

MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

A special meeting of the Board of Muhlenberg Township Authority, Water and Sewer Projects, was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at 3711 Oak Street, Temple, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to notice both advertised and posted according to law.

The following members of the Board were present:

Scott Lehr
Otto Voit, III
Richard Heffner
Richard Hoffmaster

In attendance was Authority Solicitor Thomas A. Rothermel.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Lehr.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Board held on July 6, 2023, and the Minutes of the special meeting held on July 17, 2023. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Heffner, and passed unanimously.

At 6:02 p.m., on Motion of Mr. Voit, seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster, and unanimously approved, the meeting was called to recess for purposes of the Board entering Executive Session to discuss matters involving personnel and litigation. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lehr thereafter at 6:36 p.m. Upon reentering public session, the Board, on Motion of Mr. Voit, seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster, unanimously voted to amend the Agenda to include an action item under the New Business portion of the meeting, which was precipitated by discussion conducted during Executive Session.*

Under New Business, on Motion of Mr. Hoffmaster, seconded by Mr. Voit, the Solicitor was directed to confirm in writing to the Commissioners of Muhlenberg Township that the Authority Board was displeased with the characterizations set forth in its letter transmitted to Chairman Lehr on July 18, 2023, that the Board rejected the nonfactual characterizations therein, and that the Board rejects the call for voluntary resignation of the entirety of the Board, two (2) Members of which the Township just recently appointed in January of this year. Discussion on the Motion ensued:

Mr. Hoffmaster, noting that he has served the Muhlenberg Township community for over thirty-seven (37) years, found the actions of the Township unsettling. He pointed out steps that the Authority Board had taken, just in his recent time as a Board Member, to further improve operations and communication. Mr. Hoffmaster further represented that the Authority crewmembers do not want a change, and that the crew is pleased with the direction of the Board and Authority.

Mr. Heffner commented that the Authority's water and sewer rates were some of the lowest in Berks County, and that the Board has fought hard to keep it that way. The Authority continues to strive to provide quality water and sewer service to its ratepayers, through the efforts of a local workforce. Although water main breaks and service interruptions are not entirely preventable, the Authority has worked persistently to keep such issues to a minimum. In addition, Mr. Heffner noted that the Board has been entrusted to utilize reserves, accumulated upon revenues gained from its ratepayers, strictly for use in water and sewer projects. Mr. Heffner voiced his concern over the future use of such reserves in the absence of this currently-configured Board, or a future independent Board.

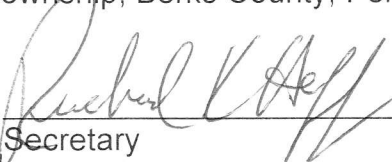
Mr. Voit, a former Combat Military Officer, noted his twenty-four (24) years of public service. He has worked a lifetime to build a reputation of integrity. The Township's letter is entirely baseless, and Mr. Voit therefore feels disrespect by the actions of the Township Commissioners, as conveyed both during their July 17, 2023 public meeting and in such letter. Regardless of what the underlying motivations of the Township may be, Mr. Voit will continue to work for, and serve the best interests of, the ratepayers of the Authority, and fight to preserve his personal integrity against such false characterizations.

Mr. Lehr noted that he has served as Authority Chairman for nineteen (19) months. During such time, he has set forth an overriding platform of transparency, all while striving to prioritize the ratepayers and the Authority. Decisions made during his tenure have reflected those core beliefs. Despite certain challenges, the Board has worked diligently to improve operations, inclusive of communication to Township residents, which is an ongoing process. In solidarity with the Board, Mr. Lehr declines the Township's request for voluntary resignation. Instead, Mr. Lehr, and the entire Board, will continue to work hard for the ratepayers and with the Township to improve service.

After such discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m., on Motion of Mr. Heffner, seconded by Mr. Voit and unanimously approved. The next regular meeting of the Board of the Authority will take place on Thursday, August 10, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Authority Maintenance Facility main meeting room, 3711 Oak Street, Temple, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania 19560.


Secretary

* An Amended Agenda was posted to the Authority office building and to the Authority website on July 26, 2023.