

Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the
Board of The Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water
Authority held on May 23, 2023, at 6:30
o'clock p.m. at 2200 Robinson Boulevard
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

Present:	Fuller	Czekaj	Broz
	Vento	Scolieri	Crombie-Collins
	McKinley	Gilliland	Simon
	Vahosky	Rawlins	

Others Present: Komandt, Bianchi, Akam, Balewski, Alexander, and Davis

Absent: Williams

Although no formal action was taken, the following workshop minutes are presented for the record. The workshop meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. with Mr. Simon, chairperson presiding. The Chairperson then asked for the reports of the Consulting Engineer and Solicitor. Both reports, presented with questions asked and answered, are attached hereto, and made a part of these minutes. Next, Mr. Komandt, Executive Director, reviewed the items in his Management Report which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. He had nothing further to add.

There being no further business to discuss, the workshop session concluded at 7:12 pm. The regular board meeting commenced at 7:17 pm after resolving technical difficulties.


Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
the Board of The Wilksburg-Penn
Joint Water Authority held on
May 23, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock p.m.
at 2200 Robinson Boulevard,
Wilksburg, PA. 15221.

Present:	Fuller	Czekaj	Broz
	Vento	Scolieri	Crombie-Collins
	McKinley	Rawlins	Simon
	Vahosky	Gilliland	

Others Present: Komandt, Bianchi, Akam, Balewski, Alexander, and Davis

Absent: Williams

The regular meeting commenced at 7:17 p.m. with Mr. Simon, chair presiding, and Ms. Davis recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Simon followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair then called for public comments upon which the following attendees presented their concerns before the Board: *Anna Coleman*: Organizer at Pittsburgh United, expressed concerns shared by residents regarding the billing issues taking place at the Authority. She stated that her organization had reached out to elected Officials to bring attention to the frustrations and inconveniences customers are experiencing. A major objective was for a moratorium on shutoffs until the payment system had been rectified. *Ray Pope*: resident of Wilksburg, described damages and distress he incurred from a WPJWA water main break and his dissatisfaction with the Authority's insurance provider's denial of his property damage claim. *Cassandra Schaffer*: employee of State Representative Abigail Salisbury, discussed complaints received from customers claiming inability to resolve their problems satisfactorily, and her own frustration at the difficulty of establishing a line of communication. She asked for more transparency and that shutoffs be suspended until the billing issue is resolved. *Carlos Thomas*: a community advocate, expressed the need for the Authority to exercise greater accountability, responsibility and a more proactive stance when dealing with the care and concern of its customers. *Natisha Washington*: resident of Wilksburg, stated there's a lack of communication on the part of the Authority to its customers. She detailed her involvement with PWSA and advocacy on behalf of the City of Pittsburgh's residents and offered to assist in disseminating information to Authority customers. *Leslie Centola*: works with Upstream Pittsburgh, appealed for customer assistance programs and a moratorium on shutoffs until such time one is established. *Paulette Foster*: a resident, stated that greater consideration should be given, and multiple sources utilized when communicating information to residents to ensure everyone is reached. *Gabriel Gray*: a community organizer, and former advocate of residents serviced by PWSA asked for greater transparency in general, and that more information regarding the Authority's governing structure be made available. Next, certain public commentators asked that a follow-up

meeting be scheduled to further discuss their concerns and for a press release that conveys the Authority's plans to address current billing issues. Upon conclusion of the public comment period Mr. Simon called for the approval of the Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023, whereupon;

**APPROVAL OF THE
APRIL 25, 2023, WORKSHOP
AND REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Vahosky, it was resolved by voice vote that the Workshop, and Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023, be approved as written and the same are hereby approved as written.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- ◆ As discussed in the earlier workshop meeting, authorization was requested to ratify the award of Contract # 23-006 "Ductile Iron Pipe and Accessories" to the lowest most responsible bidders, as presented on the Bid Tab. Bid opening was held April 18, 2023, whereupon;

**RATIFY THE AWARD OF
CONTRACT # 23-006 "DUCTILE
IRON PIPE AND ACCESSORIES" TO
THE LOWEST MOST RESPONSIBLE
BIDDERS, AS DETAILED ON THE
BID TAB. BID OPENING HELD
APRIL 18, 2023**

On a motion by Mrs. Crombie-Collins, seconded by Mr. Scolieri, it was resolved by voice vote to ratify the award of Contract #23-006 to the lowest most responsible bidders at prices detailed on the bid tab, and the same are hereby authorized and approved.

In response to published advertisement for Contract #23-009 "Miscellaneous Blanket Contract" one (1) Vendor picked up and returned. Sealed Bids were opened and read at 11:00 am Thursday May 18, 2023, with copies of Bid Tabulations filed in the *Authority's* Administrative Office at 2200 Robinson Boulevard, Wilksburg, Pennsylvania 15221.

- ◆ As discussed in the earlier workshop meeting, authorization was requested to award Contract #23-009 "Miscellaneous Blanket Contract" to *Lawson Excavating*, the lowest most responsible bidder, at the amount of \$206,756.00, whereupon;

**APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT
#23-009 “MISCELLANEOUS
BLANKET CONTRACT” TO
LAWSON EXCAVATING, THE
LOWEST MOST RESPONSIBLE
BIDDER, AT THE AMOUNT OF
\$206,756.00**

On a motion by Mrs. Crombie-Collins, seconded by Mr. Scolieri, it was resolved by voice vote to award Contract #23-009 to *Lawson Excavating*, the lowest most responsible bidder at the amount of \$206,756.00, and the same are hereby authorized and approved.

In response to published advertisement for Contract #23-010 “Service Line Verification – Phase 3” four (4) Vendors picked up with all returning. Sealed Bids were opened and read at 11:00 am Thursday May 18, 2023, with copies of Bid Tabulations filed in the *Authority’s* Administrative Office at 2200 Robinson Boulevard, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania 15221.

- ◆ As discussed in the earlier workshop meeting, authorization was requested to award Contract #23-010 “Service Line Verification – Phase 3” to *Lawson Excavating*” the lowest most responsible bidder, in the amount of \$568,350.00, whereupon;

**APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT
#23-010 “SERVICE LINE
VERIFICATION – PHASE 3” TO
LAWSON EXCAVATING” THE
LOWEST MOST RESPONSIBLE
BIDDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$568,350.00**

On a motion by Mr. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Vahosky, it was resolved by voice vote to award Contract #23-010 to *Lawson Excavating*, the lowest most responsible bidder, at the amount of \$568,350.00, and the same are hereby authorized and approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Mr. Simon, Chair,
No report

Mr. Fuller, Vice Chair,
No report

Ms. Broz, Secretary,
No report

Mr. Gilliland, Treasurer,
Excused (no longer present)

Mr. Fuller, Vice Chairperson, asked the body if they had any questions of the voucher run that was mailed out this past week under separate cover. Hearing none, he made the following motion based on management's recommendation and his review of the bills that expenditures from April 15, 2023, through May 12, 2023, be ratified in the amount of \$2,974,841.44. Said amount does not include net payroll, payment of payroll taxes or the electronic transfer of some municipality's sewage collections. In addition, authorization of disbursements was requested through June 27, 2023, whereupon;

**RATIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES
FROM APRIL 15, 2023, THROUGH
MAY 12, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$2,974,841.44. AND AUTHORIZATION
OF VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS
THROUGH JUNE 27, 2023**

On a motion by Mr. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Broz, with one (1) abstention, it was resolved by roll call vote that ratification of expenditures from April 15, 2023, through May 12, 2023, in the amount of \$2,974,841.44 be authorized. (Electronic transfers have been included but are not reflective in the total) Additionally, authorization of expenditures through June 27, 2023, are hereby ratified and authorized.

Abstentions: Simon from bills pertaining to *ms consultants, inc.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No report

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No report

LABOR COMMITTEE:

No report

POLICY COMMITTEE:

After reviewing certain Authority Policies, the Committee recommended the board continue to adhere to the Pennsylvania House of Representative's Policy governing the Right-to-Know Law and that we maintain adherence to the Sunshine Law under title 65. In keeping with the Sunshine Law, it was requested

that the Authority Solicitor draft a brief Policy to address the public comment period protocol. It should address set time limits on speakers, the selection of a spokesperson when a group is presenting a single or common issue, and require all commentators to sign in. It was also recommended that the board reserve debates, questions or comments to the end of the public comment period or for discussion in Committee meetings.

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE:

No report

CONSULTANTS REPORTS:

Consulting Engineer

Mr. Balewski discussed his report at the earlier workshop.
He had nothing further to add.

Solicitor

Mr. Alexander discussed his report at the earlier workshop.
He had nothing further to add.

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT:

The report of Management is made part of the workshop minutes, having been discussed and distributed to each Board member at the earlier workshop. Mr. Komandt had nothing further to submit for approval.


Unfinished Business

None

New Business

After attending a Community Forum, a board member posed the question of what methods of communication are used to provide pertinent information to representatives of communities that are in our service area but do not have a seat on the board of directors. One of the many suggestions presented, was that a copy of the Annual Report, which contains a comprehensive overview of Authority operations and board actions, be sent annually to each Municipality or Borough representative.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Vahosky, seconded by Mr. Czekaj and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.


Secretary