on file for review.

Molly Baird - Report on work performed for the Water Authority by Molly Baird, Secretary, was submitted by Molly Baird and is on file for review.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

GWIN DOBSON FOREMAN, INC. – Andrew Johnson, Engineer, submitted a written report to The Authority members for their packets. Report contained the following information.

Water Extension to Zion Road – Andy Johnson reported he contacted Dave Gill, Weis Markets, to discuss water needs and plans for their store/development. He is proceeding with his own water system including well, tank, etc. He told him that the Authority was considering a possible line extension to the Zion Road Area. Mr. Gill feels he had tried previously to work with the Authority and they were not cooperative. Andy Johnson reported he disagreed with Mr. Gill in that statement and told him that the developers group that he was involved with had concluded that it was less expensive to develop their own source/system than to extend to STWA. Mr. Gill said he is not interested in long term operating this system but at the same time he would not dedicate his system to the Authority without a monetary exchange.

Doug Weikel, Chairman, reported he feels this is a good project and a good idea for the future, but need to proceed with the tank painting project as a priority.

Operational Assistance – Andy Johnson reported he met with Greg Yearick on 2/5/07 at his request because the well pump would not operate. The well pump would start but would shut back off after about 15 seconds. Upon investigation, it was found that the vent line on the hydraulic check valve was frozen where it exits the building. Disconnected this line at a union so the valve could vent to the interior of the station and the well pump started and worked fine. Greg was going to pipe this vent to the interior floor drain to prevent future problems.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jack Bell, Vice-Chairman, questioned if fuses were ever purchased for the new well site. Andy Johnson, Engineer, reported yes, a change order was written for those spare parts. Greg Yearick, Operator, reported he has the parts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan Lopez – Request for two rental accounts to be billed directly to tenants – Molly Baird, Secretary, reported a letter was received from Susan Lopez requesting that her rental properties at 146 and 209 S. Harrison Road be sent directly to the tenants. She agreed to have her name on the invoice but is requesting they get mailed directly to the tenants instead of to her home. Molly also reported that previously there were problems with tenants moving and landlords being responsible for unpaid water bills and in checking with John Miller, Jr., Solicitor, he said legally the property owner must be billed for the service because they are ultimately responsible. It is up to the property owner to work out the agreement with their tenants. If they want their tenants to pay for the water, it is up to them to get them the invoice to pay or else pay it and in turn collect it from them. The Authority however must invoice only the property owners. The Authority agreed to keep invoicing the property owners and follow the advice of the Solicitor. A letter will be sent to Mrs. Lopez.

PRWA – Delegation Letter – Appealing for Rural Water Funding – Letter received from PRWA asking for support from PRWA Members by writing a letter to their Congressman requesting him to continue to support Rural Water programs. Congressman Peterson is sponsoring and Congressman Holden is considering sponsoring a Pennsylvania delegation letter for all United States Congressmen from Pennsylvania to sign. PRWA is encouraging all their members to contact their congressman by sending a delegation letter (sample included) on letterhead supporting Rural Water programs. The Authority agreed to send letter. Doug Weikel, Chairman to sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Extension & Improvements - No Report.

Financial Committee – No Report.

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION:

Centre County District Attorney – Arman Sahakian Restitution – A copy of a letter was provided to the Board in their packets of the letter received from the Centre County District Attorney's Office notifying STWA that Restitution in the amount of \$665.28 has been ordered to Arman Sahakian. Check has been received.

Updated status on Delinquent Accounts – Information Only – A list of delinquent customers update was provided to Authority members in their packets. Information only. No discussion.

BEFORE ADJOURNING:

Trees at Reservoir – Greg Yearick, Operator, reported there are seven (7) trees at the reservoir that need cut down. Pines, Hemlocks etc. He received two quotes:

- B & H Tree Service - \$1,500
- Total Tree Service - \$1,750

Gary Catalano, Board Member, reported he personally had George Robinson, Milesburg, remove some trees for him and was given a reasonable price. Suggested Mr. Robinson be contacted also prior to deciding who to go with.

It was on a motion of Doug Weikel seconded by Gary Catalano to contact George Robinson for a quote also, then go with the low quote out of all three contacts. Unanimously approved motion carried.

WORK SESSION:

No Work Session scheduled at this time.

ADJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, it was on a motion of Gary Catalano seconded by Jack Bell to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Unanimously approved motion carried.

**Molly Baird,
Recording Secretary**

