

**Red Lion Municipal Authority
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 17th, 2020**

Members present

Skip Missimer, Chairman
Mike Poff, Vice Chairman
Jeff Herrman, Secretary
Dennis Klinedinst, Treasurer
Chris Minnich (via Zoom)

Others present

Keith Kahwajy, Superintendent
Jeff Beard, Asst. Superintendent
Andy Miller, Solicitor (via Zoom)
Jason Reichard, Engineer (via Zoom)
Stacy Myers, Rec. Sec'y (via Zoom)

Visitors present

Stephanie Weaver
Bob Frutiger
Andrew Zolko
Dianne Price (via Zoom)

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m. followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. Mr. Poff made a motion to approve the October 28th Budget Meeting Minutes & Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Minnich requested a revision to the Regular Meeting Minutes to include *that he distributed copies of the revised Hydrant Agreement from the Borough Manager, Mrs. Price. Mr. Missimer said a copy can be given to RLMA's Solicitor, Andy Miller, but he didn't want Andy to spend any time on it. From what he heard at recent Borough Council meetings, Mr. Missimer thought this was a dead issue in that the Borough will continue to maintain the hydrants & pay the monthly hydrant fees.* This revision will be included in those Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Minnich seconded the motion to approve. All were in favor; motion carried.
3. **WATER USAGE REPORT**—Rainfall received since last meeting was 4.9". Usage has been normal. Of note, two water main breaks were fixed since last meeting; 1 in Kendale & 1 in Forest Hills.
4. **CONNECTIONS REPORT**—3 new connections since last month (2-Kensington; 1-Laurel Vista)
5. **VISITORS**—Andrew Zolko was present to, once again, dispute his recent water bill that showed 33,000 gallons of water was used. Mr. Zolko said in the 30 years he & his wife lived there, even during the time his 3 sons lived at home, they never used 33,000 gallons of water in one month. He urged Municipal staff & RLMA Board members to look at his past usage as well as his bill history to confirm this. He & his wife had been to the September RLMA meeting to dispute the high-usage bill. They had paid for a certified plumber to come to their house to check all toilets, faucets, outside spigots, etc. for leaks and he found none. When he called RLMA office staff, Mr. Zolko said he was accused of having a swimming pool, they have none; he was accused of watering his lawn and/or flowers, they don't; he was accused of leaving an outside hose on, he didn't. He said he could not have used this much water; he was in the hospital for 20 of the 30 days of that billing month & his wife did not use all that water either. He believes the water meter is faulty or that a decimal was missed somehow & suggested the usage should've only been 3,300 gallons rather than the 33,000.
Mr. Missimer said no one (staff, etc.) accused Mr. Zolko of anything. The questions that staff asked him about the swimming pool, leaking toilets, faucets, etc. are all standard questions they ask when someone calls regarding a high-water bill. This is not an infrequent problem; toilets run sometimes unbeknownst to residents or a faucet could leak, undetected.
Keith stated after the September meeting, RLMA staff met to change his old-style meter with the new Kamstrup meter. The Kamstrup is an electronic meter, not mechanical like the old style.

There are no moving parts. Staff tested the old meter at 15gallons/minute, 2gallons/minute & ¼-gallon/minute and all 3 tests came back at 100% accuracy.

With the old meter being mechanical, water must go through the meter to move the dials & calculate usage. While it's true at the time staff was at the Zolko residence nothing was leaking, that doesn't mean nothing DID leak at some point in that billing period. Mr. Missimer said it's not unusual to have one month of high usage; it doesn't mean the meter is faulty. A faulty meter doesn't correct itself & since that high-usage bill, the Zolko's bills has been back to their normal usage.

Mr. Klinedinst stated one of his toilets recently had a flapper that was stuck & had he not heard the water running, it could've produced a high water bill as well. Things like this happen.

Jeff Beard said a running toilet can allow up to 8,000 gallons to go through a meter in one day. Years ago, the Zolko's had to install a booster pump to receive an adequate water supply because their house sits uphill from the water line. Mr. Zolko said that pump is still working & there is nothing out of service or faulty with any of his other appliances in his home.

He asked the Board for consideration & leniency regarding the high water bill, repeating that he does not believe it possible for two people to use that much water in one month & it must have been a faulty meter or billing error.

Stephanie Weaver, a visitor at tonight's meeting, asked Mr. Zolko how he can know for sure that nothing in his home was leaking/running, if he was in the hospital 20 days out of the 30? He was adamant that 33,000 gallons of water was not used & all his toilets, faucets, etc. are kept in good working condition.

Mr. Missimer said the Board is denying Mr. Zolko's request to waive the 33,000-gallon water bill. If he wishes, he can arrange a payment plan or extension with staff, but the bill will need to be paid by the end of February 2021.

6. **WATER & SEWER—OLD BUSINESS**

- **Solicitor's Report**—Andy reported:
 - **Dallastown-Yoe Water Authority** was scheduled to discuss the bulk sales agreement at their meeting last week. Andy will follow up with their Solicitor Peter Ruth regarding that.
 - **He is still waiting for the deed** from the Borough for the lot line change/lot add-on to the Authority's property. Mrs. Price stated the Borough already approved it, but the Borough Solicitor, Mike Craley has the deed, but wants the blanks typed in to make a cleaner copy. Andy will follow up with Mr. Craley regarding that.
- **Engineer's Report**—Jason reported:
 - **Springvale Road Water Main Extension Project**—Jason's office prepared the final draft of the plans & contract specifications; RLMA staff has reviewed them. The plans involve installation of 2,170 linear feet of 8" main, a 6" diameter interconnection with the existing main on Wise Avenue & 18 service connections. The interconnection on Wise will replace the blowoff & will eliminate the need for staff to continue to exercise that blowoff. In addition, approximately 80' of pipe will be added at Wise Avenue too. The project also includes the installation of two fire hydrants, per Windsor Township's request, as there are currently no fire hydrants in that area. Windsor Township will reimburse RLMA for the cost of the hydrants. Jason & staff estimate construction costs for this project in the range of \$700,000, but Jason stated costs may come in lower. There are a few details to work out yet & the project may get delayed a little so it's not being conducted in bad weather. Temporary pavement restoration can be done until Spring when final restoration can take place. This has been coordinated with Windsor Township also. Of note, Tate Industries is looking for additional fire protection, so this extension & replacement will help them if they move forward with that.

Mr. Klinedinst made a motion to authorize the advertisement for bids on this project; Mr. Herrman seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Jason expects bid tabulations to be presented at the December 15th RLMA meeting.

- **Edgewood Tank**—the proposed scope of work outlining the recommended approach for tank replacement is close to completion, but Jason said more time is needed to finalize everything. He should have information available to email to Board members for their review by the December 15th meeting.
 - **Lancaster Street Water Main Interconnection**—the stream classification was upgraded due to DEP classifying the existing tributary as exceptional waters. Per the Borough Engineer, this project is currently on hold as consultants are trying to schedule a meeting with DEP to avoid providing extra information required on a joint permit.
 - **Rutter’s (end of town at N. Main & Prospect)**—Mr. Klinedinst reported this store plans an expansion to include beer & wine sales. He wanted the Authority to be aware of the project, although Rutter’s probably won’t have any need to contact RLMA regarding it.
- **Superintendent’s Report**—Keith reported the following:
 - Shutoffs for delinquent water bills will be December 16th, 2020
7. **WATER & SEWER—NEW BUSINESS**—Keith & Jeff reported the following:
- Mr. Poff made a motion to adopt the following Resolutions; Mr. Herrman seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Resolution 2020-2**—to adopt the Water & Sewer Budget—Keith stated no changes or revisions were made to the budget since the October RLMA Budget Meeting. The copies that the Board received at that meeting can be marked “Final Budget”; Keith will email copies to members.
 - **Resolution 2020-3**—to adopt 2021 Water Rates—no proposed increase for 2021
 - **Resolution 2020-4**—to adopt 2021 Sewer Rates—no proposed increase for 2021
 - **Resolution 2020-5**—to adopt Certain Fees
 - 2021 Chemical Bids were advertised in the local newspaper & have been emailed to vendors. Bid opening will be Thursday, December 10th @ 10am in the Municipal Meeting Room.
 - The list of proposed meeting dates for 2021 has been distributed. The December 22nd meeting date was changed to Tuesday, December 14th, 2021. Any other conflicts should be brought to Keith’s attention before the December 15th, 2020 Meeting.
 - November 16th—installation of the meter head Jeff found for Green Branch
 - Keystone contractor is proposing to have the fuel tanks at the fuel island removed by Christmas
8. **Other business**
- Mr. Missimer mentioned the two COVID-19 vaccines that are being proposed look to be promising in effectiveness. Municipal Authority employees are considered priority candidates for these vaccines, so he urged RLMA employees to get those to protect themselves.
 - House Bill 2597 is before the Pennsylvania legislature & would amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) PA Consolidated Statutes, in rates and distribution systems, providing for valuation of acquired water & wastewater systems. Mr. Missimer contacted Stan Saylor’s office and reported that either Stan Saylor or Kevin Eck (from Saylor’s office) will be at the December RLMA meeting to hear why RLMA supports this legislation & for them to explain to the Board why they do or don’t support it.
9. **Bills & Statements**—Mr. Poff made a motion to pay the bills & statements; Mr. Herrman seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

10. **Adjournment**—With no further business before the Authority, Mr. Herrman made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:11p.m. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.
11. **The next RLMA meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15th @ 7:00p.m. via Zoom or in person (practicing social distancing), whichever way Board members & guests wish to attend.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary