

**Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
November 21, 2024
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: Chairman Ed Twine, Vice-Chair Jason Frey, Member Joe Creighton, Member Dr. Michael Pedersen, Member Jacob Morgan, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Solicitor Sam Wisner via phone, Engineer Lance Hoover, Water & Sewer Plant Laborer Donnie Keefer, Pete Stotemyer

ABSENT: None

GUEST(S)/PRESS: Jaime & Pat Brownell 13143 Karper Rd Mercersburg

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and opened the floor to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TREASURER'S REPORT:

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30, 2024 was made by Morgan, seconded Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2024 was made by Morgan, seconded Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable List for the months ending September 30, 2024 and October 31, 2024, was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES: This was tabled. Attendees for the December 14, 2023 meeting need to be revised

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Addressed during the discussion of the agenda items

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Addressed during the discussion of the agenda items

PUBLIC WORKS: Current average water usage is 190,000 gallons per day. Request for purchase of a new back-up alum pump. New PWD employees should be able to run the plants without direct supervision. Chairman Twine would like to inquire about the used back truck from Chambersburg if they purchase a new one.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Utility bill amount is \$84,577.40 due to be paid by December 10, 2024. Current water meters that are being used will be discontinued by LB Water. There will be a meeting with one of their representatives to discuss what meter options will be available through them. We will explore other vendors to see what else may be available. EAP is willing to provide two demo meters to the Borough to see how they perform. The water leak was fixed with assistance from Chambersburg. After the leak it was determined that we need a better mapping system, and we to start replacing worn and dated valves. Service line inventory report was submitted to EAP and accepted. Based on the report, notices need to be sent to three properties to be tested for lead. A copy of the Supervisory Evaluation Report was provided to each board member to complete on the manager's performance. Member Twine requested updates on Pennvest items. The first one being the EPA grant of 2 million dollars. Attorney Wisner noted that we are on our third representative from EPA, and Kira Wright from GMS is clarifying grant requirement details and will provide more information to be shared at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Twine recommended extending the Water Conservation Notice and delaying the hydrant flushing at Mercersburg Academy for another 30 days.

MOTION: to approve charging the Mercersburg Fire Department a user fee and for their water usage was made by Mayor Pedersen, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Dawn will provide a report of the previous water usage for the fire department and will draft a letter informing the fire department that they will now be charged for water to be presented at the next meeting. A letter also needs to be sent to Fire Chief Mark Sanders to attend the next Water Authority meeting as well as a letter to all of the organizations that currently are not paying for water.

MOTION: to approve DHM Excavating to replace fire hydrant on Park Ave for \$10,275 was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: to approve the purchase of Stenner S Series S-300 Pump for \$1,478 from USA Blue Book was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to retroactively approve the purchase of one Stancor Avenger Series Model AHS-25HH pump for Mud Well for \$5,948 and retroactively approve PSI to install the actuator for \$1,465 was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to retroactively approve Musser Mechanical to install the 10" replacement valve to the Water Treatment Plant for \$2,700 was made by Mayor Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve Cathodic Protection Corrosion Control System for Corpro for \$975 was made by Fry, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the request from CES Engineering LLC for two EDUs per the November 18, 2024 SALDO Prospect St plan was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

A schedule to replace old valves needs to be created for 2025. A GIS system could be utilized to locate the valves and a list of "worst" to "working" valves should be created. PWD could also work on locating the valves and when they have downtime. This project should be added to the agenda for 2025. Chairman Twine provided a summary of the Bear Valley Water Inquiry. The cost for pipes is estimated at one million dollars per mile. The project would require 4 miles of pipe from Lemasters. Another option would be to run pipe down Mountain Rd from Cove Gap. This alternative would require 5-6 miles of pipe. Lance Hoover expressed concern that Bear Valley has fluoride in their water where the Borough does not. A formal estimate for the project hasn't been made available, but a rough estimate would be about 9 million dollars. DEP would like a decision on Bear Valley by January 31, 2025. Lance Hoover discussed the capabilities and volume of the Buck Run Well. We have the permits for the Buck Run Well project. Construction of The Park Ave project is scheduled to start sometime in May or June 2025 and be completed by the end of 2026. If we are able to meet the February 5, 2025 or the May 7, 2025 deadline to submit an application to Pennvest for the Buck Run Well Project, we will aim to submit it in July 2025.

MOTION: to halt the conversion of the Bear Valler Water inquiry was made by Frey, seconded by Mayor Pedersen, discussion ensued on whether to continue keep the matter open and continue talks with Bear Valley Water or not based on the DEP deadline of January 31, 2025. A roll call vote was called, Morgan nay, Creighton nay, Twine aye, Frey aye, Pedersen aye, motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote.

Dawn is to draft a letter to DEP to be reviewed at the next meeting with the decision to proceed with the Buck Run Well Project and not the Bear Valley option. The 20% water usage rate and the \$6.00 user fee increase that will be effective next year has been included in the 2025 Water Authority Operation Budget.

MOTION: to approve advertising the proposed Water Authority Operation Budget for 2025 was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

Member Creighton asked Lance Hoover if he would be interested in being the Project Manager for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Water Treatment Plant Project. Lance stated that he would like to take some time to consider the opportunity as he has some other projects he will be starting. We should reach out to JHA to determine what documents they will need completed, and Pennvest will require an agreement with JHA. Solicitor Wisner has requested a cost proposal from JHA which will be available to the committee members to review before proceeding with the project. Lance Hoover said the documents for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Water Treatment Plant project are completed and ready to go. The documents are available electronically in a link that Lance can provide to the committee members. The borough needs to advertise that they are seeking contractor bids for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Water Treatment Plant. The bids will be sealed and opened at the January Water Authority meeting.

MOTION: to advertise the bids for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Water Treatment Plant in the Public Opinion and The Journal was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Chairman to sign all financing documents on behalf of the authority for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Project was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Chairman to execute the third amended COA pending solicitor's review and approval was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Twine asked Dawn Scheller when she reaches out to JHA ask if they will be comfortable with the contractor providing the construction manager.

CORRESPONDENCE: A check for \$50 need to be sent to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to renew the NPDES permit for the Park Avenue Nitrate Removal Project.

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:50 PM was made by Creighton, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed with the use of Pete Stotelmyer's meeting notes and have been respectfully submitted for approval.

Date Approved: _____ **Motion Made By:** _____ **Seconded:** _____

Dawn L. Scheller, Borough Manager

SEAL