

**Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
March 19, 2026
MINUTES**

ATTENDING: Chairman Ed Twine, Vice-Chairman Jason Frey, Member Joe Creighton, Member Jacob Morgan, Member Michael Pedersen, Water & Sewer Plant Laborer Donnie Keefer, Borough Manager Matthew Moxley, Administrative Professional Angela Alleman

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

None

TREASURERS REPORT

MOTION: To approve February 2026 Bills Payable Report was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve February 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Creighton, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Not Present.

WATER AND SEWER LABORER'S REPORT

The water and sewer plant is operating normally with no issues to report. Daily production has been averaging approximately 200,000 gallons on alternating days and between 163,000 and 168,000 gallons on the remaining days, likely due to the Academy filling its tanks every other day. Water usage is expected to increase next week following spring break, which will likely require daily operation of Buck Run. Regarding equipment, new turbidimeters have been installed on all filters. However, the CFE turbidimeter is outdated, and if it were to fail, it would necessitate a plant shutdown to comply with DEP monitoring requirements. To address this risk, there is a plan to have Steadfast Waterworks evaluate spare units in order to establish a reliable backup. An invoice for this evaluation may be presented at the next meeting, though the cost is currently unknown.

PUBLIC WORKS

Written report included.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Sam Wisner reported that at the end of the meeting, the Authority will enter Executive Session to discuss its obligations with DEP and to coordinate an upcoming meeting. Additional discussion will include potential funding options, as well as a review of the current rate structure and cost allocation strategies. Any proposed actions resulting from these discussions will be presented at the next meeting.

GMS REPORT

Not scheduled to be present.

Member Frey reported that Water and Sewer Authorities are actively pursuing multiple grant funding opportunities.

Chairman Twine reported that GMS is working to compile updated figures for PENNVest resubmission; deadline set for April 29.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley reported that as of January 1, 2026, there were 39 open account disputes. Of these, 29 were routine inquiries and were resolved and closed by March 18, 2026. The remaining 10 disputes are in progress with customers.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: To extend the Water Conservation Notice was made by Pedersen, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

A brief discussion was held regarding inconsistencies in the Daily Water System Report readings. Staff will be reminded of the importance of obtaining accurate readings on a daily basis.

Manager Moxley reported that training and implementation for the new Neptune Meter Reading Software were completed on March 12, 2026. The new system will be used beginning with the April 10, 2026 meter reading cycle. Some data cleanup is expected during the initial phase as meters are read, with any issues to be corrected in real time. Accuracy is expected to improve following the transition period.

The new Muni Link Utility Billing System was assigned to an Implementation Manager on March 10, 2026 and mapping activities are expected to begin in April.

Member Creighton reported that there is still 1 contractor that needs to update their wages for the Park Ave. Water Treatment Project.

Member Morgan reported that he has received an additional quote from MBE for two solar array options. The first is a smaller array located within the existing fenced area, estimated at approximately \$350,000 after applying tax credits. The second is a larger array utilizing the full open field, estimated at approximately \$1 million, with the capacity to exceed the Borough's energy needs and offset annual costs of roughly \$115,000 to \$120,000. The larger project is projected to pay for itself within seven to ten years and generate significant long-term savings. Implementation of this option would require coordination at the Borough level, including parcel consolidation and agreements among all three entities. An alternative option is also under review with Solar Resource Energy LLC, which would own and operate the system and sell power back at a reduced rate of approximately \$0.07 per kilowatt-hour; a quote for this option is still pending. Solar panels are estimated to have a lifespan of 30 to 40 years or more, with efficiency declining gradually at a rate of approximately 0.1% per year. Despite this gradual reduction, panels are expected to maintain over 80% of their production capacity after 20 years. Further updates will be provided at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the Park Ave. WTP that included handouts and the presentation of a JHA video.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed Park Avenue connection, which is currently not considered viable due to the existing pipe appearing to be disconnected and tied to a nonfunctional hydrant. It was agreed that excavation around the hydrant and roadway will be necessary to verify the pipe's condition and configuration. Based on the findings, the project may require installation of new piping and valve configurations, with the final scope to be determined following investigation. The existing pipe, approximately 24 inches in diameter and installed around 1972, remains of unknown condition and may require replacement over an estimated 400-foot section. An insert valve option was discussed to facilitate the connection without requiring a shutdown of the main. It was noted that a PennDOT permit will be required for any work within the roadway. The Authority agreed to proceed with a change order with PSI to complete the work.

Member Frey reported that Chief Sanders asked if any DEP-approved method exists to supply a hydrant on Park Ave. with non-potable water to fill tanker trucks and conserve treated water. Engineer Lance Hoover confirmed this is not allowed under current DEP regulations which requires all hydrant water to be potable, and the new Park Avenue well cannot bypass treatment.

MOTION: To approve the PSI Payment Application # 3 (Electrical) \$62,253.90 was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the PSI Payment Application # 7 (General) \$395,881.47 was made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve the non-renewal of Yellow Page listing for the Mercersburg Water Authority was made by Pedersen, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

A discussion was held on the Grandview tank and well, including a potential new pump and coordination with MMP&W. The Authority will conduct further research and report back to MMP&W.

MOTION: To obtain a quote from T-Mobile for internet service at Buck Run was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

The Authority discussed the Borough's Communications Committee and its interest in including the Water and Sewer Authorities in a centralized communications effort to improve consistency and public outreach. Options include allowing the Committee to manage communications or setting coordination parameters. The Board expressed general support for the concept.

MOTION: To allow the Borough Communications Committee to work with the Water Authority to handle the public outreach portion of its' communications was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding a joint public meeting between Borough Council, MWA, and MSA. The matter will be referred back to Council to propose potential dates.

The Authority discussed participation in water utility trade organizations, including PAWARN and PA Rural Water. It was noted that the Authority is currently a member of PA Rural Water, with dues recently paid. The organization provides ongoing support, including quarterly calibration of chlorine analyzers and access to technical assistance. In emergency situations, PA Rural Water can also provide engineering support and operational assistance as needed. Additionally, it was noted that FEMA has recommended that the Authority consider joining PAWARN, which facilitates mutual aid among water utilities during emergencies. The Authority expressed interest in pursuing PAWARN membership. Manager Moxley will research the requirements and process for joining PAWARN and report back at the next meeting.

A handout outlining general hydrant usage guidelines was briefly discussed.

Solicitor Sam Wiser reported that the Mercersburg Academy has proposed 2 projects, including a new Science Center and central utility plant. Under the Borough's mandatory connection ordinance, all water must be supplied by the public system. Demand will be evaluated using EDUs, with applicable tapping fees per Act 57; sewer impacts will be reviewed separately. The Academy must proceed through the land development process and provide a Letter of Intent with projected usage and timeline.

MOTION: To allow Lance Hoover to contact PADEP and request an extension for the construction permit expiring on April 6, 2026 for the Zimm/Buck Run Treatment Plant was made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

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

The Board discussed planning for the March 25, 2026 site visit with Senator McCormick's office, a joint effort with the Water and Sewer Authorities and GMS, now expanded to include multiple state and federal representatives. The one-hour visit (9-10 AM) will focus on the Rutledge Road and Johnston's Lane infrastructure project (water, sewer, stormwater, and roadway improvements). A structured itinerary will include key stops (e.g., Johnston's Lane and the water plant), coordinated transportation, and concise materials highlighting project needs, funding requests, and ongoing efforts. The Board emphasized a focused tour, clear messaging on infrastructure challenges and proactive work, and strong support for advancing the grant application.

MOTION: To approve Hide Tide Invoice #697 - \$1,101.18 was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

The Authority reported that Richard Yale should provide a drilling timeline, and the Public Works Department will disconnect the water service at the curb box.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of support from Josh Redmond, Nelson King, and Kilian Agha were reviewed, along with compliments received for the Public Works Department.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:51 PM was made by Frey, seconded by Pedersen, all ayes, motion carried.

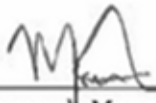
Regular meeting session resumed at 9:54PM.

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:55PM was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

Date Approved: 4-16-26

Motion Made By: *Morgan*

Seconded: *Frey*


Borough Manager

SEAL

