

**Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
November 16, 2023
MINUTES**

Attending: Chairman Ed Twine, Member Jason Frey, Member Joe Creighton, Member Dr. Michael Pedersen, Member Jacob Morgan, Plant Operator Donnie Keefer, Borough Manager Melissa Price

Absent: Solicitor Sam Wiser and Engineer Lance Hoover

Guest(s)/Press: Andy Abel, The Mercersburg Journal

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Megan McNulty, of 14270 Timber Lane, expressed her concern on the water service and quality, vibration in her pipes as well as air in her lines.

Jeff Poffenberger, of 212 Overhill Drive, also expressed his concerns with the water service and quality.

Donnie Keefer addressed both concerns expressing our numbers are below the DEP guideline standards, no iron has been tested in the water which is also tested daily. If there was any concern, DEP would have already addressed it. Given the recent water leak, this would be the reason for any vibrations in the lines or air. After a leak is fixed there, it is normal to see a small amount of dirt in the in the line because the line can't be flushed out fast enough before it reaches the resident's homes. The cloudy white color you see is the air in the line, after a water main leak it is normal to see air in the lines for a short period of time until it works its way through the system.

Chairman Twine apologized on behalf of the Borough for not sending out notice to the community ahead of time, and expressed it was an unplanned circumstance, but they would do a better job at sending notice to the community regarding the aftereffects of a water main line break repair.

Another guest (*name not listed on sign-in sheet*) had muddy water in the shower around 8:00 PM, yesterday. The guest also brought a sample of water taken from his house this morning across from Smith Implements. The sample showed cloudy water and air. This guest made the point the fire hydrants further down the line were not flushed.

Andy Abel, The Mercersburg Journal, recommended the Water Authority consider providing notice of such events through Facebook. Price indicated there is a new Notification System being implemented (Rave) and it will take some time to get it up and running.

Abel raised the issue of opening the reservoir for public access. Able indicated that Facebook participants indicated that Buck Run Reservoir area was closed by concerns expressed by the Spruce Gap Hunting Club. Twine confirmed that this was not accurate information, and the Spruce Gap Hunting Club had no impact on how the Water Authority uses the property. Twine then confirmed the Water Authority has the responsibility to protect the open reservoir to ensure customers receive safe drinking water.

Member Jason Frey stated there is a large-scale construction project that will take place over the next two years. After the construction project is completed in two years a discussion about a park can be entertained. Frey reiterated at this time we have a looming construction project that needs to be

completed, certified, and start to produce potable water for the community over the course of the next two years. After the water plant is online determination needs to be made when the reservoir can be decommissioned. The decommissioning will be conducted within state requirements. After these activities are completed, the Authority can then consider the request for public access to open space.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Member Jacob Morgan discussed the status of the budget review and preparation. General discussion around meters and reading system. The desire is to select technology for meters and reading system as a priority so meters needing to be replaced in the near term are compatible with the future meters and reading system. Discussion extended to the consideration of the value of updating the billing system software along with the meter and reading system. Creighton recommended the consideration of a new billing plan in concert with the new metering and reading system implementation with a view to improving and advancing incoming payments.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending October 31, 2023, was made by Creighton, seconded Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable List for the month ending October 31, 2023, was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES:

MOTION: to approve the October 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Morgan, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Lance Hoover, report is attached to the Authority's meeting packet.

PLANT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Keefer reported the volume and flow of water through the plant continues to be a challenge. In addition to the challenges created by lack of rain, currently there is a 15,000 gallon per day draw above average on the system by a high-volume user. These circumstances are drawing down Buck Run tank water levels. The issue is compounded as the ZIM well is currently off-line due to high iron/bacteria. Keefer reports a pH meter at the water plant may need to be replaced soon. General discussion regarding the insulation of a clear well at the water plant to prevent pipes from freezing as they did Christmas Eve and Morning of 2022. It was determined the best course of action is to cover the well area with concrete blankets and apply heat when temperature is low enough and creates a concern of the pipes freezing.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

KLS Investment Properties Land Development Review—Water Service. Member Frey discussed his association with the project. Frey is a member of the Water Authority with his primary occupation being with Martin and Martin who is providing land development service to KLS Investments. As such Frey will be able to represent himself in any vote related to the project. KLS Investments has submitted a proposed land use/land development proposal to the Borough of Mercersburg. The project is at the intersection of Oregon Street and Landis Drive and includes a 10,000 square foot, 3-unit industrial building as well as parking and water management. The plan has been recommended by the Borough Planning Committee for approval. This has been tabled until further EDU information is presented by the Engineer.

MOTION: to approve the Glace Associates Invoice #1 and the Buck Run WTP design and permit, contingent on review by solicitor, was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the JHA Companies NPDES, Buck Run NPDES, and Professional Services, contingent on review by the Solicitor, JHA Companies NPDES #1 in the amount of \$8,714.69 in which the value needs to be validated by reviewing the package was made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve Glace Associates Invoice #2, Buck Run WTP design and permit, contingent on review by the Solicitor, in the amount of 4,829.66, was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve JHA Companies Buck Run NPDES, Professional Services, contingent on review by the Solicitor, in the amount of \$8,069.16 in which the value needs to be validated by reviewing the package was made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve Glace Associates Invoice #3, Park Avenue Well WTP including the design and permit, in the amount of \$3,187.26, was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve JHA Companies NPDES, Park Avenue Well and Water Treatment Plant, contingent on review by the Solicitor, in the amount of \$3,187.26, in which the value needs to be validated by reviewing the package, was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve payment for the Application Distribution System PRV Project in the amount of \$81,130.86 was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the renewal of the annual service agreement water storage tank, Clarifier Cathodic Protection in the amount of \$925.00, was made by Creighton, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

GMS, Memorandum, Project Overview and Review, Creighton recommended a checklist and schedule showing more detail going forward.

Correspondence:

PFID 19691 Drought Contingency Plan. Price confirmed this plan was by Lance Hoover and is completed. Price will coordinate with Hoover to ensure the plan is within associated permit limits.

Cathodic Protection Corrosion Control System, maintenance agreement, discussed under New Business, Item 1.

Further Discussion—System Notifications related to public comment about the recent pipe break event. Going forward, the Public Works Department will provide a notice and or statement to the Borough Manager which can then be posted on the Borough website. Agreed, at this time the Borough website will be the source of information. The Borough will work with Lance Hoover for standard statements for events that may occur with the system that can be posted relative to future events.

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:34 PM was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by Jaimie Renfrew Administrative Professional, with the use of the meeting recording and have been respectfully submitted for approval.

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

Signature

SEAL