

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY**  
**February 13, 2023**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Rensselaer met on February 13, 2023 in a regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. President Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Answering roll call were: President Stephen Wood; Secretary Shelby Keys; Board Members Rick Odle and Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Jacob Ahler; Police Chief Matt Anderson; Fire Chief Kenny Haun; Asst. Street Supt. Bryce Black; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Harley Tomlinson with the Rensselaer Republican.

Also present were Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures, Russ Overton and Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth Engineers.

The minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular board meeting and January 19, 2023 special board meeting were presented for approval. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve both sets of minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Update to Pursuit Policy and Police Officer Promotion Request:** Anderson said this update is due to information regarding pursuits that the State has sent out. It changes nothing about how the department is currently conducting pursuits, but the verbiage from the state has been added to the department's standard operating procedure. Anderson said Ryan Rusk has put the time in needed for the promotion to Patrolman Class 1. He needs one additional training and is signed up for that class. Anderson requested the promotion and it would be effective as of February 12, 2023 to start at the beginning of a pay period. There was a motion by Wood, second by Odle, to adopt the pursuit policy and approve the promotion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chemical Phosphorous Removal Commonwealth Engineers Task Order:** Lockridge said the first task order is for a chemical phosphorous removal project. There is a proposal from Commonwealth to start the work, which is required by IDEM. Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth Engineers said the proposal sent to the board would include design, permitting and field work. The proposal shows work starting in March and being done in May. Robarge said the cost estimate is \$66,200.00 for the final design and permitting and \$6,600.00 for field work, totaling \$72,800.00. Wood said this is mandated. Odle asked where phosphates are coming from. Robarge said it still comes from detergents, but a lot of it is from cleaning chemicals. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve the task order for \$72,800.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**Wastewater Asset Management Plan Commonwealth Engineers Task Order:** Lockridge said this goes along with the phosphorous removal task order and is required by SRF to receive funding. Robarge said this wastewater asset management plan will be submitted to SRF. The task order is in the amount of \$59,800.00 and completion is expected in March 2023. There was a motion by Odle, second by Wood, to approve the task order for \$59,800.00. The motion passed unanimously.

**Water Project Bid Recommendation:** Robarge said the bid opening took place on January 19, 2023 for Division A and Division B of the water project. There were 3 bids for Division A and 1 bid for Division B. The bids that came in were above what was estimated. There was not a need to ask to rebid the projects. Robarge said they are recommending to move forward with McQuire Iron for Division A with the base bid and mandatory alternates 1-4 in the amount of \$4,341,000.00. He suggested that the motion be contingent upon the approval from SRF of the same. Robarge said they are recommending to move forward with Grimmer Construction for Division B with the base bid and mandatory alternate 3 in the amount of \$2,404,865.00. Odle asked if the engineering estimates were substantially lower than what the bids came in as. Robarge said the estimates were about \$400,000.00 lower on Division A and \$200,000.00 lower on Division B. He said the bids were higher, but it's a combination of material shortage, price increases and labor shortage. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the recommendation of McQuire Iron for Division A totaling \$4,341,000.00, contingent upon approval from SRF. The motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Wood, second by Odle, to approve the recommendation of Grimmer Construction for Division B totaling \$2,404,865.00, contingent upon approval from SRF. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Main Lift Station & Unsewered Areas Project:**

- 1) **Thieneman Pay Request #9:** Lockridge said this \$566,713.95 pay request covers supervision, stacking, conversion structures, piping and bar screening. The pad is poured, electric is coming along and the project is progressing well. There was a motion by Wood, second by Watson, to approve the pay request. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) **Commonwealth Invoice:** Lockridge said this invoice for \$25,665.90 covers construction and a resident representative. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve the invoice. The motion passed unanimously.

**Waterworks Improvements Project:**

- 1) **Commonwealth Invoices:** Lockridge said the first invoice for \$34,995.12 is for the final design and easement assistance. Letters have been sent to homeowners that will be affected and around 50% have responded. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the invoice. The motion passed unanimously. Lockridge said the second invoice is for \$5,315.24 and is for bid assistance for the project. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to approve the invoice. The motion passed unanimously.

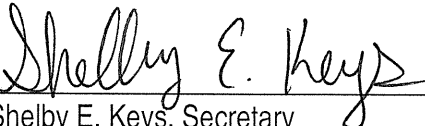
**Special Register of Claims:** Lockridge said part of the loan agreement with the 2023 SRF <sup>water</sup> sewage bonds is requires SRF to hold the city's local matching portion. This claim is to send \$485,431.43 of ARPA funds earmarked for this project to SRF to hold as the city's matching funds. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the claim. The motion passed unanimously.

**Engagement Letter:** Ahler said SRF is requiring an engagement letter, in addition to his invoice. This invoice fee has previously been approved. There was a motion by Wood, second by Odle, to approve engagement letter and \$35,000.00 fee. The motion passed unanimously.

There being nothing more to come before the board, there was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

  
Stephen A. Wood, President

Attest:

  
Shelby E. Keys, Secretary