

**EAWA WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2021 - 6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The EAWA Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Dale Treese, Chairman. Members present: Jeff McCloud, Rich Sheidy, Keith Murphy, Rick Erb, Chuck Brewer and John O'Connell. Also present were: Del Becker, Authority Manager; Jason Bock, Operations Manager; Cindy Zawrotuk, Engineer, and George Alspach, Solicitor. Not present: Michele Powl, Business Manager; and Donna Bissinger, Admin Assistant. Members of the Public: None
  
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
  
3. **REPORTS:**
  - a. **Manager's Report:**
    - i. **TTHM MCL Exceedance:** Becker and Bock briefed the Board on the May 18,2021 violation of exceeding the TTHM MCL at the clearwell location at the Old Plant. The current annual moving average is 86 parts per billion, exceeding the limit of 80 ppb, resulting in a Tier 2 violation. For such violations, DEP requires that EAWA notify all customers by direct mail and public notices. As a result, EAWA must increase monitoring for the TTHMs and conduct a system wide evaluation within 90 days. Becker indicated that a third-party should do the evaluation and recommended that GHD conduct the evaluation. Becker wanted to be clear that EAWA's water was not unsafe but had exceeded the limit for long-term exposure. The Board inquired how this had happened. Bock indicated that it was likely a combination of unusual water conditions this summer and chlorination of that water. Becker stated that the language in the notice was required by DEP and could not be modified. Murphy suggested that dredging of the reservoir be considered. Due to increased demand, Bock indicated that the plant is needed daily. Becker said the notice would be mailed and posted next week.
  
    - ii. **Water Rates:** Becker presented to the Board a memo on the historical information regarding water rates. He indicated that for the most part the base rate structure has not changed since Authority formation. The impact of providing fire service on water rates was also discussed. Where fire service is provided, a direct connection to the water main is preferred. O'Connell stated that previous discussions had focused on costs associated with routine costs of maintaining the distributions system, the impact of recent and proposed multi-unit housing where fire service is required by code and the concept of municipalities being billed for fire service. The third component would be the most difficult to implement. For the next adjustment in rates, the rate analysis will include fire service rates including a separate fee for properties that have fire service connections where appropriate. Becker advised that the method that EAWA bills for water service differs from the rate structure typical of other authorities and utilities. Treese stated that at this moment in time, pending legislation regarding multi-unit properties will dictate that EAWA needs to be proactive and revise the rate structure and avoid being boxed

into a corner. He indicated that communication with the customers is the most important aspect and to inform them well in advance of the rate structure change. Becker stated that setting up the model needed for the rate study would be an extensive effort and that should the Board not want to revise that the structure that the effort should not be expended on analysis that would not be used. O'Connell reviewed a typical rate structure that includes a base charge and a consumption charge that does not include an included amount of water but the customer pays for all water consumed. Treese asked the Board if there was direction to move in this direction and the Board agreed. Becker also provided the Board with a projection of potential customer growth in the service area. Treese asked whether the proposed growth was within that planned and Becker indicated that it was.

- b. **Operations Manager's Report:** Bock reviewed his report with the Board and repairs that were needed on Willow Street and Harrisburg Avenue. Well No. 5 experienced a sudden drop in output. The pump was pulled and pipe column directly above the pump had a large hole. The pump was replaced and placed back into service and output of the well returned to the normal range. The existing pump will be refurbished and kept as a spare.
- c. **Engineer's Report:** Zawrotuk provided a review of projects in design and construction. the tapping fee calculation. The preliminary tapping fee calculation indicates an increase of approximately \$480 is supportable. Becker indicated an increase in that amount would provide additional revenue for capital projects. She indicated that the final calculation will be available for the July work session meeting. Zawrotuk also indicated they were moving forward with the analysis for the Tier 2 violation.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

5. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

6. **BOARD MEMBER'S REMARKS:** O'Connell commented that the Board should consider additional cyber security assessment with the increased cyber and ransomware attacks. Becker stated that the previous proposal would be updated and had also contacted the Department of Homeland Security division that provides assistance but had not heard back. Sheidy inquired what does the Cyber Insurance provide in the way of protection. Becker stated that covers the costs of a data breach and provides assistance and coverage for ransomware attacks. Murphy asked about where the Authority stood with delinquent customers. Becker indicated that 150 postings were done for non-payment and terminations would result. The posting had already triggered customers to true up their accounts. He indicated that both our employees and customers needed to relearn the process because of the pandemic.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

8. **ADJOURN: 8:33 PM**

**Action:** "That the Board adjourns the work session meeting."

**Motion:** J O'Connell

**Second:** K Murphy

**APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

D. Becker, PE, Authority Manager

***Approved at the 07/12/2021 Meeting***