

**Mercersburg Water Authority  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA  
April 8, 2014- Rescheduled for April 15, 2014  
MINUTES**

**Attending:** Chairman Ed Twine, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Nair, Gregg Davis, Ed Meyers, Jason Frey, Assistant Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Solicitor Jason Kelso, and Engineer Brad Stake

**Absent:** Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer

**Press:** Gina Hall, Mercersburg PA

**Guests:** Matt and Jake Scheller: Whitley Drive, Chambersburg; Don Shaffer: Kasiesville Rd, Mercersburg; Jon Kittredge: Main Street Mercersburg; Dan Chayes: Heisey Rd, Mercersburg

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order, he welcomed the guests and asked for public comment. There was no Public Comments made. Chairman Twine thanked all who attended the Borough Council Meeting and those who shared their thoughts with Council.

Chairman Twine asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Larry Nair, second by Gregg Davis, all ayes, motion carried.**

Chairman Twine asked for a motion to pay the bills.

**MOTION: to approve to pay the Bills Payable and Invoice list as presented was made by Ed Meyers, second by Larry Nair, all ayes, motion carried.**

The Water Authority made note that the electric bill is still high and will be working to see if the well pump can be run less.

**MOTION: to approve the meeting Minutes from March 11, 2014 was made by Jason Frey, second by Gregg Davis, all ayes, motion carried.**

Chairman Twine asked if the Solicitor had anything at this point.

Jason Kelso said he had nothing at this time.

Chairman Twine asked for the Engineer's Report.

Brad Stake reported that they had a meeting to discuss the Controllers and Pumps delivered to the site. He provided a packet of information for the Authority Members to review. There were issues with the ones that were delivered that did not match the spec requirements. The Contractor returned the incorrect ones and placed the order for the correct ones. Marshall Stuff was subcontracted by the contractor to do the work as needed for the installation. Brad Stake was very confident that within two weeks these items would be completed. He continued to update the Authority on the status of the project.

Chairman Twine thanked Brad for having the meeting and working with everyone to get the issues resolved.

Chairman Twine asked for the Assistant Manager Report.

Dawn Scheller provided her report which included detail on the two water leaks, the H2O grant and asked the Authority to approve an extension. She provided the financial information to the Authority and a copy of the Primary Facility Report which was submitted.

Chairman Twine provided Dawn Scheller with a contact that would be able to provide Council with an assessment review of the backhoe which is in question to be replaced.

**MOTION: to authorize the Assistant Borough Manager to file an extension for the H2O Grant was made by Larry Nair, second by Gregg Davis, all ayes, motion carried.**

Chairman Twine asked if there was any Old Business, there was none.

Chairman Twine opened the floor for New Business.

The Authority questioned the figures on the Primary Facility Report and Dawn said that she would review the information with Paul Sharrow and bring back the information. This was tabled for more discussion until next month.

Chairman Twine opened discussion about the recent action by Council placing the Borough Manager on paid administrative leave.

Larry Nair spoke about how Council has not given any answers as to why they made that decision. Larry feels that the Authority has more knowledge of working people and who should be hired and not hired. He said that it has been a good working relationship and he feels like it has been a slap in the face. He said that in 29 years he has only ever missed two meetings.

Ed Meyers spoke that he feels it appears to be a hidden agenda that Council has and that employees should not be treated the way they have been. He said that there has been a threat made to the girls in the office. Ed Meyers said that he read that Council was reconsidering things and placing Water members back on the Personnel Committee. Ed Meyers has reservations working with people who have that mentality and treat the employees the way they have.

Jason Frey spoke that he trusts that Council has some sort of plan. He said that it will take some time for the resolution of the problem to be announced and that he trusts the Authority will be agreeable to the solution. He said the second comment to be that Jon Kittredge had opened the Personnel Committee to visitors and anyone could be asked to attend the executive session that can provide meaningful discussion on the topic. Jason stated that they should request the Water Authority to be involved during the executive session as he believes that they could contribute to the conversations about the employees which the Authority pays. He believes that the Authority has the right to review their opinions on Personnel and that the Authority needs to have representation on the Personnel Committee.

Gregg Davis spoke about the low morale of the employees being unnecessary. He spoke about people caring about employees and the employees will care back. Gregg Davis said he would like to be put on the Personnel Committee to fight for the employees. He spoke about instituting the Christmas Bonus. He spoke that the people on Council now don't care about the employee / employer relationships.

Larry Nair stated that you have to take care of your good employees to be successful. He said they have to be happy employees who are treated like human beings.

Ed Twine spoke about his 4 years on town Council, over 10 years on the fire relief, and 5 years on the Water Authority. He said that he has worked behind the scenes, on equipment, with employees, trying to find the best deals and save the Borough lots of money. Ed stated that he has had a business in the Borough for 29 years and stated that you need to

have a relationship with your employees. He reviewed that he did not see anything from Council that showed they care about this Borough. Ed Twine stated that they work as a Team to make this plant run.

The Authority spoke about the Water Plant and the history of the plant. They spoke about how they have made and dedicated time and effort to make the plant run.

Larry reviewed that 66 people have been on the Water Authority since he has been on it and stated that they have the best Authority today in all the years that he has been on the Authority.

The Authority spoke about the need to have a seat on the Personnel Committee and the possibility of withholding funds to the Borough, and about getting the system to work as a team. They stated that they are very upset with being removed from the Personnel Committee and it is not going to go by unnoticed.

Jason Kelso responded to the Authority's question as to what actions the Authority can take. Jason reviewed that the firm represents all three entities and they are not able to provide any recommendations that would be adverse to any of the three entities.

Ed Twine spoke that they know what it takes to run the Authority and recommended to make the below motion.

Ed Meyers commented on Council not wanting to spend money on flowers for a funeral yet they approve up to \$500 to be spent on the assessment of the backhoe.

Dan Chayes expressed concern with paying \$500 for an assessment of the backhoe.

Dawn Scheller reviewed how council appoints the Authority Members. The Authority continues to express concern with the current scheduling process of the Personnel Committee Meetings. They discussed the desire to have the meetings held outside of normal business hours.

**MOTION: to approve seeking legal counsel in an effort to relinquish money paid to the Borough until the Water Authority is satisfied with their representation as a Member on the Personnel Committee was made by Gregg Davis, second by Larry Nair, all ayes, motion carried.**

Chairman Twine reviewed the Public Works Department report that was included in the packet.

Don Shaffer reported that he was short a man and that he has to locate valves for the Streets Project. Don Shaffer expressed concerns about drainage issues. He said that he would bring back a list of valves to the Authority of where he would like to place them to the next meeting.

**MOTION: to adjourn at 7:59 pm was made by Gregg Davis, second by Larry Nair, all ayes, motion carried.**

*These meeting minutes were transcribed with the use of Dawn Scheller's notes and meeting recording and have been respectfully submitted for approval.*

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion Made: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_