

EAWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2014 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The EAWA Board meeting was held in the Meeting Room at 211 W. Hummelstown St. and was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Dr. C. Dale Treese. Members present: K. Murphy, J. Buch, J. McCloud, D. Becker, C. Brewer, and R. Erb. Also present were G. Alspach, Solicitor; M. Skelly, Manager; S. Bixler, Operations Supervisor.
Other Attendees: None.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Action: “That the Board approves the WS Meeting Minutes of 9/3/14, Board Meeting Minutes of 9/8/14, and the Special Meeting Minutes of 9/20/14, as presented.”

Motion: K. Murphy **Second:** J. Buch **Approved**

5. REPORTS:

Skelly distributed 1st Draft Review of 2015 Operating Budget and offered a brief overview of new approach for Operating Reserve; no major increase to revenues and healthcare. He directed Board to review his Memo on Proposed Changes 10/6/14, and we'll have in-depth review on 11/5/14.

Skelly provided a draft policy to amend Section 3.7 - Bedding - Backfilling of Service Lateral for EAWA's Design Specifications Manual.

Action: “That the Board approves the proposed changes to Section 3.7 of the Design, Construction, Installation, Inspection Manual, as drafted.”

Motion: K. Murphy **Second:** J. Buch **Approved**

Skelly said that Conrad Siegel Actuaries, broker for Act 205 Pension, has directed EAWA to change our definition of “Spouse” as per recent Federal and PA court cases.

Action: “That the Board approves the provided Amendment and Resolution concerning proposed change to Section 1.7, regarding the definition of “Spouse” so that it will be consistent with recent Federal and PA court rulings dealing with DOMA laws.”

Motion: J. McCloud **Second:** J. Buch **Approved**

Skelly said we discussed this at last meeting as it relates to 2015 marketing plan and follow-up from the customer survey, which Powl presented on 9/8. According to our

survey, 83% of the respondents (310 customers) buy bottled water, filter it, or do both. Of the 373 total respondents, 62% have concerns about the taste, smell, and hardness of EAWA's water. Powl did additional research into the distribution / location of these concerns and determined that they were system-wide. The Board believed it important to immediately look into this concern, and therefore, we are having this taste test tonight. Skelly and Bixler said staff collected the samples today at noon, from:

- Well # 7 (Rheems);
- Well # 3;
- Well # 4;
- Well # 5;
- Well # 8 (Farmland Dr.);
- Treatment Plant.

The 1-gallon samples were stored at room temperature in identical covered plastic jugs. The jugs were marked "A" – "F", and Skelly had the location and Residual Chlorine results, which were relatively close in their ranges. Skelly said he discussed the taste test with P. Lusardi, our Engineer, who said he could offer additional guidance and analysis of this topic if the Board wishes. Skelly provided a tabulation sheet to each Board member to document their own description of the color and taste. Skelly noted that 1 – 2 of the samples had a slight color variation. He said once the Board completed the tasting and their descriptions, he would reveal the results. Board Members had the following initial impressions:

- Members could not readily taste or smell chlorine in any of the samples. Bixler and Skelly said this is because chlorine usually dissipates after a couple of hours – usually a reason why people let their water run before drinking or use filtering;
- Sample "D" had a different smell and a slightly different taste;
- Sample "B" left an after-taste and was a little musty tasting;
- Sample "F" tasted the best;
- Sample "A" had a slightly different taste hard to place;
- Sample "C" had no major comment / issue;
- Sample "E" had a noticeable difference in color and a heavier taste.

Skelly then revealed the locations of each sample and the residual chlorine amounts:

Sample D (Well #5) - 1.17 ppm
Sample B (Well #7) - 1.39 ppm
Sample F (Well #3) - 1.03 ppm
Sample A (Well #4) - 1.32 ppm
Sample C (Well #8) - 1.14 ppm
Sample E (Plant) - 0.99 ppm

Treese asked Bixler if the temperature of the water could make a difference in taste / color for the Treatment Plant. Bixler said he is not an expert, but believes if the temperature of the reservoir / surface water is warmer that it could have a different taste. Murphy asked if the pipes in the homes could alter the taste. Bixler and Erb agreed that this plus the condition of the water heater could be a factor.

Well #7 had the highest chlorine level due to State regulatory requirements. The Plant had the lowest chlorine level. Brewer asked what the difference is between bottled water and tap water. Becker said bottled water is regulated by the FDA and tap water is regulated by the EPA, which is held to a higher standard than bottled water. The Board did not taste any significant earthy, fishy or chlorine taste in the water. The Board did agree that the water from the plant had a noticeable difference in color and taste compared to the wells mainly because it is surface water. Treese said this provides information that we can relay to our customers about the concerns addressed in our survey to better educate them.

- a. **Operations Manager's Report:** None.
- b. **Public Works Director's Report:** None.
- c. **Engineer's Report:** None.
- d. **Financial Reports:**
 - i. Copies of Paid Bills statement (9/26/14) distributed with package (\$76,528.13 for balance);
 - ii. Statement of Revenues & Expenditures for period of SEP YTD, distributed with package. Income: \$4,425,856.12 (inc. fund balance), Expenditures: \$1,765,595.88 (inc. debt principal & interest).

Action: "That the Board accept the SEP Statement of Revenues & Expenditures (Actual vs. Budget)."

Motion: J. Buch **Second:** J. McCloud **Approved**

- 6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
- 7. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.
- 8. **BILLS PAYABLE:** Refer to Unpaid Report;

Action: "That the Board pay bills listed on statement of Unpaid Bills Detail (10/13/14), totaling \$92,219.47."

Motion: K. Murphy **Second:** J. McCloud **Approved**

- 9. **BOARD MEMBER'S REMARKS:** None.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

11. ADJOURN: 7:40 PM

Action: "That the Board adjourns the regular meeting."
Motion: J. Buch **Second:** J. McCloud

Approved

Respectfully submitted,

M. Skelly, Authority Manager

Approved at 11/10/14 Meeting