

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Portage was held on Thursday, January 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., in the Conference Room at 606 Cambria Street.

Those in attendance were:

Mark Castel, Acting Chairman  
Craig Castel  
John Gartland  
Brent Kinley  
Jerome Yetsko

Also present were: Ron Cadwallader, Supervisor; Attorney William Barbin, Solicitor; Joe Beyer, The EADS Group; Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers; Residents: Mike Dziabo; Todd Niper; Bill Niper, Mike Jubina; Brian Herman; Tony Girard; Pennsylvania Game Commission: Wayne Laroche, Patrick Snickles, Tom Fazi, Samara Trusso.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Castel, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

**II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Castel recognized Mr. Portash, Mainline Newspapers. He also recognized Mr. Brent Kinley, the newly-appointed member of the Water Authority Board, and introduced him to the Board.

Mr. Castel then recognized the residents present as well as the representatives from the Game Commission.

Mr. Herman commented that the residents present at the meeting this evening are land owners whose properties are adjacent to the Water Authority's property. The residents were present at the meeting to find out what is happening with the shooting of the deer in that area. Mr. Cadwallader commented that the Board is unaware of any plans of the Game Commission. Mr. Herman indicated that he was of the understanding that the Game Commission representatives were present at a previous meeting of the Authority, to which Mr. Cadwallader and other members of the Board replied that this is the first time the Game Commission representatives were present at the Board meeting.

Mr. Fazi informed the Board that in the summer of 2015, the Game Commission had a positive CWD road kill deer on Route 164 near the Authority's property. Since that time, they have not had a positive result from their routine surveillance efforts; however, they have become concerned about the outliers. Mr. Fazi explained that the Game Commission does not have enough samples through hunting efforts to be reliable on what the conditions are around that area. The Game Commission would like to do some more sampling in and around the area where the positive CWD road kill deer was found in 2015; and they are looking for multiple sites where they can get the targeted deer removed, with a few being taken from each location. This is the reason the Game Commission representatives wanted to come to tonight's meeting in order to obtain permission from the Authority relative to its current properties. Mr. Fazi indicated that they are looking at other higher priority locations in other parts of the state as well. He pointed out that the Game Commission will be holding a public meeting at the end of the month at the Portage Area High School once approval is received from the School Board. A lot of information will be available at the meeting for residents in the community.

Mr. Jubina questioned what is being done about the road kill, to which Ms. Trusso and Mr. Fazi replied that the Game Commission has been collecting the road kill within the disease management area (DMA) for some time. Mr. Herman indicated that there are three within the reservoir area at the current time. Ms. Trusso explained that the Game Commission has a contract with an outside vendor to pick up the road kill since the DMA has been extended to this area since the deer was found to be positive. Deer were not collected in that area beforehand because there was no reason to do so. Ms. Trusso pointed out that not all of the animals will provide suitable samples. In the middle of the summer, the tissue would be bad if the deer was sitting in the heat; and the tissue could not be sampled for the disease. Therefore, the Game Commission does not have enough samples in that area to determine prevalence. Ms. Trusso explained that, because the sample that was received was an adult female, she was considered a flyer because she was not from the core area on the I-99 corridor where a lot of the deer were found to be positive. Therefore, it was not known if this was a deer that had dispersed from the area or whether this was her home range.

Mr. Jubina noted that there was a deer killed along Route 164 and the head was removed, to which Ms. Trusso pointed out that the head is what the Game Commission needs for testing. Mr. Fazi indicated that the contractor attempts to obtain the samples as fast as he can as he is covering all over the state. Mr. Herman questioned if the contractor turns in all deer, to which Mr. Fazi replied affirmatively stating that all viable samples are taken. Mr. Jubina questioned if any of the Game Wardens can take the samples, to which Mr. Fazi replied negatively, stating that the contractor takes the deer to Blair County where the samples are taken. Mr. Dziabo questioned if cattle are being checked since deer can be near cattle, to which Mr. Fazi replied negatively being that the Game Commission does not have jurisdiction over private circuit operators. Mr. Herman noted that he does know individuals that have private deer and they get tested every year, to which Ms. Trusso noted that any testing of private owners goes through the Department of Agriculture; and if there are any positive test results, the Game Commission is then involved. Mr. Laroche pointed out that there were 25 positive CWD cases last year; and with 4,500 samples yet to be tested, this year there have been 30 positives thus far out of this sampling. Therefore, Mr. Laroche stated, it is expected that there will be 50-60 positive cases this year. Mr. Laroche shared with the Board his experience with the testing thus far throughout the state for both the samples placed in the drop box as well as road kill. He noted that the important thing is that, if the Game Commission finds a positive that is a flyer, they have to question how that deer got there; and if they do not have a large enough sample size to determine if there is an infection within that population, this is where the concern arises.

Mr. Girard commented that we were part of the management area for two years; and this year, it was taken away, to which Mr. Laroche replied that it was not. Mr. Fazi explained that the boundaries of the disease management area have not changed. He explained that, instead of doing DMA 2 antlerless permits, the Game Commission did DMA permits specific to the core area along the Blair and Bedford County lines. Mr. Herman stated that this meant the residents were not allowed to shoot the deer for the Game Commission. Mr. Girard questioned, if there was a problem in 2015 and the residents could get the tags for two years, why this year didn't the Game Commission utilize the sportsmen to solve the problem and get more samples. Instead, Mr. Girard commented, the residents could not obtain the tags this year. Mr. Fazi pointed out that the Game Commission wanted to focus the permits in the core area in the I-99 corridor. Mr. Herman stated that his nephews could have shot a deer the first day but they were unable to; however, if they could have, it could have been a perfect sample. However, Mr. Herman stated, the Game Commission now wants to come on his property to shoot deer in order to get samples. Mr. Fazi pointed out that the Game Commission would not come on any resident's property without permission.

Mr. Laroche explained that this is the reason the Game Commission representatives were at the meeting this evening; i.e., to obtain permission from the Water Authority to shoot deer on their property. He pointed out that the CDC recently released a study demonstrating that the macaques monkey was able to attract CWD by oral doses of meat from an infected deer; and the result of the study was that the CDC said we should do everything we can to keep the prions out of the food stream. Mr. Laroche commented that the Game Commission is taking small steps now to get to a point where they know what to do. He indicated that everyone across the country is trying to determine what to do because CWD is a slow moving disease; and in all areas the prevalence area has dropped. There were two studies done in Wyoming with white tail deer where they are anticipating that it may be extinct in 40 years because the deer population cannot sustain itself. Mr. Laroche pointed out that what the Game Commission is asking is to take a sample to get an idea if it is something that has "caught" in the local deer population. They are looking at a sample size of 40 deer max over a three square mile radius centered around where the deer died. The Game Commission will then go away unless another deer shows up positive. Mr. Laroche explained that in other areas around the state, such as Bell Township, they will be shooting as many deer as they can in a one mile radius around where the positive deer was found because they own all of the land in that area. This will be a controlled operation; and the area around the Water Authority's property will be a surveillance operation. Another area will be in Franklin County where there was another positive deer found; and there will be more operations throughout the state if there is a positive sample found. Mr. Laroche emphasized that, if the Game Commission does nothing, they will be derelict in their duties. Mr. Jubina questioned if there were any deer shot last year, to which Mr. Laroche replied that the only place deer were shot last year was in Fulton County near the deer farm and one positive deer was found out of 30 that were shot. Mr. Laroche commented that this kill was meant to detect a 10% prevalence with a 95% confidence.

Mr. Jubina questioned if it is going to be a kill of 40 deer max in the Authority's area, to which Mr. Laroche replied affirmatively. Mr. Niper stated that, if you are going to bait the deer to come into the area, the first day one or two deer may come in; however, it may take over a month to get 30 deer to come into one area. He pointed out that deer communicate by smell and scent; and they could be passing the disease along in the meantime. Mr. Fazi pointed out that it will not be 30 deer in one location as the Game Commission will be approaching many different landowners. Mr. Herman commented that, if the Game Commission is talking a three mile radius, there are probably only 30 deer in that area, to which Mr. Fazi interjected that the Game Commission realizes this.

Mr. Herman expressed his frustration that the Game Commission did not contact him directly as a landowner and now they want to come onto his property to shoot deer. Mr. Fazi indicated that this is why the Game Commission representatives were at this evening's meeting. Mr. Herman stated that he read an article where it stated that in Texas they sprayed 50 square acres of land with bleach and then reintroduced deer to that area; and three years later they came back with CWD. However, Mr. Herman indicated, the Game Commission did not share this type of information with the public. Mr. Fazi emphasized that the Game Commission has more information available than any other State agency relative to CWD; and they continue to conduct public meetings to make the public aware of everything. Mr. Dziabo stated that he called the Ligonier office recently; and the individual he spoke with, who has 31 years of service, said that there has not been a case of CWD in the Ligonier/southwest region area ever. Ms. Trusso indicated that this information was not correct. Mr. Dziabo stated that he then contacted the Harrisburg office; and the individual he spoke with pulled up information and stated that there has never been a deer with CWD near the Cambria County line. The individual did state, however, that there were five cases near I-99. Mr. Laroche noted that this information is not correct.

Mr. Herman pointed out that there are many acres of posted property in the area where the Game Commission wants to shoot. It is also public property where the Commission wants to shoot the deer, so perhaps they should consider the posted property to shoot the deer. Mr. Fazi replied that the Game Commission will be approaching multiple landowners and working with them. Mr. Laroche emphasized that the plan is not to shoot all of the deer on the Authority's property. Mr. Herman pointed out that 640 acres is a square mile; and the Game Commission wants to shoot 40 deer in three square miles. He stated that the Water Authority owns much more property than that, so the Game Commission would be shooting all of the deer on public property. Mr. Herman pointed out that the public hunters pay for their license to the Game Commission, so they could kill the deer and turn them into the Game Commission. He commented that some of his family has posted property in that area; however, his property is not posted. Mr. Herman noted that the Game Commission showed up in that area and indicated that they were there to look at a place to shoot deer; however, they did not notify anyone and one person was hunting on his property. Mr. Jubina stated that the Game Commission representatives were down in the Sportsman's area as well; and the Sportsman's Club is interested in what is going on as well.

Mr. Girard questioned if the public meeting is going to be held prior to the actual kill, to which Mr. Fazi replied affirmatively. Mr. Girard commented that he would not argue the biology of what the Game Commission is doing; however, if there was a problem existing in that area because there was something found in 2015, he feels the Game Commission, representing sportsmen, should have gone to the sportsmen and let them know that samples were needed and asking them to harvest more to obtain the samples. Now, after the season is over, Mr. Girard noted, everyone is in the unknown as to what is going on. Mr. Girard pointed out that the area is now at the point where it is seeing deer, and now they are going to be wiped out. He commented that if you take 40 deer out of that area, it will wipe out the mountain; however, the Game Commission could have utilized their biggest asset, which was the sportsmen who could have provided any needed samples at the beginning of the season. Mr. Dziabo agreed, indicating that there was a deer killed by the reservoir that could have provided a sample. Mr. Laroche stated that there were drop boxes placed in DMA 3; and there were 4,200 extra permits given out down south and 3,000 extra permits given out in DMA 3. A map was sent out to everyone that shot a deer asking them to place an "x" in a grid where the deer was shot; and Mr. Laroche is mapping all of those. When you look at the four square miles in that area, he commented, he has received only four deer from those four square miles. He has spent four days in that area, has obtained 150 samples from deer pellets, and has only covered two square miles.

Attorney Barbin commented that what he is hearing is that the drop boxes do not yield enough samples for the Game Commission to obtain enough data. Mr. Herman noted that there was no drop station in the Authority's area, to which Attorney Barbin replied that Mr. Laroche was stating that the drop station in Clearfield did not yield enough data to be worthwhile. Mr. Herman stated that what he is concerned about is the Game Commission coming into the area and questioning everyone why they were hunting in the area. He stated that he tells everyone to at least respect the scientists, which is the Game Commission. Attorney Barbin emphasized that prions are very serious; and this is what is being pointed out. Mr. Herman noted that the issue is not with the Game Commission; and the residents are trying to help in any way they can. He noted that he will let the Game Commission do what they want to do, but they need to work with him and other residents. Mr. Herman stated that he is concerned that CWD is here and the deer are going to die.

Mr. Laroche pointed out that CWD started in Colorado and they did not know what it was; and when you get a brand new disease and don't know how to deal with it, it can get out of hand. He emphasized that the Game Commission has learned from mistakes that others have made. Mr. Laroche pointed out that he is here to help. He has been studying CDW cases for 2.5 years; and he believes we can change it as long as we get a handle on it. Mr. Laroche pointed out that, when you get a few contaminated deer around, he does not believe you have environmental contamination that is significant yet, but this could change quickly. Mr. Dziabo stated that he does not believe you will ever kill the disease, but we could possibly slow it down. Mr. Fazi pointed out that the Game Commission does not want to kill a lot of deer. He explained that it costs the Game Commission just as much to kill and process a healthy deer as it does to kill and process a sick deer.

Mr. Herman pointed out that this is the Water Authority meeting; and the Game Commission's argument is that this is a health concern for the Water Authority in that if an infected deer drinks out of the water, we may have a concern. Attorney Barbin emphasized that this is not true. Mr. Kinley stated that what he has heard through this discussion is that the Game Commission is here to get access to the Authority's property in order to obtain samples that can be tested. Attorney Barbin pointed out that the Game Commission is attempting to protect the current deer herd. Ms. Trusso commented that the Game Commission is going to attempt to get a sample of between 30-40 deer. Mr. Niper commented that, instead of having a public meeting after the season is over, a meeting should have been held during the summer to address the concerns. He noted that the Game Commission could have stated that they would have a box set up at the windmill location and then ask the cooperation of all of the landowners, the sportsmen, etc. Mr. Jubina stated that, if the Game Commission would have come forward in 2015 when the infected deer was found, had a meeting and placed a dropbox, they probably would have had a lot more cooperation from everyone. Mr. Fazi indicated that, when the Game Commission expanded the DMA2, they were not looking at targeted shooting or drop boxes; and this is why they are now bringing it to the public's attention and having meetings. Mr. Jubina questioned why a drop box could not be placed for one year and see what happens and then the Game Commission could move forward with their plans, to which Mr. Laroche replied that, if the Game Commission would do this and wait a year, the disease could be twice as bad next year and it could be more prevalent. Mr. Beyer pointed out that the Game Commission is not just gathering samples in this area. Mr. Fazi noted that the Game Commission is doing the best it can with the information it has. Mr. Laroche commented that perhaps the Game Commission should have approached the residents earlier; however, he does not feel a drop box would have given the Game Commission the samples they needed. He commented that the Game Commission just did this in DMA3, and he does not have the sample size that is needed.

Mr. Herman stated that every hunter that kills a deer needs to take the deer to a butcher; and he questioned how many of the local butchers were asked to test the deer, to which Mr. Fazi replied that he did not know. Mr. Niper noted that it would not matter if they are tested because the local butcher gets deer from all over the area and we would not know where the deer came from. Mr. Herman indicated that some type of marking could have been placed on the deer if it was shot in the CDW area. Mr. Fazi noted that the Game Commission is doing the best it can with the information it has and getting that information out to the public.

Mr. Niper noted that, if he knew that the Game Commission needed samples, he could have obtained the samples from all of the deer that have been killed in the area of the reservoir. He indicated that, after this discussion, we need to allow Game Commission to hold the public meeting and move on from there. Mr. Niper noted that at least the landowners should be approached and a public meeting held where everyone can get information. Mr. Laroche stated

that the Game Commission would not shoot any deer on a landowner's property without the landowner's permission.

After further comments by individuals present, Mr. Fazi thanked the Board for their time. He commented that, once approval is received from the School Board, a notice will be placed in the paper relative to the date and time of the public meeting. Mr. Laroche stated that the Game Commission will be sending out maps that will show the various DMA's so that kills can be marked which will provide the information the Game Commission needs in the event an infected deer is found.

On another matter, Mr. Dziabo commented that he is experiencing a lot of calcification on the bottom of his toilet; and at times it builds up very thick. He questioned whether the Authority checks for calcium, to which Mr. Mark Castel replied that calcium levels are checked all the time. Mr. Cadwallader indicated that we do shoot a corrosive inhibitor which creates a white crust inside the pipe to keep the dirt down. It puts a protective coating so that it does not break down. Mr. Cadwallader explained that it will not hurt anything, but with the temperature change, we may need to cut back a little bit on the calcium. He commented that he will mention this to the staff tomorrow to check it out.

At this time, the following departed from the meeting: Residents: Mike Dziabo; Todd Niper; Bill Niper, Mike Jubina; Brian Herman; Tony Girard; Pennsylvania Game Commission: Wayne Laroche, Patrick Snickles, Tom Fazi, Samara Trusso.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Castel noted that there was no correspondence to be presented.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

ON MOTION OF MR. GARTLAND, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2017 MINUTES BEING THAT THEY WERE DISTRIBUTED IN WRITTEN FORM AND UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

**V. AGENT'S EXPENDITURES**

No Agent's expenditures to be presented.

**VI. INVOICES**

Borough of Portage	\$ 409.70
Brent Kinley	50.00
Cambria Mailing Services, Inc.	78.04
Cintas	93.48
CMPA	1,000.00
Craig Castel	50.00
EADs Group	609.00
FWF Insurance	3,364.00
Heritage Environmental	4,875.00

Hite Company	4.93
John Gartland	50.00
Keith Schoch, Jr	100.00
L/B Water Service, Inc.	162.90
Link Computer Corporation	1,312.50
Mainline Newspaper	28.92
Mark Castel	50.00
Mary L. Elchin	325.00
Mountain Research, LLC	156.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co Inc.	1,795.65
Niper's Auto Repair	324.55
Peoples Natural Gas Company	342.77
PMAA	1,168.43
Portage Service Center	730.90
Ray Oil & Gas Co	4,433.52
RDM – Johnstown	236.00
Ronald J Cadwallader, Jr	20.00
Sharon Squillario	50.00
Stager's Store	137.08
Univar USA, Inc.	5,775.91
Verizon Wireless	149.90
WB Mason Co. Inc.	199.82
William G Barbin, esq.	1,824.50
	<u>\$29,908.50</u>

Paid Bills

Corey Werfel	\$ 100.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Summit Bank	31.75
Jessica Cecci	100.00
PA One Call System, Inc.	43.18
Visa – 1 <sup>st</sup> Summit	639.71
Comcast	344.19
Highmark Blue Shield	8,364.52
Hilltop Office Supply Inc.	56.59
Kerin Stager	100.00
Penelec	1,560.94
Peoples Natural Gas	305.81
Pro Disposal, Inc.	142.00
Aflac	226.22
Kyle Locke	100.00
REA Energy Cooperative	1,010.16
Sheetz Fleet Service	118.00
Staples	155.06
Susan Baker	100.00
Verizon	449.52
	<u>\$13,947.65</u>

ON MOTION OF MR. CRAIG CASTEL, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ACCEPT AND PAY INVOICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69,312.06 (REGULAR BILLS, \$29,908.50; PAID BILLS,

\$13,947.65; PennVEST, \$3,896.36 AND \$5,508.55; USDA, \$16,051.00). BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

## **VII. TREASURER'S REPORT**

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. CRAIG CASTEL, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE DECEMBER 2017 TREASURER'S REPORT AS IT WAS PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED IN WRITTEN FORM AND UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE REPORT WITH A BALANCE OF: BEGINNING CASH, \$1,645,180.53; CASH IN, \$199,930.84; CASH OUT, (\$218,378.77); ADJUSTMENT, \$0; ENDING CASH, \$1,626,732.60. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

## **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Castel noted that Mr. Cadwallader's report was distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting; and he asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the report.

Mr. Cadwallader informed the Board that the annual DEP dam inspection report was received; and everything was in compliance with the exception of the channels that need sealed in the concrete spillway. Mr. Mark Castel questioned what we need to do to seal the connections, to which Mr. Cadwallader replied that we will not be able to do anything permanent until the spring because everything we are putting in is coming out because it is actually washing out underneath. Mr. Cadwallader noted that this is all a part of the spillway replacement project which is included in the long range plan.

Mr. Cadwallader reported that everything was added to the newsletter as requested by the Board at the last meeting. If there are no additions, the newsletter will be sent out. Mr. Yetsko pointed out that the newsletter should be continued on a regular basis; and a copy should be shared with Mr. Portash to be placed in the newspaper so that the public is aware of what condition the lines and pipes are in, etc. Mr. Yetsko indicated that he has heard some concerns relative to the 2% wage increase and the fact that the Authority could not bring back an employee off of compensation in order to balance the budget, which is not true because not bringing this employee back at the time requested was to the employee's benefit. Mr. Yetsko noted that any positive information that comes up on the various projects should be shared with Mr. Portash because he has heard that individuals are saying that the Authority does nothing positive; and we must let the public know the positive things that the Authority is doing. He stressed that, starting with the new year, everything that the Authority is doing should be put out for the town to know and see.

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Employee Issues

No employee issues to be brought forth.



- Vacation Rollover

Mr. Cadwallader apprised the Board that he checked the policy; and the policy states that employees can carry over a total of 10 days of vacation time. He noted that he included in the Board's information a copy of the Rules and Regulations. Mr. Cadwallader stated that Ms. Powers had a maximum of 10 days that she could carry over; and all other employees were below the 10 days.

ON MOTION OF MR. CRAIG CASTEL, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE CARRYOVER OF VACATION DAYS AS REQUESTED BY THE EMPLOYEES AND AS DISCUSSED AT THE LAST MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

- Newsletter

Discussed earlier in the meeting under the Superintendent's report.

## **X. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Castel commented that Attorney Barbin submitted his report prior to the meeting; and he questioned if any Board member had any questions on the report.

As it relates to the railroad payment as discussed at the last meeting, Attorney Barbin noted that the railroad doubled the Authority's fee, which was previously per crossing. He explained that the crossing the Authority did in the project three years ago, a one-time higher payment was made; however, that is not part of this fee. Attorney Barbin explained that Railroad Management Company, LLC that is sending the letter to the Authority has nothing to do with the railroad in that the railroad sold them the right to collect the fees for the crossings. If the Authority would fight the payment of the fees, Railroad Management Company, LLC would have the right to terminate. Mr. Yetzko questioned if the Authority has to pay the fee, to which Attorney Barbin replied that, as the Authority's Solicitor, he would recommend payment of the fees, as legal fees in refusal to make the payment would be much more.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PAYMENT OF THE RAILROAD CROSSING FEES TO RAILROAD MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

As it relates to the purchase of the Cooney property, Attorney Barbin noted that the purchase of the 222 acres amounted to \$815 per acre for a total of \$180,930. The purchase includes the Authority's payment of one of the Pennsylvania transfer taxes (1%) for a total of \$1,809.30. Attorney Barbin noted that it cannot be determine the total cost of the recording fees; therefore, he asked Mrs. Ringler to prepare a check in the amount of \$300 (recording costs; actual invoiced fees) to Attorney Neugebauer; and Attorney Neugebauer will reimburse the Authority any difference in the cost.

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF THE CHECKS TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE

WATERSHED LAND. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

Attorney Barbin emphasized that the purchase of the land should be exceptional news to the community because the Authority has purchased 222 acres of land which borders the Benscreek which is our cleanest watershed.

Attorney Barbin noted that he follows the Authority's beginning and ending balance each month; and this past year, the Authority ended up \$135,000 to the plus; therefore, the majority of the cost of the purchase of the land was not coming out of the Authority's savings.

#### **XI. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Beyer commented that a copy of the Engineer's Report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Mr. Beyer noted that he continues to keep the long range plan discussion in his report so that items can be discussed when the Board is ready.

As it relates to the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant, Mr. Beyer asked for a motion by the Board for submission of the grant in April, which would require a \$100 application fee.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100 TO THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY AT THE TIME THAT THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PA SMALL WATER AND SEWER GRANT. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

As it relates to the Route 53 project (overpass) as discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Cadwallader noted that he did receive a letter from Mr. Franko stated that the Authority's lines will not be involved in the project.

Mr. Beyer noted that he did submit a letter of retention of EADS for consideration by the Board at this meeting.

Mr. Beyer stated that he did provide Mr. Cadwallader as built drawings for Koban, Benscreek, and future work along Meadow, Groggin and Frazier. Mr. Cadwallader commented that we will take these drawings and place markings of the new lines and place it on the map and Mr. Beyer will take and have a new map done with the updates on it. Mr. Mark Castel questioned if, once we purchase the new property, will this be included, to which Mr. Cadwallader replied that we do not mark the watershed property, but we will have Mr. Barton review the area and mark the property in the appropriate colors as he has done to show the property borders.

Mr. Beyer noted that he did forward an article to Mr. Cadwallader and Mrs. Ringler related to rate structuring for Authorities, to which Mr. Cadwallader noted that this was shared with the Board members.

## **XII. FORESTER'S REPORT**

No report.

## **XIII. REORGANIZATION**

- Election of Officers

Mr. Mark Castel nominated Mr. Yetsko as Chairman, to which Mr. Yetsko declined. Mr. Yetsko requested a motion for the nomination of Mr. Mark Castel as Chairman.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. MARK CASTEL AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. CRAIG CASTEL AS VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. CRAIG CASTEL, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. YETSKO AS SECRETARY FOR 2018 AND MR. KINLEY AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. CRAIG CASTEL, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. GARTLAND AS TREASURER FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

- Retention of Positions

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> SUMMIT BANK AS DEPOSITOR FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF KLINE, KIMLIN AS AUDITOR FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. CRAIG CASTEL, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF THE EADS

GROUP AS ENGINEER FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. GARTLAND, SECONDED BY MR. CRAIG CASTEL, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF WILLIAM GLEASON BARBIN, ESQ. AS SOLICITOR FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. GARTLAND, SECONDED BY MR. CRAIG CASTEL, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF MICHEAL BARTON FORESTRY CONSULTING AS FORESTER FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

ON MOTION OF MR. GARTLAND, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO THE RETENTION OF SHARON SQUILLARIO AS RECORDING SECRETARY FOR 2018. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING/RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING**

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ADJOURN THE ANNUAL MEETING AND RECONVENE INTO REGULAR SESSION. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

**XV. NEW BUSINESS**

- Letter to the Board/623 Branch Street

Mr. Cadwallader noted that Ms. Powers submitted to the Board a letter relative to security concerns of the staff as a result of an irate resident that came to the Authority office recently relative to a property on Branch Street. Mr. Cadwallader explained the details of the concern; and Attorney Barbin noted that the staff should contact the police if the resident comes to the Authority office again. Mr. Kinley emphasized that, in today's environment, we need to ensure the safety of our employees. After discussion, the Board agreed that any outstanding bill of the involved resident should be paid. However, they did agree that action should be taken to address the security concern of the office staff. Mr. Cadwallader was requested to obtain the financial details for changes to the office area to address the concerns and bring it back to the Board for consideration at the next meeting. Attorney Barbin commented that, addressing of this concern and doing any renovations in house would be beneficial in that it would show that we are addressing the concerns of the staff.

- Write Offs

Mr. Mark Castel noted that the write offs for 2017 amounted to \$4,684.31. Mr. Cadwallader noted that these accounts will be written off and sent to the collection company. If these

residents come back into the area and attempt to obtain water service, they would be required to pay the outstanding balance before the service is restored.

**XVI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Request for Adjustment

Mr. Cadwallader apprised the Board that a request for an adjustment was received for the property owners at 1954 Spring Hill Road. A toilet was running unknown to the resident. The amount billed: \$196.94; average bill, \$84.03; adjusted bill, \$135.49.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. GARTLAND, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ABOVE ADJUSTMENT AS REQUESTED. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

- Flushing of Lines

Mr. Cadwallader informed the Board that flushing of lines has been scheduled for April 16 and October 15, 2018.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. CARTLAND, THE BOARD ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:50 P.M. BOARD MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. CRAIG CASTEL, MR. MARK CASTEL, MR. GARTLAND, MR. KINLEY, AND MR. YETSKO.

**XVIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon Squillario  
Recording Secretary