

**Mercersburg Sewer Authority**  
**Borough Hall, 113 South Main Street, Mercersburg**  
**March 12, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** Chairman Jim Malone, Member Joe Creighton, Member Stephanie Brindle, Member Ben Dugas, Water/Sewer Plant Laborer Donnie Keefer, Borough Manager Matthew Moxley, and Administrative Professional Angela Alleman

**Absent:** Member Tim Stanton

**Guests/Press:** See Sign in Sheet

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Jim Malone called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

Don Palesky shared a request to be considered for a joint meeting between Borough Council, the Mercersburg Water Authority, and the Mercersburg Sewer Authority to address any questions the public may have.

**TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS PAYABLE**

**MOTION:** To approve February 2026 Bills Payable Report was made by Brindle, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Creighton, seconded by Brindle, all ayes, motion carried.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

None

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report given. Topics to be discussed during Executive Session.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Not scheduled to be present; however, a report was included for review.

**WATER/SEWER PLANT LABORER'S REPORT**

Donnie Keefer reported that the plant is recovering from frozen pipes after the recent freeze and operations are returning to normal. The biological treatment process remained strong throughout the winter due to operational adjustments that eliminated the need for supplemental biological material. Minor issues occurred from ice, including sludge being sent to the reed beds during freezing conditions; however, inspection showed new growth with no apparent damage. Staff will continue monitoring the beds. Three and a half of the four reed beds were burned off during the winter. The new UV system is expected to start on April 6. Other plant operations are normal.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Report was provided for review.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Member Creighton presented an update on the new Neptune Meter Reading System noting that two new meter readers have been placed into service and testing began on March 13, 2026. Due to the cost of approximately \$7,000 per unit, only two readers were purchased rather than three. Staff members have been assigned individual IDs and logins through their phones to operate the system. Initial testing indicated that approximately 20% of the data matched accurately with the information currently stored in the existing system. The data from the previous system is being compared and matched with the new system, and staff are currently working to correct errors by verifying meter numbers and related account information. Because of these discrepancies, it will take some time to categorize and verify the data before it can be fully integrated into the new system. The process began today and will continue over the coming weeks. It was also noted that staff will be going into the field using the new readers to collect updated readings. Once the data is received in the office, the billing clerk will enter the verified readings into the existing billing program. The goal is to improve the accuracy of the data before relying fully on the new system. At this time, it is expected that the process will continue through the spring, with the possibility that the June billing cycle may reflect the updated system once the data has been sufficiently verified.

**MOTION:** To move forward with the distribution of the Grease Trap Inspection Letters to Food Lion, American Legion Post 517, Stoner's Mansion House (both locations) and Rutter's was made by Dugas, seconded by Brindle, all ayes, motion carried.

Manager Moxley reported that the Franklin County Conservation District Johnston Run Project is set to begin on April 1, 2026.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** To approve the Mercersburg Academy Subdivision Project was made by Creighton, seconded by Brindle, all ayes, motion carried.

The two new projects being developed for the Mercersburg Academy are pending receipt of Land Use Permit applications.

Angela Alleman reported that a sewer relief credit was issued for 350 S. Park Ave. due to an outdoor water leak that resulted in a high water/sewer bill.

**MOTION:** To approve High Tide Invoice #698 - \$1,651.02 was made by Brindle, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

Member Brindle announced her intention to resign from the Sewer Authority in order to focus on other personal endeavors. She stated that she will email Manager Moxley her formal resignation in the morning.

Borough staff will advertise the open seat on the Sewer Authority.

**MOTION:** To approve the non-renewal of Yellow Page listing for the Mercersburg Sewer Authority was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas all ayes, motion carried.

Donnie Keefer reported that if a new sewer treatment plant is constructed, most of the existing equipment at the current facility will not be relocated. The new UV system would be the only component expected to be transferred to the new plant. All other equipment, including the generator and related infrastructure, would be replaced as part of the new facility construction.

**MOTION:** To approve the purchase of a 2" submersible pump not to exceed \$1,000 was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas all ayes, motion carried.

A discussion of debt financing has been tabled until the next meeting.

Member Creighton reported that staff met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding financing options for a potential new sewer treatment plant. The project may qualify for a USDA loan program with an estimated 3.75% interest rate and up to a 40-year term, though bridge financing may be needed during construction. Application preparation costs are estimated between \$60,000 and \$90,000. Creighton also reported that funding requests have been submitted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a \$5 million infrastructure project on Johnston's Lane and Rutledge Rd., and through the Pennsylvania Local Share Account Program for approximately \$900,000 for water system improvements. Discussions with state and federal representatives are ongoing.

Member Dugas expressed interest in sharing updates with the Communications Committee regarding loan and grant opportunities and the actions taken to pursue them.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

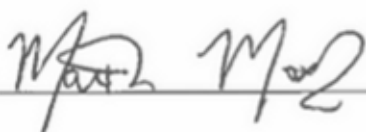
None

**MOTION:** To enter Executive Session at 7:59pm was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To end Executive Session at 8:25pm was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:26 pm was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**Date approved:** 4/9/2026      **Motion:** Creighton      **Seconded:** Dugas

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_

**SEAL**

