

Mercersburg Water Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
August 20, 2026
MINUTES

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

ABSENT: None

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

Peter Kopko – Presented his case for billing relief, to be discussed under New Business.

TREASURERS REPORT

MOTION: To approve July 2026 Treasure's Report and Bills Payable Report was made by Creighton, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve July 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes with corrections was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Lance Hoover was present to assist with and provide comments regarding the Value Engineering Report prepared by Martin and Martin.

WATER AND SEWER OPERATOR'S REPORT

Donnie Keefer reported that rising reservoir temperatures have reduced plant flow from 120 GPM to 110 GPM due to filter capacity. All four filters continue to require backwashing. The turbidity meter is also malfunctioning and generating erroneous alarms. Control Systems 21 is expediting a replacement, anticipated by August 26. The plant remains within DEP regulations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Written report included.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Not scheduled to be present.

GMS REPORT

Kelly O'Connor was present for the presentation of the Value Engineering Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley reported that staff will begin to prepare checklists and procedures for winter emergencies including water main breaks.

Chairman Twine inquired whether the Park Avenue sidewalk project would be reviewed to ensure compliance with PennDOT regulations. He also suggested that the air relief valve located in the playground near the Park Avenue Project be tested prior to bringing everything online. Member Creighton will contact PSI Solutions to determine whether they would be interested in providing the testing.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Joe McDowell of Martin and Martin presented the Buck Run Water Treatment Facility Value Engineering Report. The review identified nine potential cost-saving measures, with seven recommended for consideration and two requiring further analysis. The recommended measures could provide approximately \$1.3 million in savings toward the project's estimated \$2 million funding gap.

Engineer Lance Hoover reviewed the value engineering recommendations, which focus on reducing project costs while maintaining necessary treatment capacity and reliability. The recommendations emphasize rehabilitating and reusing existing facilities, including the existing clear wells, to eliminate the need for additional tanks and reduce the proposed building size and excavation costs. Hoover also recommended further evaluating Item No. 3, which would involve adding onto the existing treatment building rather than constructing a new facility. Although currently listed as rejected pending additional structural analysis, Hoover noted that this option could provide significant cost savings. Overall, the value engineering recommendations could potentially reduce the project cost from approximately \$6 million to \$4 million, reducing the Authority's anticipated debt service and potentially improving eligibility for additional grant funding.

Hoover reviewed the proposed separation of the Buck Run and Zimm wells. Buck Run would remain under its existing PADEP permit, with a potential conversion from gas chlorine to sodium hypochlorite, allowing for smaller filtration equipment and a reduced building footprint. Zimm Well would have a separate chlorine contact piping system. The revised configuration would reduce piping requirements, improve efficiency, and provide significant cost savings identified through value engineering. Additional savings may be identified as the design progresses.

Chairman Twine reported that a discussion was held with Susan Warner (PADEP) regarding the Authority's intent to pursue changes to the current Buck Run Water Treatment Facility design. Warner was receptive to the proposed changes and understood the Authority's goal of reducing project costs while maintaining compliance with DEP requirements.

It was noted that proceeding with the revised design will require new permitting, a new design, and a new construction permit, although the existing ENS approval may remain in place. DEP is aware that the Authority will not meet the previously established project deadlines as a result of the proposed changes. Warner requested that the Authority notify DEP once it determines which direction it intends to pursue. At that point, a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled, at which time the Authority will need to have its construction layout prepared for DEP review. DEP will then identify any required changes before the project proceeds.

Members voted to move away from the JHA design and proceed with a revised plan. The vote was: Twine - Yes; Morgan - Yes; Creighton - Yes; Frey - Abstained.

MOTION: To authorize Martin and Martin to discuss the structural evaluation with a few structural engineers with one being selected to complete the basic evaluation to finalize the Value Engineering Study and prepare the conceptual layout for future use was made by Morgan, seconded by Creighton, three ayes, one abstention (Frey), motion carried.

Members reviewed the delinquent report, which showed 14 outstanding accounts for the January billing cycle and 26 outstanding accounts for the April billing cycle. Delinquent notices will be sent on September 1, 2026, with service shut offs scheduled for September 16, 2026.

MOTION: To require every residence to have a separate connection, tap fee, and meter was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, three ayes, one nay (Morgan), motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To approve customer account relief request by allowing an averaged bill based on the previous four quarters with the circumstances determined to constitute a hardship was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, three ayes, one nay (Morgan), motion carried.

Manager Moxley will update the Water Authority Rules and Regulations to address hardship assistance.

MOTION: To approve Control Systems 21 Quote No. 472 – Turbidimeter (\$7,645.93) was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve High Tide Invoice # 756 (\$1,641.23) was made by Morgan, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize the purchase of a 3-inch replacement pump not to exceed \$5,000 was made by Creighton, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

Members acknowledged that Jason Frey has been appointed as a Water Authority Representative on the Personnel Committee.

MOTION: To approve 2027 Public Works Department Proposed Clothing Budget was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Public Works Department Dress Code Revisions was made by Frey, seconded by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve proposed 2027 Wage Increase Budget was made by Morgan, seconded by Frey, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

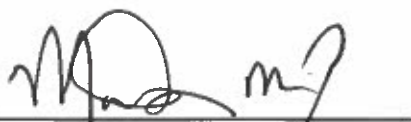
None

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:31PM was made by Frey, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Date Approved: 9-17-2026

Motion Made By: Frey

Seconded: Creighton


Borough Manager

SEAL

