

THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF BESSEMER BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE H. SPENCER CARR MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
November 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Izzo at 7:00pm.

Roll Call found the following members present:

Nathan Leslie, Bob Slosser, Michael Marciante, Lu Anne Izzo, Art VanTassel, Jimmy Nolfi (via phone), and Douglas Ordak. Absent: Cody Jackson

A *motion* was made by Mr. Ordak, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to approve the meeting minutes of the "Rescheduled" Regular Meeting (October 16, 2023)...*carried*

A *motion* was made by Mr. Slosser, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to accept the balances of the Treasurer's Report to be filed for audit...*carried*

A *motion* was made by Mr. Ordak, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to approve payment of the November bills...*carried*

**Book & Proch (Ryan Braatz & Jimmy Verlotte) – Proposal to Council**

Mr. Braatz (Owner/Operator) addressed council regarding the Water Operations Management Agreement. The plan would be to train Mr. Holly to assist Book & Proch in the day-to-day operations. They would like to uncover what is needed to move forward with improvements to the system over a period of time. Mr. Braatz has determined that the iron and manganese are a continuous problem to keep at a lower level and this is something to work on from the start. He emphasized the need to establish the level at all system points. His operators will be available to Mr. Holly at all times and will be close by in North Beaver Township, Mohawk School District, and neighboring businesses. Book & Proch will spend half a day each week with Mr. Holly and take him in the right direction of where the company would like to see him go. This allows him to run operations with less supervision. Book & Proch will run the lab testing, chlorine calibrations, DEP reporting/filings, and all annual reporting will be handled in house. Once a year, Book & Proch would work with the borough's engineer to come up with plans to improve the system on a bigger picture. Mr. Braatz feels the borough will need at least a five year plan to accomplish what is needed for the aging water system. Right now Mr. Braatz feels that they do not have enough information yet to be able to map out a full plan. His plan is to initially stop in on a weekly basis to collect needed information, conduct lab work, handle day-to-day work if Mr. Holly is off (rates are listed within the contract/see contract for rates). Mr. Braatz emphasized that they would not charge for phone calls and initial visits to establish operations. If Mr. Holly takes a day off, then Book & Proch would need to come out for a period of time (estimated time for water operation per day) and the borough would be charged the rate noted in the contract. Mr. Braatz stated that they do have crews to fix waterline breaks and that they have a full inventory of materials needed for the repairs at their shop. The borough will have a discounted rate when contracted with Book & Proch.

**The Water Assessment Proposal** was discussed and it has been explained to council that this is a six-month analysis/study to move the borough in the right direction. The proposal will be broken up into steps of assessing the system and making upgrades and improvements. Book and Proch will work with the engineering firm to move towards applying for grants. Mr. Braatz feels that this is the direction for the borough with the age of the entire system needing capital improvements. He explained to the room that you cannot get funding for exploratory work. Funding is only provided for improvements to the system and you need to prove that the system has improved. The proposal does not take the borough all the way to the permit, but it does give Book & Proch all the information needed. In past years, the borough has seen a variable demand in water quality meaning that the demand for chlorine is up and down. The grant application will include the violation of no backup system for the water system. The wish list should include all of this. Book & Proch will help the borough seek funding. They would like to order the meter for the pump house before the end of the year. He feels that the plumbing of the pump house is a top priority that can't wait and would like to start in January/February of 2024.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Marciante, and seconded by Mr. VanTassel, to contract with Book & Proch for the Water Operations Management and agree to sign the Water Operations Management Agreement with operations starting December 1, 2023...*carried*

A *motion* was made by Mr. Slosser, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to contract with Book & Proch for the Water System Assessment and agree to sign the \$78,388 proposal...*carried*

**Municipal Bid (Winning Bids) (2000 Ford F-350/Salt Spreader/Plow & 1997 GMC/Plow)**

2000 Ford F-350 with salt spreader and plow – Winning bid (\$14,550)

A *motion* was made by Mr. Slosser, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to accept the winning bid of \$14,550 for the 2000 Ford F-350 with salt spreader and plow...*carried*

1997 GMC with plow – Winning bid (\$4,100)

A *motion* was made by Mr. Ordak, and seconded by Mr. Slosser, to accept the winning bid of \$4,100 for the 1997 GMC with plow...*carried*

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**Ordinance No. 3 of 2023 (LERTA/Tax abatement for industrial property within Bessemer Borough)**

A *motion* was made by Mr. Slosser, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to adopt Ordinance No. 3 of 2023, joining LERTA giving a five year tax reduction with the reductions lowered each year for newly constructed improvements within industrial zoned areas of Bessemer Borough...*Roll Call Vote: Bob Slosser – Yes, Michael Marciante – Yes, Art VanTassel – Yes, Jimmy Nolfi – Yes, Douglas Ordak – Yes, and LuAnne Izzo – Yes... 6 (Yes) 0 (No)...carried*

**Zoning Ordinance No. 4 of 2023 (Amend Zoning Ordinance No. 1 of 1981)**

A *motion* was made by Mr. Marciante, and seconded by Mr. VanTassel, to accept the recommendation by the Bessemer Borough Zoning Hearing Board to adopt Ordinance No. 4 of 2023, amending Zoning Ordinance No. 1 of 1981, in which the lot size and number of parking spaces for a business building size of 10,000sq ft has been changed to 4,500sq ft and the number of parking spaces required has gone from 1/50sq ft to 1/100sq ft for community and social halls and from 1/100sq ft to 1/325sq ft for retail stores and shops...*Roll Call Vote: Michael Marciante – Yes, Art VanTassel – Yes, Jimmy Nolfi – Yes, Douglas Ordak – Yes, Bob Slosser – Yes, and LuAnne Izzo – Yes... 6 (Yes) 0 (No)...carried*

**Dollar General Subdivision and Developer Plans (Approval)**

A *motion* was made by Mr. Marciante, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to accept the recommendation by the Bessemer Borough Planning Commission to approve the subdivision plans and developer's plans for the Dollar General Store located on E. Poland Avenue...*Roll Call Vote: Art VanTassel – Yes, Jimmy Nolfi – Yes, Douglas Ordak – Yes, Bob Slosser – Yes, Michael Marciante – Yes, and LuAnne Izzo – Yes... 6(Yes) 0(No) ...carried*

**2024 Proposed Budget (Workshop Proposed Budget/Working Budget of \$970,199)**

Discussion regarding the numbers for the part-time patrolmen – Mayor Leslie added that the numbers budgeted for the police do not include the part-time patrolmen. The amount of \$35,750 would need to be added under patrolmen. Changing the miscellaneous expenditures to \$44,282.

The 2024 Proposed Budget will be advertised and on display for review in the borough building.

**Visitors:** Kenny Smith, Clark Searfoss (Croatian Club/President), John Kliem (BMA/Vacant-Water & Vacant-Refuse Rates/no changes), and Ron Izzo.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Leslie – Recognized the passing of former resident Mike Ferraro who was a 20-year council member and served 8 years as mayor. Mr. Ferraro wore many hats in the Bessemer Community including a BMA board member and a teacher for both Bessemer and Mohawk Area School District. He was a great serviceman to our nation, proudly serving in World War II. Mr. Ordak mentioned that Mr. Ferraro was instrumental in the Bessemer Lake Park project. Much gratitude and thanks to Mr. Michael Ferraro from Bessemer.

President Izzo acknowledged the success of Trunk-or-Treat. Mr. Javens mentioned that Santa will be present on December 9<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas parade.

**Police Report:** Mayor Leslie read report...*see written report*

Ford Explorer – Ford has offered a proposal for the issues with the transmission - Executive Session.

**Fire Department Report:** President Izzo read report...*see written report*

Hazmat training is in progress and a Soup/Chili Fundraiser is planned for this Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> (12 – 6pm).

Mr. Javens reported that the trucks need inspected and that they will be taking the trucks to Herman's Garage.

Mr. Slosser would like Assistant Chief Miller to look into pricing on a new fire siren.

The dumpster that contained the contaminated gear from the train derailment has been removed. Mr. Javens stated that the DEP and the EPA instructed them to use Dawn Detergent and Tide to clean the dumpster. Mr. Javens will have the dumpster cleaned and then notify the secretary when it is finished so that she can have Mr. Holly move the dumpster back to the rear of the property.

**Public Works Report:** Ken Holly was absent. President Izzo read report...*see written report*.

**BMA Report:** President Izzo read the report...*See written reports*

Grant "Support Letter" requested. Mr. Ordak suggested, with Mr. VanTassel's agreement, that the BMA draft a letter and then the borough will approve it and sign it showing support.

Deadline for the grant is November 30, 2023. The state grant will require a resolution by the BMA. The borough would have to call a "Special Meeting" to approve the letter of support.

A *motion* was made by Mr. VanTassel, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, for the submittal of a letter of support from the borough for the LSA grant upon receipt and review of the letter from the BMA...*carried*

Letters of interest for the BMA tabled for December due to additional interests for the seat.

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**Engineer's Report:** Eric Buzza gave report...*see written report.*

Water tower painting may be held off until Book & Proch conclude their work so that this may be all included into one grant application. He suggested that the borough start collecting possible companies for quotes and that some may be through CoSTARS. Mr. Braatz informed council that you can empty the tanks for painting with the system still forcing water through the lines by running on constant pressure as an interim solution. Gannett Fleming has reviewed the Storm Water plan of the Larson Design Group (LDG)/Dollar General. LDG needs a letter from the borough stating that the post construction storm water plan complies with the Borough's Storm Water Management Plan Ordinance. This letter will go directly to PennDOT so that the highway occupancy permit can be granted. Mr. Buzza will be able to tell the borough if we are able to issue this letter after Gannett Fleming reviews the LDG's plan. Attorney Jones will look into finding the signed ordinance in the court house library. The Developer's Agreement needs to be executed and signed before they can move forward with the Dollar General construction. Mr. Buzza stated that the borough will be receiving an invoice from Gannett Fleming for the agreement that they drew up. Attorney Jones confirmed that they have the draft of the Developer's Agreement that will be finalized and have all costs turned over to the developer (LDG).

A **motion** was made by Mr. Marciante, and seconded by Mr. VanTassel, to amend the agenda to add the review and approval of the Developer's Agreement with Larson Design Group...**carried**

\*The agreement needs to be forwarded to LDG for their review. If they approve, then the borough can adopt the agreement per Attorney Jones.

**Committee Reports:**

**Streets and Lights:** Mike Marciante – N. Main Street waterline repair area seems to be giving way. Hold off on the paving until we see what we are dealing with. Emergency Agreement is still in effect and may need more base.

**Human Resources:** Art VanTassel – Additional application for review/Executive Session

Mr. Holly call-out and weekend monitoring minimum of four (4) hours

A **motion** was made by Mr. Nolfi, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to pay Mr. Holly a minimum of four (4) hours when he is called out for a waterline repair and weekend monitoring making this motion retroactive as of October 16, 2023...**carried**

**Borough Property:** Bob Slosser – We need 20 (\$50/ea.) stackable barriers for holding two types of stone and sand.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Slosser, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to buy 20 stackable barriers at \$50 each...**carried**

**Finance, Litigation, and Appropriations:** Cody Jackson - Absent

**Water and Sanitation:** Jimmy Nolfi – Inquired about any call backs for the painting of the water tank with no call backs reported.

**Emergency Services:** Art VanTassel – Already covered earlier.

**Culture and Recreation:** Douglas Ordak – We will need to get prices on additional weed-whacking for areas of the borough before the season starts. The Christmas Parade line-up will be 4:00pm and the parade will begin at 4:30pm

**Coordinator:** Solvency Fee was not approved to be paid, Hunter Bells/Slippery Rock University Internship was approved, and a Resident Complaint will be taken into executive session.

**Old Business:** Code-Enforcement needs addressed regarding Officer Perrotta running out of hours to finish work.

A **motion** was made by Mr. VanTassel, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to pay Officer Perrotta \$175 per month for Code Enforcement...**carried**

**New Business:** Council approved the transfer tax needed to be refunded to Ron Birtilan and Angelo Sandora regarding an error in the assessment of property transferred from Bud Haylett to them this past year. The \$355.17 will be refunded immediately.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Ordak, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to enter into executive session...**carried**

Executive Session: 8:42pm

A **motion** was made by Mr. Ordak, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, enter back into the regular meeting...**carried**

Regular Meeting: 9:01pm

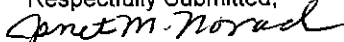
A **motion** was made by Mr. VanTassel, and seconded by Mr. Marciante, to hire Wayne Anderson part-time between \$14 and \$15 per hour...**carried**

Art VanTassel will contact Mr. Anderson and schedule a meeting to offer him the job for part-time between \$14 and \$15 per hour. Starting immediately.

A **motion** was made by Mr. VanTassel, and seconded by Mr. Ordak, to adjourn the meeting...**carried**

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Janet M. Novad  
Secretary/Treasurer

BESSEMER POLICE DEPARTMENT OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT

ALARMS ( 1 )	PFA ( )
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS ( 6 )	PROPERTY CHECKS ( )
ASSISTS ( 2 )	REQUEST TO SPEAK TO OFFICER ( 10 )
ASSAULTS ( )	PUBLIC INTOXICATION ( )
ATV COMPLAINT ( )	OVERDOSE ( )
BURGLARY ( )	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ( 1 )
BURNING COMPLAINT ( )	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE ( 2 )
CRIMINAL ARREST ADULTS ( ) JUVENILES ( )	THEFT/ FRAUD ( )
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ( )	TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ( 1 )
DOMESTIC/ DISTURBANCES ( 3 )	TRAFFIC CITATIONS ( 2 )
DUI ARREST ( )	NON TRAFFIC CITATIONS ( 2 )
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF ( 3 )	TRAFFIC STOPS ( 9 )
MEDICAL CALLS ( 5 )	WARNINGS ( )
MISSING PERSONS ( )	TRESPASSING ( )
ERRATIC DRIVERS ( )	FOLLOW UP ( 2 )
JUVENILE COMPLAINT ( 2 )	911 HANG UP ( )
VEHICLE REPAIR ( 2 )	WELFARE CHECK ( 2 )
ROAD HAZARD ( 3 )	FOUND PROPERTY ( 1 )
PSYCHIATRIC ( )	ASSIST FIRE ( )
NARCOTICS ( )	ASSIST PUBLIC ( 3 )
PATROL OFFICERS HOURS WORKED 482.25	Hours
FUEL: 111.8	Gallons
MILES: 1,574	Miles

October 2023

Vehicles & Equipment

Desiel Used: 68.7 Gas Used: 0

Received 2023 F-250 from Mcandles ford

The Truck was under coated as well

Water

Postings: 23 Shut offs: 1

Water Line Breaks On North Main and in park both fixed by Don Wharry

Collars and used materials have been replaced

Water was turned on for 9 South Main

Borough Property

One Calls: 6

Dumpsters Delivered: 5

The curb stop has been replaced for 10 overlook Dr.

Replaced Cap on curb box at 9 south Main

**Balances:**

General Checking: \$3,075.50

General Savings: \$5,881.08

Relief Checking: \$75,546.49

Relief Savings: \$760.46

CD #1: \$566.99

CD #2: \$529.83

**Deposits:**

**Purchases:**

Candy and decorating for Halloween  
Brush 408 Fuel Pump

**Fuel:**

31.7 Gallons Diesel

**Calls:**

(0 calls Total)

**Training:**

Hazmat Refresher

**BMA MONTHLY REPORT**

SUBMITTED TO BESSEMER BOROUGH

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2023

INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 1-31, 2023

<u>75</u>	Late fee's applied to customer accounts
<u>\$5,371.20</u>	Total owed in late payments
<u>17</u>	Water Shut Off Warnings posted
<u>0</u>	Total customer (s) to have water shut off
<u>1</u>	Customers billed \$50.00 delinquent fee
<u>0</u>	Total Property Sales
<u>0</u>	Total Sheriff Sales
<u>0</u>	Total Liens applied

**BMA**

**FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK**

**ACCOUNT ENDING BALANCES**

OCTOBER 1-31/ 2023

**UTILITY ACCOUNT: \$ 47,045.25**

**OPERATING ACCOUNT: \$ 196,755.50**

**PLGIT PRIME ACCOUNT: \$ 302,277.82**

**F & G ANNUITY: \$134,431.05**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$680,509.62**

**LOAN FCB: \$ 1,693,973.34**



BESSEMER BOROUGH  
PROJECT STATUS UPDATE  
NOVEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING

1. Tank Inspection

Integrity Aquatic completed the tank inspection and cleaning. The inspection noted that the interior and exterior coatings of the tank are in poor condition and that repainting of the tank is needed. There are a number of other issues that should be addressed. Of primary importance is that the one vent on the tank is not screened. This has been brought to the attention of the staff and it is recommended this be addressed as soon as possible.

If requested GF can assist the Borough in obtaining bids for painting the interior and exterior of the tank. There are COSTAR qualified painters that can be used.

2. Chlorine Bulk Storage Tank Leak

The Sodium Hypochlorite bulk storage tank has developed a leak at the discharge bulkhead fitting. Staff was advised to drain the tank and to begin to receive the chemical in 55 gallon drums from the supplier. This will likely increase the cost of the chemical from the suppliers quoted cost. GF is working on identifying a supplier for a replacement storage tank that will fit into the room and supply adequate volume for bulk deliveries. The tank must be certified under NSF 61 for use in a drinking water system.

3. Funding Applications

We have been informed that the Borough's request to include the emergency generator project in PennVest's Technical Assistance Program was not granted.

An application for PennVest funding can still be submitted. The cost of preparing the funding application will initially be the responsibility of the Borough. If funds are awarded those costs are reimbursable. GF can provide assistance in preparing the PennVest funding application.

A preplanning meeting with PennVest and PADEF representatives is required prior to submission of the application. The next PennVest application Deadline is February 7, 2024.

Information has been provided to the Borough for use in the Statewide LSA grant application for emergency generators, North Main St Water line replacement and well inspections.

4. System Service Line Inventory

GF can provide assistance to the Borough in completing the system service line inventory if requested. The deadline for submittal of the inventory is October 2024.

5. System Fire Flow Testing

Information on equipment needed to conduct fire flow testing of the fire hydrants was provided to the Borough.

Fire flow testing can create issues with water quality and main lines. It is strongly recommended that this work be conducted during week days in order to have staff available to address any water quality or main line issues that arise during this work.

6. Dollar General / Developers Agreement

Bessemer Borough  
Project Status Update

November 13, 2023  
Page No. 2

Per the Borough's request GF reviewed the storm water management plan that was submitted by the developer of the Dollar General project. There were a number of issues noted with the plan during our review. Those comments were submitted to the developer. According to emails from the developers engineer a response to the review comments were provided to the Borough. A review of that response is needed to determine if the responses address the deficiencies of the initial submittal.

The developer has requested a letter from the Borough to PennDOT stating that the proposed storm water management plan is consistent with the Borough's ordinance. A review of the developer's responses is needed in order to provide that letter.

7. PFAS Testing

Information regarding the cost of testing both well sources for the "Forever" chemicals has been provided to the Borough Secretary. The total cost is estimated to be approximately \$600 to have both sources analyzed.

9. Tank Ladder Guard

Borough staff reports that the ladder guard for the tank ladder has been received and will be installed Tuesday November 14.

10. Pump House Building Evaluation

GF met with Jimmy Nolfi and Gary Pezzuolo at the Pump House on August 10 to get input from Mr. Pezzuolo on costs to create an access point to the basement for the pipe replacement. Also discussed was ballpark pricing on the cost to construct a new building to house the treatment equipment.

GF can provide estimated costs for treatment equipment for a new treatment plant.

Respectfully submitted,  
GANNETT FLEMING, INC.

*Eric Buzza*

Eric Buzza  
Senior Operations Specialist

M. Davidson & Associates, Inc.  
WasteWater Treatment Specialists

4707 Scott Road  
Jamestown, Pa. 16134  
(724) 932-5050 notify to send fax

Michael P. Davidson

To: Board of Directors  
Bessemer Municipal Authority

From: Michael P. Davidson  
Date: November 08, 2023  
Subject: October 2023 Operators Report

CATEGORY	OBTAINED	REQUIRED
	OCTOBER 2023	
Flow (MG/D)	0.161	0.350 Maximum
CBOD (MGL)	3.0 mg/l	25 Maximum
Total Suspended Solids (MGL)	5 mg/l	30 Maximum
Total Nitrogen (MGL)	10.0 mg/l	Monitor Quarterly
Total Phosphorus (MGL)	3.8 mg/l	Monitor Quarterly
Ammonia-Nitrogen (MGL)	0.4 mg/l	12.9 Maximum
Fecal Coliform (Geometric Average)	23/100 ML	200/100 ML Maximum
Dissolved Oxygen	5.1 mg/l	4.0 Minimum
Total Residual Chlorine (MGL)	0.23 mg/l	0.32 Maximum

The treatment plant produced a good quality effluent discharge throughout the month of October 2023. All parameters were within N.P.D.E.S. permit limits.

OCTOBER 2023

The average daily flow for the month of October was 0.151.

The precipitation for October was 2.50".

The NPDES permit for the treatment plant expires on May 31, 2023, the permit renewal application has been submitted by December 31, 2022.

Cleaned out the Influent pump station, cleaned the grit out of the head works, nosed down the clarifiers, drained and cleaned the chlorine contact tanks, drained and cleaned the sump pit, cleaned the strainers on the effluent line and chlorine feed line.

Brush hogged the rights of ways and South Breeze.

Powell's cleaned the Influent wet well and repaired the Influent pump railing.

Poured four sludge drying beds.

No sludge was hauled during October 2023.

Replaced the #2 blower motor.

Checked the oil in both blowers.

Switched blowers from #1 to #2 and cleaned the #2 blower air filter.

Plant discharge monitoring report for the month of October 2023 was complete and sent to the Authority, RAR Engineering and PADEF.

Decant 16,000 gallons of clear water off the digesters.

Marked 9 PA One calls.

3 home inspections.

Daily routines of analytical testing, plant inspection, skimming the tanks and taking readings are daily tasks that are not in the report.

If the Board should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Davidson  
President