

**Mercersburg Water Authority  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA  
January 19, 2017  
MINUTES**

**Attending:** Chairman Ed Twine, Vice-Chairman Jason Frey, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Nair, Doug Hoffman, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, and Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy

**Absent:** Gregg Davis, Solicitor, and Engineer

**Guests/Press:** Sergeant Robert Wertz: Mercersburg PD, Ken Bustin: Mercersburg Journal, Dr. Elizabeth George: MACWell

Chairman Twine called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He welcomed Doug Hoffman to the Authority Board and opened the floor for Public Comment.

Sergeant Wertz was the first to address the Authority. He began stating that he was not ungrateful and reviewed that the Water Authority approved and gave bonuses this year at Christmas time of \$250.00 to each of the Full-time Officers and \$125.00 to the Part-time Officers. Sergeant Wertz feels that it was a nice gesture, however from an ethical and moral standpoint being employed by the public, receiving salary paid by the tax payers, he could not accept this check. He added that Police Department just went to the tax payers saying that they would like to do more for the community but they needed more funding to do so. Therefore, Borough Council approved to raise taxes by 2 mills and added that many residents of the Borough on the water system who are on fixed and limited incomes. He knows this because he gets to address the other issues on a regular basis. Sergeant Wertz stated his position that he doesn't feel that the bonuses are right, he does not feel comfortable with it from an ethical standpoint, and believes that other people could be helped with this money. Sergeant Wertz presented his check back along with the Police Chief's check as he too feels the same. Sergeant Wertz then asked that the Borough Manager address both employee's W-2s to reflect that as well as since those funds would have been added to the 2016 salaries. He again stated that it is not that he is not appreciative, it's the fact that they are paid by the citizens of the Borough, and feels that this is a practice that should be reviewed in the future. He welcomed questions but stated that that is his position.

Chairman Twine spoke that the Authority gave the bonuses because not very long-ago Sergeant Wertz was a meeting where he stated that the he didn't feel like the Police Department was part of this team. Chairman Twine reviewed that the Authority felt that the Police Department went above and beyond this past year and jumped in and came to help the Authority out when needed. He added that the Authority gave this bonus as a token of the Authorities appreciation for the Police Department being a part of the team. Chairman Twine reviewed that the Authority is its own entity not funded by tax mills and that money was paid out of their budget. He again stated that this was done based on the past year for a good job and strictly on appreciation for the departments performance.

Sergeant Wertz stated that his position has been and always has been as a supervisor in the agency that the Police Department will try to do everything they can to assist the Department of Public Works to assist anyone they can. He reviewed that sometimes they are limited on their resources and sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't happen.

Chairman Twine invited the other members of the audience to speak.

Dawn Scheller noted that Dr. Elizabeth George was in the audience to discuss and be available for questions regarding the ROW Agreement for the trail.

The Authority Members agreed that they would discuss that item next.

The Water Authority received a copy of the meeting minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting where the Authority previously approved the ROW Agreement pending solicitor review. Chairman Twine noted that he voted against the motion at that meeting and would do so again, however if the Authority was to approved the execution of the document he asked that the Vice-Chairman sign the document.

**MOTION: to approve the Vice-Chairman to sign the Trail Easement Agreement between the Mercersburg Water Authority and Mercersburg Borough Council was made by Jason Frey, second by Larry Nair, Ed Twine opposed the motion, remaining ayes, motion carried.**

Dr. Elizabeth George thanked the Authority for continuing to move this project forward and for their support.

Chairman Twine moved on to the other items listed on the Agenda.

**MOTION: to approve the appointments of Ed Twine as Chairman, Jason Frey as Vice-Chairman, and Larry Nair as Secretary/Treasurer was made by Jason Frey, second by Larry Nair, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2016 where the Authority ended the year with a net income of (\$2,592.30) was made by Larry Nair, second by Doug Hoffman, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable List for the month ending December 31, 2016 including the additional invoice list provided at the meeting was made by Jason Frey, second by Larry Nair, all ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: to approve the meeting minutes from December 13, 2016 as written was made by Doug Hoffman, second by Jason Frey, all ayes, motion carried.**

Dawn Scheller provided her Manager's Report which included the money due to the Authority of \$101,051.38 for the quarter bills, final bills, and any delinquent bills. The quarterly bills are due by March 10, 2017. Dawn Scheller also noted that listed under correspondence that they received the approval for the filter media replacement project.

Derek Stoy provided more information as to when the media replacement project would occur. He was hopeful that the PWD could work with the Engineer in March as the PWD still had additional sewer line to camera and make any repairs needed. Derek Stoy informed the Authority that they had a leak on Loudon Road and that the chainsaw which was purchased a few years ago, continues to save time and money.

Chairman Twine asked how the water line relocation at the garage was going. Derek reviewed that due to other issues of a sewer leak, NPO coming to town, and weather it would be completed sometime next week.

Chairman Twine noted that the PWD Report was available if needed and a calendar was included.

No other items were brought before the Authority.

**MOTION: to adjourn at 7:28 pm was made by Larry Nair, second by Doug Hoffman, all ayes, motion carried.**

*These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Dawn Scheller with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.*

**Date approved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Motion made by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second by:** \_\_\_\_\_