

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Board of Water Commissioners met in open session on Tuesday January 3, 2023. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. in the Westfield Municipal Building, Room 201.

Those in attendance were: Water Commissioners Joseph Popielarczyk (Chairman); John Niedzielski (member); Acting Director Francis Cain; Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli; Budget Analysts Joanna Williams; Office Manager Hannah Larkham.

The meeting was recorded by Hannah Larkham

Public Participation: Kathleen Hillman 179 Susan Dr. - Kathleen was present to see what was going to be discussed under the sewer senior discount agenda item. She wanted to know if the discount was on a sliding scale or does every senior get it regardless of their income.

Water Abatement Applications:

Office Manager Hannah Larkham had none to be presented to the Board.

Discuss and possible vote on sewer senior discount

Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli was present at the meeting with Chris Bone and Mike Schrader from Tighe & Bond to discuss the current sewer senior discount. Mike presented the sewer rate study to the Board that was created in 2021. When the study was first done, Tighe & Bond had suggested a change in the percentage for the sewer discount, but City Council did not take it into consideration. Jeff shared that currently there are 1,394 residents who receive the sewer discount. This equates to \$422,605.04 in lost revenue for the Sewer/Waste Water Division each year. The lost funds could be used for sludge removal, gas & electric bills, upgrades to the treatment plant, pump stations, etc. While the Board sees the need for a change in the discount, they are not looking to completely remove it at this time. The four options the Board believes they have are to leave it as it is, reduce the percentage on the discount, change the requirements for the discount to an income based discount, or to increase the sewer rate. The Board asked the Department to reach out the Solicitor's Office to see what legally they can do or ask of the residents.

Review, discussion, and vote for a bond order request for needed HVAC upgrades and new roof to the blower sludge processing building at the wastewater treatment facility

Jeff Gamelli and Chris Bone from Tighe & Bond were present at the meeting to talk to the Commission about possibly approving a bond order for the work being requested at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Since the last time Jeff spoke to the Commission about this project, the architecture came back with an updated construction cost of \$2.48 million. Jeff went into details what is specifically being covered by the cost of this project in aspect of the HVAC upgrade and new roof being installed.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to support the bond request for Waste Water Division improvements for HVAC upgrades and new roof to the blower sludge processing building in the amount of \$2.5 million. Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

Review, discussion, and vote for a bond order request for a Bio solids Dewatering Upgrade Project at the wastewater treatment facility

Jeff Gamelli and Chris Bone from Tighe & Bond were present at the meeting to discuss the anticipated project for the bio solids dewatering upgrade. Jeff has been working with Tighe & Bond on the design of the project that was paid with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The division did apply for State Revolving Funds (SRF) but did not meet the threshold that was required so they will be seeking a bond order to fund the project. Jeff went into detail what is specifically being covered by the cost of this project.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to support the bond request for Waste Water Division improvements for a bio solid dewatering upgrade in the amount of \$3 million. Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to approve the minutes as written for December 6, 2022. Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

Project Updates

Budget Analysts Joanna Williams presented the undesignated funds that are available and what is being requested by the Water and Waste Water Division.

Water Division undesignated funds available: \$2,317,512.00. The division will be requesting \$1,239,100 to be used for purchase of services, supplies, chemicals, and to purchase a vehicle.

Sewer/Waste Water Division funds available: \$1,566,625.00. The division will be requesting \$1.2 million to be used for purchase of services, sludge hauling, gas & electric bills, etc. Jeff also wanted to make the Board aware that The Mayor, City Engineer, and City Council will be taking \$250,000 out of the Waste Water undesignated to pay for Pineridge Dr. to be paved. The City recently installed a sewer main on Pineridge Dr. and since then the road needs to be paved.

Stormwater Division funds available: \$980,506.00. The division will be requesting to use a portion of this money to pay for the illicit dumping on West Silver St. The bids have come in but the contract has not been awarded so the amount to be requested is unknown at this time.

Signing of Schedules for Bills Payable:

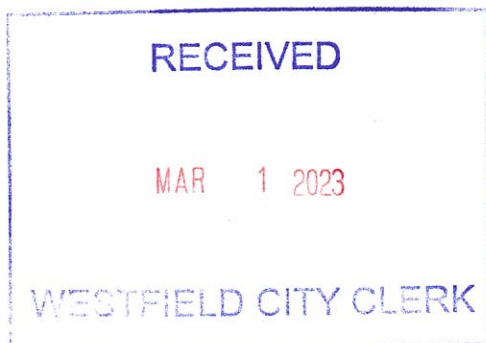
Commissioners Popielarczyk and Niedzielski were present at the meeting and signed all schedules of bills payable.

Adjourn

The next scheduled commission meeting be planned on a needed basis.

Motion made by Commissioner Niedzielski to adjourn; Motion seconded by Commissioner Popielarczyk. Motion approved.

ADJOURN: 9:13 P.M.




Chairman

Secretary


Member