

JOINT MEETING:

Somerset Borough Council & Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset

May 28th, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

JOINT MEETING AGENDA

1. Joint Meeting Called to Order:

a) Borough Council Meeting Called to Order – *President Ream*

b) Municipal Authority Meeting Called to Order – *Chairman Flower*

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call:

a) Borough Council Members present: *Pam Ream; Lee Hoffman; Ruby Miller; Sue Opp; Steve Shaulis; Jim Clark and Ian Mandichak.*

b) Mayor: *Fred Rosemeyer* also present.

c) Also present were the following: *Borough Manager, Michele Enos; Municipal Authority Manager, Jessica Sizemore; Director of Finance, Brett Peters; Administrative Assistant, Roger Bailey; Solicitors, James Cascio & Allyson Lonas, and Consulting Engineers Tom Reilly & Jake Bolby.*

Roll Call:

a) Municipal Authority Members present: *Ben Flower; Ruby Miller; Lee Hoffman; Jeff Shaffer and Terry Jerin.*

Public Attendance:

a) *Bill Barr*

4. New Business – Joint Discussions:

a) Executive Session – *Concerning personnel matters.*

Motion

Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Mr. Hoffman to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion Unanimously Carried
6:15 p.m.

Back in Session

6:45 p.m.

b) Sewer Camera - Discussion concerning sewer lateral and mainline camera equipment.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that she was asking Council the consideration of a purchase of a camera van for the sewer and stormwater side. This would be funded by sewer and stormwater funds.

Mrs. Sizemore mentioned they still have mapping to complete within the stormwater infrastructure. This would assist too with the maintenance of this asset. This equipment would also be used for the sanitary sewer mapping and assist with the many unknown lateral locations within the system. These unknowns need to be figured out either during the upcoming projects by the contractor or prior to being put out to bid. It would be more cost-effective for our crews to complete this work prior to bid and then have the equipment to continue the maintenance in the future. This sewer project is a huge investment and needs the proper equipment to maintain this investment. It would be leased for seven years. Yearly payments would be between \$60,000.00 - \$70,000.00 for seven years.

She said that the camera van was demonstrated to show how it would capture our laterals.

Mrs. Sizemore said they want to get ahead of some of the sewer lateral mapping, and that it was key to do that internally prior to the sewer project going out. She mentioned that the first phase of the sewer project is getting ready to permit, and the hope is to get it out for bid this fall/winter for construction next year.

Mrs. Sizemore mentioned that there are also some big, ticketed equipment costs that will be coming up in the next five years. In the next three years we will need a new street sweeper. Within five years, we will need a new vacator. We can start putting money aside for these costs so, that in three years, it won't be as much of a hit. We have also applied for a grant for those two pieces of equipment. It is a grant that can be applied for year after year.

Ms. Enos reiterated that the price that Mrs. Sizemore received on the camera van is a seven-year lease. After seven annual payments we would own the equipment. It would be a \$60,000.00 + a year payment which would be multi-funded. She expressed that leasing bigger ticketed items would be the most beneficial way to go, and would be more manageable.

Mr. Flower asked Mrs. Sizemore whether she can come up with a few alternatives instead of a whole camera van unit.

Mrs. Sizemore noted that, either way, they would need a new camera, but would look into other alternatives.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order - Chairman Flower

2. Roll Call:

a) Municipal Authority Members present: Ben Flower; Ruby Miller; Lee Hoffman; Jeff Shaffer and Terry Jerin.

b) Also present were the following: Borough Manager, Michele Enos; Municipal Authority Manager, Jessica Sizemore; Director of Finance, Brett Peters; Administrative Assistant, Roger Bailey; Solicitors, James Cascio & Allyson Lonas, and Consulting Engineers Tom Reilly & Jake Bolby.

Public Attendance:

a) None

3. Approval of Agenda:

A. Approval of Agenda – Review and approval of the Agenda for May 28th, 2024 Meeting.

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

Mr. Shaffer moved, Mr. Flower seconded.

Motion Unanimously Carried

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Review and approval of the Minutes from April 15th, 2024.

Motion to approve the Municipal Authority Minutes from April 15th, 2024:

Mr. Flower moved, Mr. Shaffer seconded.

Motion Unanimously Carried

5. Opening of Bids:

A. None

6. General Public Comments:

A. None Registered

7. Payment of Bills/Requisitions:

A. None

8. Policy Agenda:

A. Old Business:

a. Water and Wastewater Rules & Regulations – Update from Manager/EADS.

Mrs. Sizemore said that the goal will be to get the Rules & Regulations out for June's meeting for review and approval. It will include the resale lateral inspection requirement, as previously discussed and asked for inclusion.

b. Sewer lateral testing/repair discussion:

Mrs. Sizemore noted that Mr. Bolby was going to review the public side of the Sewer Replacement Project, and to review how the Authority wants to handle the lateral repairs.

Mr. Bolby recapped the techniques and technologies of sewer construction that the Engineers and Borough have discussed extensively in the past with Borough Staff. He said that the predominant method of replacing or rehabbing the sanitary sewer collection system is going to be a fold & form. This is a plastic liner that will be extended between two manholes, expanded, and will essentially be the green plastic sewer pipe, SDR 35.

The manholes will be done using a spray rehab technology. This technology is a poly-coating and insulation, of about an inch thick, or a foam that is protected by another poly-layer. It provides some structure to the manhole if there are issues, but its main purpose is to keep the water out and prevent it from coming in through the manhole. The other option is to replace the manhole with a brand new one by excavating and digging it up and setting a new one. With the collection sewer being rehabbed and the manhole, it lended itself to also being rehabbed to limit open excavation.

The next item discussed was the portion of the sewer lateral from the sewer main to the property line. The sewer main is generally throughout town, down the middle of each street, whether it is a Municipal Street or State Road. Similarly, to the collection system, there are different techniques and methods to replace or rehabilitate the sewer lateral. There is full replacement, which would require excavation, and a rehab method that is launched from the sewer main. With the rehab method, they run a camera truck and launch a camera up a sewer lateral to see if it can receive a liner. Then a robot is run up and a liner is launched up the sewer lateral, which is terminated at the viewport at the property line. This would put a fabric liner between the property line and sewer main.

Mr. Bolby noted that there is another fabric liner that would go from the private side towards the sewer main. The difference between the two is that one has a gasket and the other does not. The gasketed one is intended to keep out more I & I and has a seal. If you wanted to have a seal on the other method that goes from the private side to

the sewer main, you would have to dig and make a solid connection so there won't be any open joints.

In past conversation with the Authority, we boiled it down to test the public portion of the sanitary sewer verses not being able to test. Testing for the lines would be air pressure testing. With the lateral rehab methods that are launched from the main, or sent from the private side down, there is no guarantee that you can get an air pressure test past unless you dug up the connection at the sewer main. That would give you the opportunity to put a gasketed connection at that point so you can pressure test it. Pros and cons of both has been the question discussed, and reviewed, a few times with the Authority in the past.

Mr. Bolby explained that as we are getting closer to submitting for funding applications, the decision on which technology to use becomes more pressing. The Authority needs to define what they plan to do, and then relay that decision to the funding agency. The decision regarding the predominant means and methods need to be selected before we get into construction. Mr. Bolby added that there is always going to be a situation where we cannot use the most desired method, and we are going to have to do something else.

There is an increasing level of excavation and disturbance whenever it comes down to the tightness of the sewer lateral. The most solid being full replacement and open excavation where you would have two connections on either side, slightly diminishing protection against I & I as you use the rehabilitation methods, unless you do two open excavations to make end connections at the property line or the sewer main.

Mr. Bolby mentioned that the rehab that can be tested is the gasket. He added it can only be tested if there is water around it. If there is no water to make it expand and seal off, you cannot pressure test it. Once a problem happens, then it should seal off.

Mrs. Sizemore pointed out that their ask to the Authority is which route they want to take for the rehab/replacement of the public side laterals (from main to property line). Are they OK with rehab and not doing the pressure testing, knowing in the future, the resale lateral inspection requirement that the Authority wished to implement, is going to require that the private side be pressure tested? She added that our directive with the main, for sure, is to rehab as much as possible. Throughout the project the more rehab the less digging up of the streets and completed restoration from the waterline project.

Mr. Bolby said that there is 80% that has been identified as being able to be rehabbed within the entire town. That number is going to slightly change, here and there, unless there are issues. Even whenever there are significant issues on the pipe, and it is isolated to within a foot or two, we will do spot repair and then rehab the rest of the line so we do not dig from 400 feet to replace a small section that is bad. The focus is to try and maximize rehab and minimize the surface. He added that there is going to be some open excavation that is either due to increasing pipe size, changing alignments, or there are too many issues through the length of pipe.

Mr. Bolby mentioned that the sewer project will move through the Borough north, west, central Business District, east and Brierwood. Approximately 80% of the pipe is scheduled for rehab or replace, and 80% of that is scheduled for rehab, because there are some sections that are in good condition and do not need to be addressed for now.

Mr. Bolby said that all the manhole frames and covers not 29" are being replaced.

Ms. Enos noted that if we are trying to get as much water out of the system as possible. She added that this is what we are treating, and why we are in violation, and how it all began.

B. New Business:

a. Manager's Report – Update on Operations.

Mrs. Sizemore thanked Terry Jerin for joining the Municipal Authority Board.

Mrs. Sizemore also mentioned the Public Meeting which will be held on June 24th at 4:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall regarding the Lead and Copper Rule Replacement. Also discussed will be potholing for the public side, and what our efforts are going to involve moving forward. She also mentioned that we have 1,600 customers out of 2,700 for inventorying on the private side. Potholing for the system side will start in the next couple weeks. The focus will be on the gravel and grass areas.

Stormwater Discussion:

Mrs. Sizemore noted that an Equivalent Residential Unit Rate is being worked on to get it established in the July/August 2024 timeframe. In the August/September 2024 timeframe, work will be done to get more website information posted along with the Rate Schedule out for the Authorities review. In the October/November 2024 timeframe, a Public Outreach will be scheduled. The goal of starting the Stormwater Rate will be in January/February 2025.

b. Engineer's Report – Update on the Status of Projects for Water, Sewer and Stormwater.

Mr. Bolby also welcomed Terry Jerin to the Municipal Authority. He pointed out that there is a lot of project history and a lot is active right now. Also, there are a lot of Engineering Reports from over the years. He welcomed Mr. Jerin to look over any of the information, and to let them know if he needed to discuss anything.

Mrs. Sizemore added that if he wanted to tour any of the facilities to let her know so she can get one scheduled. She then reminded the rest of the board members if they haven't had an opportunity to tour the facilities and wanted to, to let her know.

Mr. Bolby noted that he had nothing more to add.

c. Facility Reports for April – Provided on the portal for informational purposes.

d. April 2024 Financial Statements – Provided on the portal for informational purposes.

e. Water and Sewer Rate Schedules – Review and approval of the revised wording of the rate schedules. There have been no adjustments to any of the base rates, consumption rates or fees.

Motion to approve Water Resolution No. 2024-04:

Mr. Flower moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*Municipal Authority
Of The
Borough of Somerset
Resolution No. 2024 - 04*

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOMERSET
ESTABLISHING THE RATES TO BE COLLECTED FROM CUSTOMERS OF THE SOMERSET
BOROUGH WATER SYSTEM

BE IT, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED as follows:

1. From and after the effective date of this Resolution, the rates to be charged to all customers of the Somerset Borough Water System shall be in accordance with the attached Appendix “A” – Rate Schedule.
2. All existing ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ENACTED AND RESOLVED this 28th day of May 2024 by the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset.

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset

Adopted this 28th day of May 2024

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset

Water Rate Schedule - Somerset Borough Customers

Monthly Base Rate

Meter Size	Monthly Base Rate	Water Allowances** (gallons)
5/8"*	\$17	2,000
3/4"*	\$17	2,000
1"	\$25	3,000
1.5"	\$30	3,500
2"	\$35	4,000
3"	\$40	4,500
4"	\$50	6,000
6"	\$75	9,000
8"	\$100	12,000
10"	\$200	25,000
12"	\$400	50,000

*Typical single-family residential meter size.

**Amount of water included in the base rate per meter size.

Consumption Rate **\$0.75** **\$/100 gallons**

Fire System Connection Fee (Unmetered) **\$121.00** **Yearly/riser**

Service Start (Turn-On) Fee **\$25.00**

Service Stop (Suspend) Fee **\$25.00**

Disconnection or Termination Fee **\$50.00 & Cost of Services*****

***All materials, labor, and equipment expenses of the Authority

Meter Test Fee **\$75.00**

(only applies if meter is found to be within tolerances as stated in Rules and Regulations)

Water Connection (Tap) Fee****

****Includes All materials, labor, and equipment expenses, except when noted

Meter Size	Connection Fee	
5/8"	\$3,000.00	
3/4"	\$3,000.00	
1"	\$4,000.00	
1.5"	\$4,500.00	
2"	\$5,000.00	&Cost of Vault or Pit
3"	\$5,500.00	& Cost of Vault
4"	\$6,000.00	& Cost of Vault
6"	\$8,000.00	& Cost of Vault
8"	\$10,000.00	& Cost of Vault
10"	\$15,000.00	& Cost of Vault
12"	\$20,000.00	& Cost of Vault

Appendix A - Rate Schedule – Water

Motion to approve Sewer Resolution No. 2024-05:

Mr. Flower moved, Mr. Shaffer seconded.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*Municipal Authority
Of The
Borough of Somerset
Resolution No. 2024 - 05*

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOMERSET
ESTABLISHING THE RATES TO BE COLLECTED FROM CUSTOMERS OF THE SOMERSET
BOROUGH SEWER SYSTEM

BE IT, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ENACTED as follows:

1. From and after the effective date of this Resolution, the rates to be charged to all customers of the Somerset Borough Sewer System shall be in accordance with the attached Appendix “A” – Rate Schedule.
2. All existing ordinances, resolutions, or parts thereof that are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ENACTED AND RESOLVED this 28th day of May 2024 by the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset.

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset

Adopted this 28th day of May 2024

Municipal Authority of the Borough of Somerset

Sewer Rate Schedule - Somerset Borough Customers

Monthly Base Rate

Meter Size	Monthly Base Rate	Allowances (gallons)*
5/8"	\$22.00	2,000
3/4"	\$22.00	2,000
1"	\$35.00	3,000
1.5"	\$40.00	3,500
2"	\$45.00	4,000
3"	\$50.00	4,500
4"	\$65.00	6,000
6"	\$100.00	9,000
8"	\$135.00	12,000
10"	\$275.00	25,000
12"	\$550.00	50,000

*Based off of the water usage

Consumption Rate **\$1.08** **\$/100 gallons**

Sewer Connection (Tap) Fee

Connection Fee Per EDU** **\$5,000.00**

**Includes All materials, labor, and equipment expenses by the Authority, except when noted

Sewer Lateral Inspection Fee - Listed by Event Type

Property Transfer	\$40.00
Sewer Lateral Replacement or Repair	\$40.00
Re-Test/Failed Test (Per Each Re-Test)	\$40.00

f. Obsolete Items – MABS Donated 2 decommissioned fire hydrants that was taken out of service during the waterline replacement project to the Somerset Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion to acknowledge the donation of 2 fire hydrants that were taken out of service during the waterline replacement project. They have been donated to the Somerset Volunteer Fire Department for Training purposes:

Mr. Flower moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- g. Darr Construction Contract No. 3, Change Order No. 8 – Acknowledgement of approval of Change Order No. 8 for Contract No. 3 in the amount of \$5,925.00 of approved extra work order claim.
- h. Darr Construction Contract No. 3, Change Order No. 9 – Acknowledgement of approval of Change Order No. 9 for Contract No. 3 in the amount of \$2,500.00 of approved extra work order claim.
- i. Darr Construction Contract No. 3, Change Order No. 10 – Acknowledgement of approval of Change Order No. 10 for Contract No. 3 in the amount of \$20,800.00 of approved extra work order claim.
- j. Ligonier Construction Pay Application No. 10- Acknowledgement of approval of Pay Application No. 10 in the amount of \$183,038.40.
- k. Kukurin Pay Application No. 13 – Acknowledgement of approval of Pay Application No. 13 in the amount of \$145,694.41.
- l. Kukurin Pay Application No. 14 – Acknowledgement of approval of Pay Application No. 14 in the amount of \$316,964.72.
- m. Payment Application for Center Avenue Project - Acknowledgement of approval of Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$36,195.69 for utility upgrades in the scope of the Center Ave. Streetscape Project.

9. Adjournment

Motion:

Mr. Jerin moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hoffman.

Motion Unanimously Carried
7:38 p.m.

B. Next Meeting

a. MABS Meeting on June 17th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Jessica Sizemore, Municipal Authority Manager

BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

a) April 22nd, 2024 – Borough Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion:

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the April 22nd, 2024 Borough Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion Unanimously Carried

b) Approval of Agenda – Consider approving the agenda as presented.

Motion:

Mr. Mandichak moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to approve the May 28th, 2024 Agenda.

Motion Unanimously Carried

2. Opening of Bids:

a) *None*

3. General Public Comments:

a) Bill Barr – Requested to be present to discuss the base water rate.

Mr. Barr expressed his concerns about the change to a base water rate and the negative financial effects it is having on his elderly neighbors that don't hit the minimum usage. He expressed that the water rate should be based on usage instead of a minimum fee. He noted that it is approximately a 30% increase and causing a lot of financial hardship for low income households.

He expressed that the commercial businesses are not going to lose money but will raise their fees accordingly. So if the Water Authority needed to change the pricing in order to increase income, why didn't they do it across the board for everybody rather than raise the minimum fee on the people in the community that can least afford it?

Mr. Barr added that Borough Council is elected by the people, so it is actually Council's duty to take the lead and express to the Authority that the rate change is not right. He expressed that he would like Council to reconsider the minimum fee and go to a more equitable approach of being usage based.

4. Administrative Business:

a) *Communications (None)*

b) *Payment of Bills for the month of May 2024*

Motion:

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Hoffman seconded, to approve the payment of bills for the month of May 2024 numbered 41588 – 41775 totaling \$1,499,589.34.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- c) Department Reports – Consider approving the Departmental Reports for the month of April 2024.

Motion:

Mr. Shaulis moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to approve the Departmental Reports for the month of April 2024.

Motion Unanimously Carried

5. Policy Agenda:

Old Business:

- a) None

New Business:

- a) Tax Claim Bureau Private Sale – Consider authorizing a “no objection” to the sale of property located at 528 East Main Street to the Redevelopment Authority.

Ms. Enos explained that the Redevelopment Authority is interested in purchasing this property. They will be using grant funding to demolition the property. They can only do this if they have a redeveloped purpose for it, which they do.

She added that the Borough has the opportunity to have a “no objection” to this private sale, and this is being recommended, so the property can be cleaned up and taken care in the future.

Motion:

Mr. Clark moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to authorize a “no objection” to the sale of property located at 528 East Main Street to the Redevelopment Authority at no cost to the Borough.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- b) Tax Claim Bureau Private Sale – Consider authorizing a “no objection” to the sale of property located at 157 West Church Street to the Redevelopment Authority.

Motion:

Mr. Clark moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded, to authorize a “no objection” to the sale of property located at 157 West Church Street to the Redevelopment Authority at no cost to the Borough.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- c) Union Street Playground – Discussion concerning the personnel and activities being proposed for the Union Street Playground for the 2024 summer season.

Ms. Enos said that she met with Melanie Heiple, of the Playground Committee, and Amy from Career Link, to get more information and answers to questions Council still had after the recent Playground Meeting. Most of the questions that Council were concerned with were cleared up. Some of the questions answered were, "Is this a program that is solely monetarily funded for staffing?" The answer was yes. "Does Career Link carry the workers compensation on their employees?" The answer was yes.

Ms. Enos mentioned that she got a copy of Career Links "Declaration Page", as well, which is proof that they do have insurance that covers this type of activity. The only thing that the Borough would be responsible for would be the Site Director. This means that if Career Link had any issues regarding the playground, whether it be an injury that took place there, or if a child got hurt, they would have to contact the Site Director, because the playground is the Borough's property. The Borough did the same thing when it staffed the playground with its own employees.

The Borough still carries Liability Insurance, so if anyone gets injured the Borough would still handle it in no different manner then it's already handled now. Also, there will no additional cost to the Boroughs insurance.

Ms. Enos and Ms. Heiple talked about not committing Council to do any type of renovation to the wading pool area unless Council wants to move forward with it. Council may also want to look at other options for the wading pool area, something that is more of an interest to children.

Ms. Enos stated that she spoke to Amy from Career Link today, and Amy believes if the grant funding is available to Career Link, she plans for it to be a sustainable working relationship with the Borough, which means this would carry on beyond this year.

Ms. Enos mentioned that Career Link has a candidate, named Emma, who was interviewed by them to be the Playground Director. Ms. Enos said that she also spoke with Emma. All Emma's references were checked, she has been involved in 4H, and has been involved in a lot of other activities that she has coordinated before. She is also in college for Early Childhood.

An Agreement with Career Link does not tie the Borough into any other obligation with them.

Ms. Enos also mentioned that if Council chooses to make her the Site Director, she would be willing do that.

Ms. Enos said that background checks and clearances are done by Career Link. Pre-employment drug and alcohol testing would be done by the Borough. This would be a Borough cost, but is currently built into the budget. All playground employee wages will be paid by Career Link.

Discussion continued regarding available funds for playground equipment and activities, staffing for the playground, planning for surveillance and security issues at the playground for children's protection and privacy, and moving forward with current playground plans.

Mrs. Ream explained to Ms. Heiple that if the Playground Committee wants to request Council to budget for playground costs in 2025, Council will need that request before budget season gets under way in September 2024.

Mrs. Ream encouraged the Playground Committee to return to September's Council Meeting after all their finances are closed, know what they had and what they spent, and how things went at the playground this summer. She said that Council is always supportive, but they are also held by standards and guidelines they have to follow.

Motion:

Mr. Clark moved, Mrs. Ream seconded, to authorize entering into a contract agreement with Career Link to move forward with hiring employees to manage the playground at no cost to the Borough.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Motion:

Mrs. Opp moved, Mrs. Miller seconded, to appoint Michele Enos to become the Borough's Site Director to oversee the activities at the playground, and be the "Chain of Command" for the Career Link employees.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- d) June Council Meeting – Consider authorizing the change in the start time for next month's Council Meeting from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Ms. Enos explained that she and Mrs. Sizemore have a Public Meeting in the Community Room of the Public Safety Building that starts at 4:30 p.m. the day of the next Council Meeting. She added that they would not make a 5:00 p.m. Council Meeting that day.

Motion:

Mr. Shaulis moved, Mr. Mandichak seconded, to authorize the change in the start time for next month's Council Meeting from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- e) Mary S. Biesecker Public Library – Consider the re-appointment of Mr. Matthew Deal to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion:

Mr. Clark moved, Mrs. Ream seconded, to re-appointment Mr. Matthew Deal to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- f) Mary S. Biesecker Public Library – Consider the re-appointment of Mr. Henry Cook to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion:

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded, to re-appointment Mr. Henry Cook to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion Unanimously Carried

- g) Mary S. Biesecker Public Library – Consider the re-appointment of Mrs. Sheena Zola Mandichak to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion:

Mr. Clark moved, Mrs. Opp seconded, to re-appointment Mrs. Sheena Zola Mandichak to serve a 3-year term on their Board of Directors.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Committee, Administration, Special Reports

a) Manager's Report - (Enos)

Ms. Enos reminded Council that Spring Cleanup has been advertised and is also on the Borough's website and Facebook page. It has also been included on the Water & Sewer bills. It will be June 3-5, 2024.

She also told Council that she will be interviewing for the Playground Directory on Friday, May 31st, 2024. Ms. Enos added that she will get a pre-screening for drug and alcohol from her, as well, before she begins at the playground.

Ms. Enos thanked Mayor Rosemeyer for the ceremony he organized last week for the Police Officers and Chief Cox. She said that it was well received and well appreciated. She also thanked Chief Appel for all his help in coordinating it.

Mayor Rosemeyer also thanked Mr. Bailey and his Staff for all their help with the ceremony. He said the Police appreciated it. He noted that there were almost 100 people in the Community that attended. He added that it was very nice.

Ms. Enos noted that there was nearly a \$1,400.00 donation made to the playground, in the name of Chief Cox, from the School District.

Ms. Enos noted that as long as Council approves to move forward, there are other things that will be set up over at the playground. The bathrooms will be cleaned and opened, the water will be turned on, and we will be doing the things that Council agreed to do. She added that they will be going into the pavilion areas and making sure that they are set up and ready to go.

b) President's Report – (Ream)

Mrs. Ream said that she also appreciated the ceremony for Chief Cox and was glad they had it for him.

Mrs. Ream also thanked Chief Appel for taking the position as Chief of Police. She noted that she has heard nothing but positive things from everybody about this decision, and it makes her feel good about the decisions that were made. She added that Borough Council appreciates him.

c) Finance Report – (Peters)

Mr. Peters stated that the Finance Report for September 2023 was sent to Council. He added that they are on the Portal and available for Council's review.

General Fund:

Revenues – 26.58%

Expenses – 34.95%

Water Fund:

Revenues – 42.35%

Expenses – 42.54%

Sewer Fund:

Revenues – 31.84%

Expenses – 31.83%

d) Engineer's Report - (Bolby/Reilly)

Mr. Reilly discussed the following updates to the Engineer's Report:

WATER:

1) Water System Capital Improvement Projects:

Mr. Bolby said that the contractors finished with laying all the main line. They are focusing on East Main right now doing services. They also mobilized two restoration crews starting from the western side of the project area working their way east. Contractors give us weekly updates where they are moving to. In the upcoming week, they will be moving west to east from the Humberson area, then eastward across town.

Mr. Bolby noted that concerns with restoration, scattered throughout the areas, were relayed to the contractors, and they were addressed. The progress is about 90% on that contract, with the bulk of it being restoration remaining.

Mr. Bolby said that the water tank is completely up, and the majority of the Water Treatment Plant improvements are installed. They will need start-up and electrical connection in the next two months, then we will be decommissioning Laurel Hill probably around August into September after we receive a permit from DEP to do so.

Electrical is going to make some big gains with mostly generators either in place, and roughed-in connected, before awaiting final connections. The electrical side will be finishing up quickly.

Mr. Bolby noted that the Water Project will be closing out between September and the end of the year depending on which contract it is.

SEWER:

1) Assessment, Repair, and Abatement Plan (Hydraulic Overload):

Mr. Bolby said that he and Mrs. Sizemore met with PennVEST last week. PennVEST asked for a Status Update and it was relayed to them. We are waiting on a Public Comment period to expire, then we expect multiple permits to go in for the sewer collection system. That will kick-off the funding application portion of those projects.

Currently, we are around three to four different areas for the sewer collection system. That will pair with the applications that go in. PennVEST reviewed their upcoming application deadline with us and gave us reminders of project limits, funding limits, and funding terms to make sure we were up-to-date with their most current requirements and offerings. We should see a lot of activity in June related to permits.

GENERAL:

2) Center Ave. Sidewalk:

Mr. Bolby said that the contractor is finishing up the sidewalk restoration and replacement on the South Center block. They will be moving to North Center afterwards. They will be working on light poles and light pole bases in the next week or two.

The contractor relayed to us that North Center will start around July or August. There are waterline connections that remain on the travel way, but the bulk of the work will be the sidewalk on North Center.

Mrs. Sizemore noted that once we receive an overall schedule from the contractors, a meeting to review that schedule will be planned with the Center Avenue businesses.

e) Somerset Inc. Representative – (Hoffman)

Mr. Hoffman mentioned that “Chalk the Block” starts on Friday, July 26th, 2024, with a parade, in conjunction with Laurel Arts. The streets will again be closed for artists and everything that goes along with the festival.

The Farmer’s Market kicks off this weekend. There will be 17 vendors lined up for the first day. It will be every Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

He also echoed the pleasant nature of the Police ceremony for the Officers and Chief Cox, and expressed that it was well put together.

Mr. Hoffman mentioned the two properties that went through the Tax Claim Bureau process, which are problem properties, and identified through Somerset, Inc. He added that it was good to see two more of those problem properties being addressed.

f) Fire Department Representative - (Clark)

Mr. Clark said that from April 22, 2024 to May 28, 2024 there were 54 total alarms, with 24 of them in the Township, 24 in the Borough, 5 assist calls and 1 on the Turnpike. Man hours for fire calls was 2,565.82 hours. This doesn’t include the training, meetings and other events they do in the Community.

He expressed that at that pace, it is getting very hard to keep up. He added that, in the future, someone will be coming to Council and asking for staff at the Fire Department, which will be very pricey. He added that the Fire Department is doing “OK”, but it is getting harder to get the vehicles out during the day because everyone is working.

Mr. Clark thanked Chief Appel and his Staff for protecting them at the trailer incident. He added that they greatly appreciated their response, and everything they do for them.

Chief Appel said that the Police Department appreciates the response each and every time at Cherry Lane, so the feeling is absolutely mutual as each department assists each other. He added that each department mutually endeavor to keep the Community as safe as possible in restoring

areas to a safe condition after something happens. So the Police Department appreciates everything from the Fire Department, as well.

g) PSAB Representative – (Rosemeyer)

Mayor Rosemeyer said that the PSAB Conference was being held at Hershey, PA the weekend of June 1, 2024.

He also said that the County Borough's Association will be meeting at Meyersdale Elks on June 20th, 2024.

Mayor Rosemeyer also thanked Roger and his Crew for getting things ready for the parade. He said that it was a nice event.

He said that he they had an excellent Veteran Program at the Courthouse, and that it was very nice seeing the number of young people there.

"Night Out" will be held at the Police Department on August 16th, 2024.

h) Solicitor's Report – (Cascio)

Solicitor Cascio had nothing further to report.

i) Mayor's Report – (Rosemeyer)

Mayor Rosemeyer said that he has been hearing a lot of complaints about high grass in the Borough.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Shaulis.

Motion Unanimously Carried
6:50 p.m.

Michele A. Enos, Borough Manager/ Secretary