

## JACKSON TWP WATER AUTHORITY

APRIL 28, 2009

WALTER DITCHCREEK, CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING WITH A PRAYER AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Others board members in attendance were Robb Piper, Vice Chairman; John Wallet, Secretary; Ray Dodson, Treasurer; and Don Hrapchak, Assistant Sec./Tres. Karl Smith, Foreman; Debra Buksa, Billing Secretary; Jim Potopa, Engineer; Dick Wilkinson, CPA; Kelly Lundgren from the Nanty Glo Journal; and Susan Aurandt, a customer located at 189 Harmony Drive, were also in attendance.

The minutes of March 24, 2009 were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Aurandt had paid her water bills through direct debit. She had her bank account closed and did not notify JTWA. Her payment came back as “account closed”. After two months without payment her apartment was posted for nonpayment. Ms. Aurandt relayed to the board that she felt having her home posted for nonpayment was unnecessary. She thought that the office secretary should have notified her and would like the fee waived. Walter explained that he understands this is an unfortunate situation, but the Water Authority has costs involved too and it is not the responsibility of the water authority to monitor her account, therefore her request was denied. John further explained that JTWA does not have the time or manpower to call every customer when they are behind on their bills.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** (James Potopa) Jim reported that he had finished the Water Supply Act 220 report and it will be mailed out in the morning. All on-line reports required by DEP have been completed and are up-to-date. Jim has received corrections to the Annual Report and will have the final draft for the next meeting. He pointed out that the water usage graph demonstrates that our leak detection and billing are getting more efficient. DEP requires 20% or less unaccountable water and JTWA is down to 26% from 42%. Walter commended Jim on his report.

Robb attended a seminar held by Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission regarding PennVest stimulus monies available. Our radio read project may be eligible. Jim will contact PennVest with some preliminary questions to see if project is fundable before an application is submitted.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT:** C.J. Webb did not attend.

**CPA’S REPORT:** (Dick Wilkinson) Dick completed the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter wage reports and had Walter sign them. The 2-month Statement of Income was distributed. Dick reported that the revenues are slightly behind but this is normal for this time of year. Bottom line is close to budget. ON MOTION BY DON, SECOND BY JOHN AND APPROVED BY ALL TO ACCEPT THE CPA REPORT.

**FOREMAN'S REPORT:** (Karl Smith) Karl and Dave installed 60 more MXU units, posted 19 customers for non payment, put a tap in on Stoneridge Street, made restoration to properties damage over the winter, tied in the Wagner Road project and read meters. Nanty Glo is flushing lines starting May 10<sup>th</sup> and JTWA will start Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Karl wanted to go on record stating his concern with the pressure on the Chickaree Project. There is approximately 230 psi at the bottom. He feels that this is a safety issue. He has talked to Rich Wray and Larry Custer regarding the installation of a pressure reducing station. Jim Potopa said his firm had addressed this issue during bidding and again with an email to Larry Custer's office this March. John and Don both feel something in writing needs to be sent to Custer's office. Robb would like the brand of hydrants addressed too. After discussion, Jim will draft a letter with elevation maps and stats to JTWA and copy Larry Custer's office with Gwin, Dobson, & Foreman's professional opinion regarding the need for a Pressure Reducing Station on Chickaree Road. John will talk to Rich Wray, engineer for the project, concerning the fire hydrants.

The landfill installed a 2" line to two homes on Pintail Road. The first home has 60 psi and we are not sure what the second home has yet. This will be billed as a double user.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Walter and Ray will price mowers for the next meeting.

The grading of the road along side the office was addressed. John had talked to the township supervisors and there would be no problem in using the grader.

The repairing of Ford's Corner Tank roof was revisited. The board will look over the report Jim submitted last year. Repairs and the installation of a rubber roof are the thinking at this time. Jim will check into the millage need.

Ray suggested that Karl make a prioritized list since there are some many projects.

ON MOTION BY ROBB, SECOND BY DON AND APPROVED BY ALL TO PAY THE BILLS FOR MARCH.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A resident, Toni Merlo, contacted John regarding a fire hydrant on her right-of-way. She would like the hydrant moved. This was a project done by the Redevelopment Authority. JTWA will research the right-of-ways given and Karl will speak with Ms. Merlo this week.

John proposed that JTWA post their minutes on the township web page like all the other boards.  
ON MOTION BY JOHN, SECOND BY ROBB AND APPROVED 4 TO 1 WITH DON  
OPPOSING TO POST ***APPROVED*** MINUTES TO THE TOWNSHIP WEB PAGE.

At 8:20 pm Walter called an executive session for possible litigation. The regular meeting resumed at 8:40 and was adjourned with no formal action being taken.