

**Mercersburg Sewer Authority**  
**Borough Hall, 113 South Main Street, Mercersburg**  
**April 9, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

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

**Absent:** None

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

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

Chairman Jim Malone called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**TREASURER'S REPORT/BILLS PAYABLE**

**MOTION:** To approve January 2026 through March 2026 Treasure's Report and March 2026 Bills Payable Report was made by Stanton, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve payment to the Borough General Fund for \$59,000 to cover 2025 Salaries was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To approve March 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, three ayes, one abstain (Tim Stanton due to not being in attendance) motion carried.

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

None

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report given.

**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 operating as expected. We successfully navigated the recent cold weather, and reedbed performance is improving. All beds show growth except Reedbed #2, which was recently worked; growth is expected as water levels recede. Further updates will be provided under new business.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Report was provided for review.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** To approve Member Stephanie Brindle's resignation from the Sewer Authority was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

Sewer Authority members agreed to participate in the proposed Joint Town Hall Meeting on June 13, 2026, and will send two representatives.

Grease trap inspections for Food Lion, Rutter's, American Legion, Stoners Mansion House, and Stoners on the Square are scheduled for April 22 and 28. It was noted that all food-related businesses in the Borough will also need inspections.

Member Creighton requested staff follow up on the sewer leak letter to Mercersburg Little League.

Member Stanton reported that USDA funding includes a loan-and-grant component, grant availability is limited and should not be relied upon. The primary option is a 40-year loan at 3.75%, with lower monthly payments but significantly higher total interest. PENNVEST offers more favorable terms, with lower interest rates over a 20-year period, resulting in higher monthly payments but substantially less total interest. An application for potential "hardship" status has been received, which could reduce the rate to as low as 1%. It is recommended to proceed with the PENNVEST hardship application.

Member Creighton shared that a recent site tour with representatives from the offices of Dave McCormick, John Joyce, Chad Reichert, and Doug Mastriano increased awareness of system challenges at multiple levels. A press release has been approved and is expected to appear in the paper next week. A \$3.6 million grant request for improvements on Johnston Lane and Rutledge Road has advanced and may be awarded next year, requiring a 30% match of approximately \$90,000. An additional \$150,000 in funding was secured through Representative Reichert's office for water system needs (excluding direct water purchases).

Discussion continues on constructing a new sewer plant versus retrofitting the existing facility. Rising costs (\$8M+ with 10–15% annual escalation) raise affordability concerns for a new plant. Retrofitting is estimated at \$2.5–\$3M, with a 13–20 year service life, compared to 30–35 years for a new facility. The Authority agreed to evaluate both options in parallel to maintain flexibility, refine cost comparisons, and avoid delays. DEP requires system upgrades but does not mandate new construction. Additional analysis will include rate impacts, lifecycle costs, and long-term operations. Design and permitting may take nine months or more, and construction is to begin by June 2028 per DEP commitments. Related needs, including upgrades to the Kieffer Drive pump station (\$100,000–\$200,000), will be incorporated into planning. Manager Moxley will contact Engineer Lance Hoover to update retrofit cost estimates, continue conceptual design for a new plant, and present both options at a future meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The open Sewer Authority seat will be advertised on the Borough website and in the Mercersburg Journal, the Communications Committee will also help publicize the vacancy.

**MOTION:** To approve High Tide Invoice #710 for \$2325.80 was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve the customer payment plan was made by Stanton, seconded by Dugas all ayes, motion carried.

Donnie Keefer requested that the request for approval for the repair of digesters be tabled to allow him time to get additional quotes. Donnie will forward the quotes to office staff once obtained.

Office staff will reach out to K.L. Buchanan & Sons Plumbing to address the plumbing issues at Borough Hall.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Manager Moxley shared two emails complimenting the Public Works Department.

**MOTION: To adjourn at 8:50 pm was made by Creighton, seconded by Dugas, all ayes, motion carried.**

**Date approved:** 05/14/2026    **Motion:** Creighton    **Seconded:** Dugas

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Manager

