

# MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

2840 Kutztown Road  
Reading, PA 19605  
(610) 929-4709 • [www.muhlenberg.org](http://www.muhlenberg.org)

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September 26, 2023

To Our Valued Muhlenberg Township Authority Customer:

The Muhlenberg Township Authority (“MTA”) has, since its formation in 1940, served as an independent municipal agency, entirely separate from Muhlenberg Township. The MTA provides safe, quality, and affordable water and wastewater services on a daily basis to over 9,000 customers in the Township, Borough of Laureldale, and portions of Alsace Township and the City of Reading. We are proud of the fact that sewer rates have not increased since 2016, and water rates have not increased since 2018. In fact, MTA’s water rates are the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in Berks County, with no planned rate increases.

Unfortunately, on September 18, 2023, the Township Commissioners took a momentous first step in seeking to dissolve, or terminate, the MTA. This followed a recent request by the Commissioners that the entire MTA Board resign. While the MTA Board recognizes that improvements can always be made, and in fact certain changes have already been made, it rejects the Commissioners’ contentions and their call for resignation. Instead, the MTA desires to work with the Township to address any concerns they may have, one of which is Township stormwater issues. Regarding stormwater, the MTA recognizes that recent storm events is a major concern for residents. Although the MTA has no jurisdiction over stormwater, excess flows from the Township stormwater system affects the MTA’s sewer system and in turn, negatively impact MTA’s customers. The MTA has asked the Commissioners that it be part of the solution to this longstanding Township problem. We are here to help.

Nevertheless, should the Township move forward with dissolving the MTA, which would be adverse to everyone involved, rest assured that the MTA has taken steps to protect you, our customers. It is the customers who have paid water and sewer bills to the MTA, which in turn, has enabled us to maintain reserves of approximately \$30 Million that is used strictly for repairs, maintenance, improvements, and enhancements to the water distribution and sanitary sewer systems, all while continuing to maintain some of the lowest rates in Berks County. The MTA will always protect those legally reserved funds, paid by the customers, so that they are not used for any purpose other than what they are intended.

Enclosed for your review is a copy of a Resolution that the MTA Board passed on September 21, 2023, which provides more details of what is transpiring, and how the MTA intends to protect its customers during this attempted takeover.

We encourage you to contact the Township Commissioners (#610-929-4727) to ask why this action is being taken. You can also ask the Commissioners to answer these questions directly at their next meeting scheduled on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building. As this is a matter of public health and safety, we feel that this needs to be discussed in an open forum, initiated only by the actual will or referendum of the customers, not prompted by the Board of Commissioners. Now is the time for you to get informed and become involved.

The MTA will continue to proceed with an air of transparency regarding this unfortunate situation. Please view our website at [www.muhlenberg.org](http://www.muhlenberg.org) for further information, and feel free to contact our office should you have any questions (#610-929-4709).

The MTA Board greatly appreciates being of service.