

Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
June 26, 2025
MINUTES

ATTENDING: Chairman Ed Twine, Vice-Chairman Jason Frey, Member Joe Creighton, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Water & Sewer Plant Laborer Donnie Keefer, Member Michael Pedersen, Administrative Professional Pete Stotemyer, Solicitor Sam Wiser

ABSENT: Jacob Morgan

GUEST(S)/PRESS: Reference Sign in Sheets

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Preston Spahr - Thanked the Water Authority for the support in visiting the Water Property. Will provide a more detailed report in the next meeting (July).

Audry Hua - Thanked the Authority for the opportunity to visit Buck Run reservoir last week. Thank you to Jacob Morgan for organizing the tour. Attendees Jacob Morgan, Preston Spahr, Jim Malone, Chris Duffy and Audry Hua. Audry provided a brief summary of the visit. She will provide more details at the July meeting.

Todd McGuire - Borough Resident and an owner of 1 North (Coffee Shop). Shared his disappointment in the communication around the last water main break. Based on his past experience with previous water breaks he expected a shorter duration for the boil water order. Stated the information flow relative to this event challenged his ability to plan for the business and keep his employees informed. Ed Twine asked if Mr. McGuire has access to the RAVE emergency notice system. Mr. McGuire confirmed he has access and did receive the notice. Ed Twine confirmed the process of the required testing guided by the DEP to go through before lifting the boil water order. Ed Twine summarized the events of the recent water breaks and impacts to the system.

Benjamin Dugas - Lives on Buchanan Drive asking about the development going on behind his house as it relates to the water system. Requesting a copy of the engineers report on this housing build as well as impact fees. Dawn Scheller provided an update on the land use permit issued related to the ongoing site/clearing work at this location. The permit is issued to the owner to clear for crop farming. Scheller added that there is a parcel behind Food Lion where interest has been expressed, but there is no ongoing/current development work. Relative to the water system, at the last Water Authority meeting 5 single family properties were approved to be added to the system. These properties are in the original Dorsey subdivision. Mr. Dugas expressed concern that crop farming would use the water system. Scheller confirmed this parcel is not serviced by the Water Authority. For any development going forward an owner would be required to make requests to the Borough Council, Water and Sewer Authorities, as well as the Planning Commission. It is a lengthy process that would be managed at the scheduled public meetings. For approved additions to the water system "tapping" fees are assigned by the Sewer and Water Authorities. Ed Twine confirmed these additions will be in the public forum and invited all to attend the Monthly Water Authority meeting. Ed Twine noted the Water and Sewer Authorities operate under state and DEP mandates. Schaller confirmed the public meeting schedules re posted on the Borough website and in the entryway of Borough Hall.

Don Palesky – Resident of 20 Oregon Street. Thanked Michael Pederson for the communication he put on social media. It added information that was not able to be included in the RAVE notice. It added context to the situation that would allow business owners and homeowners to be more informed during a complex and extended events. Mr. Palesky noted his appreciation for the work and commitment of the staff and volunteers.

Debra Keefer – 241 N. Main concerns with recent increases in water bill. Agreed to come back to Ms. Keefer's concerns later in the agenda.

Shane Starliper – 13855 Buchanan Trail West. Moved in Feb 7, 2025, received an April bill of \$5,100, 310,000 gallons. Dawn Scheller confirmed staff will investigate account and have meter checked and get back with Mr. Starliper with findings.

Marlena Harman – By Carmak Court. Reached out to state representative Chad Richmond who replied confirming he was more than willing to support the Authority if you have a plan and make application to the Commonwealth. Twine and Schaller confirmed the Water and Sewer Authorities are pursuing and have secured grants with the support of GMS.

Jason Martin – Water Treatment Business – Offering help to provide water to the community in the event of water events. Twine confirmed the Authority would reach out.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

MOTION: To approve Treasure's Report was made by Creighton, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Bills Payable was made by Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 15, 2025 meeting was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Not Present. Written report included.

WATER AND SEWER LABORER'S REPORT:

Report included. Donnie Keefer present.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Report included.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Sam Wiser didn't have anything additional to report.

GMS REPORT:

Kelly O'Connor and Lisa Schaefer of GMS introduced as new representatives for the Borough of Mercersburg. Memorandum – Project Overview provided.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Scheller noted amount due to the Authority from outstanding bills stands at \$25,534.56.

Currently the Authority is still under mandatory water restrictions. Query to the board - should the mandatory restriction transition to a voluntary restriction. Chair Ed Twine recommended the mandatory water restrictions should continue for 30 days. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

MOTION: To approve continuance of Mandatory Water Restrictions for 30 days was made by Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

Scheller provided Authority members with:

- Advance photos of Buck Run Walk
- Quarterly billing status showing billing and payments received to date
- Email from Lance Hoover providing information on acceptable limits on tested meters
- Updated payment agreement for accounts with higher readings

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. To ratify Resolution 2025-02-W declaring to reimburse short-term borrowed funds and capital reserved funds used to construct improvements to its public drinking water system with funds received from Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

MOTION: To Ratify Resolution 2025-02-W, made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

- B. To ratify Resolution 2025-03-W declaring to reimburse short-term borrowed funds and capital reserved funds used to construct improvements to its public drinking water system with funds received from Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

(No action required – Motion to ratify 2025-03-W independently – covered by 2025-02-W)

- C. To ratify Resolution 2025-04-W and Letter of Responsibility authorizing the securing of funding from PENNVEST in the principal amount \$6,201,822.00 to provide funding for the Park Ave. Well Project

MOTION: To Ratify Resolution 2025-04-W, made by Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

- D. To review and provide additional revisions to the Water Authority Rules and Regulations drafted by Solicitor's Office. Section 6.19 was modified regarding Authority staff to execute payment agreements as defined in this section. Recommendation discussed to add clarification that Authority staff can make adjustment based on calculations.

MOTION: To add approve Rules and Regulations with clarification to authorize staff to make billing adjustments, made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

- E. To review and provide additional revisions to the Payment Agreement drafted by the Solicitor's Office.

MOTION: To approve Payment Agreement form, made by Pedersen, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. To review and discuss customers' billing concerns, properties listed below:

1. 12147 Buchanan Trail West – Brian Keefer. Concerns with unusual increase in volume with no change in water usage by account owner. Owner had plumber confirm no plumbing issues at property. Meter has been tested and found within tolerances. Chairman Twine requested another 30 days to investigate further.
2. 12235 Buchanan Trail West – Laura McClure representing account for William Williams. Consistent below 2000 gals. 2016 consistently 10,000 gallons, since March 2017 average below 5,000 gals. Bill of 1/10/2025 19,000 gals, Bill of 04/10/2025 27,000 gals. Borough replaced meter, wires and remote. Borough confirmed meter tested within tolerances. Hired 2 separate plumbers confirmed no leaks in the house. Borough confirmed bills put on hold and invited to present at the Water Authority meeting. Requested under the right-to-know asking for testing plan. Scheller/Wise confirmed no testing plan. Tested as required/complaint. Chairman Twine requested another 30 days to investigate further. Scheller confirmed the current bill is on hold. An adjusted bill will be issued after complete investigation.
3. 241 N. Main Street – Chairman Twine requested another 30 days to investigate further. Billing on hold until investigation complete.
4. 53 Linden Ave. - Chairman Twine requested another 30 days to investigate further. Billing on hold until investigation complete.

- B. To adopt Resolution 2025-05-W to extend the Articles of Incorporation – extend to 2087 PENNVEST needs to extend the term past the end of the loan.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2025-05-W to extend the life of the Authority to 2087, made by Pedersen, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

- C. To approve MWA Park Ave WTP Proposal from JHA Re: Engineering Services – JHA Engineering

MOTION: To adopt JHA for engineering services, made by Pedersen, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

- D. To approve Notice to Award to PSI for the general and electrical contracts for the Park Ave. Well Project

MOTION: To approve Award to PSI for general and electrical contracts, made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

- E. To authorize Borough Office to secure necessary insurance policies related to PENNVEST loan closing.

MOTION: To authorize Borough Office to secure insurance, made by Pedersen, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

- F. To authorize the Chairman to sign the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) compliance form.

MOTION: To authorize Chairman to sign DBE compliance form, made by Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

- G. To review and approve estimate from Steadfast Waterworks to replace electric butterfly valves.

MOTION: To approve Steadfast Waterworks estimate for butterfly valve replacement, made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

- H. To review and approve the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report and the Drinking Water Quality Report prepared by Lance Hoover and to post on the website and email a copy to DEP.

MOTION: To accept as written 2024 Consumer Confidence Report and drinking Water Quality Report to post and send to DEP, made by Pedersen, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

- I. To approve MWA Buck Run WTP proposal from JHA Re: Engineering Services.

Tabled: Set up a meeting with JHA for clarification of the proposal and a not to exceed amount.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Information and pricing packet from Water Works Metrology
- B. Email dated June 10, 2025 for Borough resident Connie Phelps concerning the water rates. Scheller confirmed this email was forward to Council members as requested.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:08 PM was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed from audio recording and have been respectfully submitted for approval.

Date Approved: 8-21-25 Motion Made By: Morgan Seconded: Creighton

CMJ

Borough Manager

