Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
July 16, 2026
MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Member Joe Creighton

GUEST(S)/PRESS: Reference Sign in Sheets

Chairman Ed 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 June 2026 Treasure's Report was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

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

MINUTES
MOTION: To approve June 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT
Not scheduled to be present. Report provided for review.

WATER AND SEWER LABORER'S REPORT
Donnie Keefer reported that elevated water temperatures have increased backwashing frequency for all four filters to four times per day. Chemical adjustments have helped maintain operations, but if conditions worsen, plant flow may need to be reduced from 120 to 115 gallons per minute to prevent filter overloads. Despite these challenges, the system continues to maintain adequate reservoir levels, allowing reduced reliance on the Buck Run Well compared to last year.

Keefer also reported that the semi-annual inspection of the pressure reducing valves (PRVs) and the Grandview altitude pilot valve was completed with no issues identified. The valves will continue to be inspected on a six-month schedule.

Cleaning of the mud wells has been delayed until Public Works personnel are available to assist, with additional cleaning anticipated in September or October because of increased sediment accumulation during the summer months.

PUBLIC WORKS
Written report included.

SOLICITORS REPORT
Not scheduled to be present.

GMS REPORT
Not scheduled to be present.
Vice Chairman Frey reported that he, Member Creighton, and Kelly O'Connor traveled to Waynesboro to meet with Chad Reichard to discuss the Authority's current funding priorities. GMS prepared a summary of the Authority's active grant requests, including the Rutledge Road and Johnston Lane projects. The group expressed appreciation for the $150,000 emergency funding previously secured by Reichert.

Discussion also focused on the anticipated statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant program expected to open around November. The Authority plans to seek approximately $800,000 for system improvements, including meter replacements and in-line valve upgrades. Chairman Frey emphasized the Authority's commitment to pursuing grant funding only as needed to address critical infrastructure needs, with the long-term goal of becoming self-sustaining rather than relying on ongoing grant assistance.

Chairman Twine reported an update from Kelly O'Connor regarding the PennVest application. He reported that the Authority was unable to meet the July 29 application deadline because the 2025 audit is required to complete the application. Additionally, once an application is submitted, the project scope cannot be modified, leaving insufficient time for Martin and Martin to complete the value engineering process and identify potential cost savings. As a result, the Authority will instead target the October 28 application deadline, with funding awards anticipated in January 2027.

MANAGER'S REPORT
A brief discussion was held regarding internet service for the Park Avenue Water Treatment Plant.

OLD BUSINESS
MOTION: To extend the Water Conservation Notice was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

After discussion, the members agreed to readvertise the vacant Water Authority seat in an effort to attract applicants who reside within the Borough.

MOTION: To issue correspondence to Mercersburg Academy notifying them that a will serve letter is planned to be issued for the Central Plant Project conditioned on discussions regarding current baseline usage, tapping fees as well as the Park Ave. Water Treatment Plant being online and operational was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Manager Moxley will reach out to Jonathan Blasco to request an analysis of the current water usage and the expected additional usage for the Mercersburg Central Plant Project.

Chairman Frey reported that members Frey, Creighton, Donnie Keefer, and Engineer Lance Hoover met at the Buck Run Water Treatment Plant to review value engineering opportunities aimed at reducing project costs. Discussions focused on the building location, reuse of existing site features, reducing the building footprint, and eliminating excess storage space and areas designated for future treatment equipment where appropriate.

A 90% draft value engineering report is expected to be presented at the August meeting. Following discussion and any necessary revisions, final approval is anticipated in August or September.

MOTION: To continue to explore the Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP), Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), as well as reaching out to the General-Purpose Authority for financial assistance with the 50% match necessary to have the initial study completed was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve reinstating Delinquent Account Shut-Off Notices was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Members reviewed JHA's projected electric cost report for the new Park Avenue Water Treatment Plant.

MOTION: To approve system connections for the N. Fayette Street duplex, with the understanding that the building will consist of separate upstairs and downstairs dwelling units. The approval includes two tap fees, two separate water meters, a 1-inch service line to the main, a tee connection, two curb boxes, and separate 3/4-inch service lines into each dwelling was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Twine suggested developing standard specifications for system hookups. Vice Chairman Frey offered to obtain sample specifications from Antrim Township.

The proposed customer payment plan was dismissed due to the customer paying the outstanding balance in full.

MOTION: To approve High Tide Invoice # 744 ($1,764.67) was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve PSI AFP # 11 General - Invoice 1457 ($135,071.32) when funds become available without utilizing the bridge loan was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To participate in the proposed September 19, 2026 Townhall meeting as well as future quarterly Townhall meetings was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE
None

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 8:39PM was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To resume regular meeting session at 9:31PM was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To adjourn at 9:33PM was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

Date Approved: *8/20/26* **Motion Made By**: *Frey* **Seconded**: *Morgan*

Borough Manager

SEAL