

**Mercersburg Water Authority  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA  
Thursday, October 19, 2023  
7:00 PM**

**Minutes**

Chairman Ed Twine called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Attending were Mayor Pedersen, Chairman Ed Twine, Joe Creighton, Jason Frey, Jacob Morgan, Borough Manager Melissa Price, and Operator Donnie Keefer.

**Public Comment/Guests:**

Jess Shatzer, R. Lee Royer and Associates, asked about the status of water/sewer connections at Boro View Estates. Ed Twine provided Shatzer with a point of contact for the original development and a brief history of the water and sewer installations never connected to the borough.

**Treasurer Report & Bills Payable:**

On a Morgan/Frey motion, the Authority unanimously approved the Treasurer Report for the month ending September 30, 2023.

Twine asked about grant money not shown in the 2023 budget and Morgan said it was miscoded and put in the borough budget. Price said she did not have 2024 numbers yet.

On a Pedersen/Morgan motion, the Authority unanimously approved the Bills Payable report for month ending September 30, 2023.

Creighton asked who Cohick and Associates were, and Price said they were accountants.

**Minutes:**

On a Creighton/Frey motion, the Authority unanimously approved the August 24, 2023, meeting minutes with revisions.

On a Pedersen/Morgan motion, the Authority unanimously approved the September 21, 2023, meeting minutes as written.

On a Creighton/Morgan motion, the Authority unanimously approved the September 28, 2023, meeting minutes as written.

**Solicitor:** Not in attendance.

**Engineer's Report:**

Lance Hoover, High Tide Environmental, LLC, submitted an update. Creighton asked if project pricing is being refreshed and Twine said it would be done prior to going out to bid. Twine said work needs to continue with the Solicitor and PENNVEST to start work on Well Three which will hopefully go out to bid in April or May.

**Plant Manager Report:**

Keefer said the wells, reservoir, and spillway are dangerously low and the borough continues to haul water. He thanked borough residents for conserving water. He said work was done to improve flow through the water plant and that PSI will begin working on the PRV pit project on October 23 which should correct the pressure valve issues from the water plant to the PRV pit.

Morgan asked what the pressure would be, and Keefer said he thought it would be 65-70psi which is still above what PADEP recommends. Morgan asked to confirm the schedule and Keefer did.

Keefer asked if piping over the clear well could be insulated to prevent freezing and Twine said that could be a more economical option. Morgan asked about the cover option discussed previously and Twine said that would require a large structure and that insulating the pipe would be a more feasible option. He asked Keefer to get estimates on installing insulation and epoxy.

Morgan and Twine talked about the pump used and the work done to improve water flow through the water plant throughout the drought. He also thanked residents for their conservation efforts. Creighton asked about the costs for hauling water and Price said bills had not yet been received.

Morgan asked if the Park Avenue well is going to provide more consistent flows and Twine said it would.

**Borough Manager's Report:**

Price said she is meeting with Sam Wiser, Lance Hoover, Kira Wright, Marie Holland, and Dawn Scheller on October 24, 2023, from 4-5 p.m. to discuss PENNVEST. She also said that she is meeting with Julie and John from Middletown Valley Bank and Pam Bollinger of Salzmann Hughes on November 8. She said the Billing Clerk position has been advertised.

Twine asked if the MMO account was updated to reflect the final payment to MVB and Price said not yet. Morgan asked when the next PENNVEST submission is due, and Price said Hoover's report said November.

Morgan asked Price to explain the re-read issue and she said it was due to a staff shortage and new staff. A discussion followed on upgrading the meter reading devices and billing software. Twine asked Keefer to obtain numbers for new read equipment. Morgan asked if estimated reads are ever done, and Price said yes and that it is reflected on those bills.

**Old Business:** N/A

**New Business:**

Boro Estates (*see Public Comment/Guests*).

Bear Valley has inquired if the borough would like to join their system. Twine asked members for their opinion on the matter. Frey, no; Pedersen, no; Twine, no; Morgan, open to discussion; and, Creighton, no. In summary: four against, one in favor of further discussion.

On a Morgan/Creighton motion, the Authority unanimously approved the purchase of a Tamper and Concrete Saw equipment.

The Authority discussed a letter from PENNVEST sent to the borough regarding land purchased for the new WTP. A discussion regarding approval from Montgomery Township for the well isolation boundary which t granted.

On a Pedersen/Morgan motion, the Authority adjourned to an executive session to discuss water usage at 8:27 p.m.

On a Morgan/Frey motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**Meeting Dates:**

Council: 10/23/23 and 11/13/23 at 7 p.m.

Finance: TBA

HARB: 11/7/23 at 7 p.m.

Personnel: 11/20/23 at 7 p.m.

Property: 11/1/23 at 7 p.m.

Sewer: 11/9/23 at 7 p.m.

Streets: 10/25/23 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Irons-Zimmerman  
Borough Secretary

*\*\*\*ALL GUEST/CORRESPONDENCE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER PER REQUEST/RECEIPT\*\*\**

Date Approved: 11/16/2023 Motion By: Morgan Seconded By: Creighton

  
Seal

