

BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Coleman at 7:05 P.M.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Steve Lucas, Paul Sharkady, Jean Popp, Richard Russo, Joseph Milioto, Ronald Cianelli, and George Coleman

Others Present:

Borough Manager Terry Hazlett and Attorney Patrick Derrico

Absent:

Allen J. Williams, Daniel Caruso, Jr., and Engineer Harvey Treschow

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were none.

VI. VOTING ITEMS:

A. Motion -- Tentative Approval --2010 Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority Budget

Discussion was held pertaining to the absence of the Engineer's salary in the budget.

Mr. Russo explained that this budget is the plant operations budget. Ms. Altland's salary would be listed in the Authority's administrative budget.

Mr. Hazlett said that he and Ms. Lesnock met with Ms. Altland about the budget. He explained the few alterations that were made, which pertain to increasing the amount of chemicals, as they had been underestimated, and reducing a few other costs. In addition, they were able to retain Mr. (Richard) Zollinger and double the amount of time he will spend at the plant per Council's request, and Sandy Sartori is still in the budget. Mr. Hazlett stated that he and Ms. Lesnock are fine with this budget, and there is no rate increase in this budget.

Mr. Hazlett also informed Council that the Sewer Authority

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will now be giving Council a monthly breakdown into categories of its office expenses as Council had requested. (These items are outside of the operations budget.)

Further discussion was held.

Mrs. Popp asked if the members of the Sewer Authority Board (who are appointed by Council) receive any pension, salary, or health benefits.

Mr. Hazlett replied that, according to the way it's written, they could, but as far as he is aware, they don't.

Mr. Michael Alterio, Chairman of the Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority, was present in the audience.

Mrs. Popp addressed Mr. Alterio also in reference to her question.

Mr. Alterio informed Mrs. Popp that the Sewer Authority members do not receive any compensation or benefits whatsoever.

Their service on the Board is strictly civic duty.

Mr. Russo commented that the \$10,000 - \$11,000 expense every month is funded by the Operations Budget, so the revenue created by the plant funds the Authority's administrative costs.

Mr. Milioto said that everyone needs to understand that the billing process is going to change.

Mr. Hazlett explained that as of January, 2010, or shortly thereafter, the billing will be done by the Water Company. Sandy (Sartori) will be moved down to the plant, where she will still be making call outs for late fees and writing letters as she does now. That will take about a day and a half to two days of the work week. She will also do some of the testing that is currently being done by Jim Dellorso and a couple other guys.

There is enough work for her to do at the plant. Sandy will be retained at the same salary, but the Water Company will do the billing. Mr. Hazlett stated that there is money allocated in the budget to outsource the billing, and in talking with the Sewer Authority, they believe it will save us money.

Mr. Coleman stated that they're going to be able to do this

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for 65 cents, including postage.

Further discussion was held pertaining to the billing process.

There is no contract with the Water Company yet, but residents will be informed prior to the time it is to be enacted.

Mr. Lucas moved to approve the 2010 Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority Budget as submitted by Mr. Hazlett in the packets.

Mrs. Popp seconded the motion.

The matter of the Engineer's salary was brought up again.

Mr. Alterio explained that the budget is strictly the operating budget required by the Trust Indenture. Ms. Altland's salary is included in the capital budget. Prior to hiring Ms. Altland, the Authority was spending about \$228,800 for outside engineering. The rates for a project engineer were \$100 per hour, and the project manager rates were \$120 per hour. The combined costs for the in-house engineer was roughly \$100,000 less.

Mr. Coleman asked if the \$110,000 includes any of the outsourcing of engineers coming in and doing work for Ms. Altland.

Mr. Alterio replied that they have to outsource a major design.

Mr. Coleman said that if you add that up, it would be a savings of much less than \$110,000.

Mr. Alterio explained that the Authority saved a lot of money by having its own in-house engineer, as Ms. Altland is able to prepare all the forms for DEP and review drawings prepared by consultants.

Mr. Lucas questioned why Ms. Altland's salary does not appear in the budget.

Mr. Alterio replied that this budget covers what the Trust Indenture requires – operation of the plant.

Mr. Lucas felt that the operation of the plant is being paid for

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by this budget which is being paid for by the users and tax-payers and should be public information like everything else. Mr. Alterio stated that (1) it's not taxpayers; it's rate payers; and (2) that operation comes out of the surplus capital budget – not the operations budget.

Mr. Lucas felt that, to eliminate confusion in the future, that Information should be shared with Council, as well as made public. Everyone who works for the Borough or around the Borough is a public employee and all their salaries are listed. Further discussion was held.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Steve Lucas	Yes
Paul Sharkady	Yes
Jean Popp	Yes
Allen J. Williams	Absent
Richard Russo	Yes
Joseph Milioto	Yes
Ronald Cianelli	Yes
George Coleman	Yes
Daniel Caruso, Jr.	Absent

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Seven Yes, Zero No, Two Absent. Motion carried.

VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was none.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was none.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Lucas moved to adjourn.

Mr. Milioto seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENTS: None

