

MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

A regular meeting of the Board of Muhlenberg Township Authority, Water and Sewer Projects, was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Jim Dietrich Park farm house, 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd., Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania 19605, pursuant to notice both advertised and posted according to law.

The following members of the Board were present:

Jim Kelly
Walt LaSota
Rick Hoffmaster
Rick Mountz
Steve Wolfinger

In attendance were Authority General Manager Timothy Feltenberger; Director of Operations, Nathan Roush; Thomas A. Rothermel, of counsel; Jamie Lorah, PE, of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy (SSM), consulting engineer to the Authority; Scott Boehret of Transcend Business Advisors, Authority controller consultant, and Jeff Krick, Assistant Distribution Superintendent. Jacklyn Rusnock, PA House of Representatives serving the 126th Legislative District, was present, as was Dillon Cirulli, Township Commissioner and Union Business Agent. Several members of the public were also present, as noted in the Sign-In Sheet made a part hereof and incorporated by reference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Kelly. Mr. Kelly announced that the Board met in an executive session immediately prior to this meeting to discuss matters involving personnel.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Board held on July 10, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and passed unanimously.

Engineering bills for the preceding month were reviewed. Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve the engineering bills for payment. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously adopted.

The accounts payable for both the water and sewer departments for the preceding month had been distributed prior to the meeting, a full listing of which has been appended to these Minutes. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve payment of the accounts payable for both the water and sewer departments, as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously adopted.

Under the first public comment portion, Representative Rusnock greeted the Board and those members of the public who were in attendance. She welcomed assistance with

any grant applications and any other matter within her purview. Representative Rusnock also indicated that her office would be able to assist with disseminating any information of import to the residents. Lastly, Representative Rusnock advised that while there was no specific legislation pending in Harrisburg that would directly impact the Authority or its customers, she continues to monitor the same. The Board thanked Representative Rusnock for her appearance at the meeting.

Mr. Feltenberger presented the Operations Report for the preceding month, a full copy of which has been appended to these Minutes. The crew completed miscellaneous work orders including the following: hydrant repair at 4th Avenue and N. Temple Boulevard; installation of Storz fittings on hydrants; installation of a new motor on the compressor at College Heights station; service renewal at 809 Belmont Avenue; sewer trunk line maintenance; capping of a leaking, abandoned 3/4" service at 1105 Tuckerton Road; cut-in of a curb stop at 3510 Kent Avenue; and fixing of a leaking copper service at 3551 Arlington Street. Mr. Feltenberger advised that ongoing leak detection efforts, conducted both by crewmembers and outside resources, resulted in locating two significant water main breaks. A 6" break was identified at 4113 Sefranka Road, and an 8" break was identified at 4623 Kutztown Road, both of which have continued to cause increasing water level deficiencies over time, especially at the Frush Valley and Riverview Park tanks. Mr. Feltenberger reported that both main breaks were quickly repaired with minimal interruption in service; normal water levels have been restored and remain at historic levels. Mr. Hoffmaster commented that the water level issue in the Riverview Park area of the Township may require consideration of exploration of a new water source on that side of the distribution system. In addition, Mr. Feltenberger reported that sewer laterals were cleaned and checked, including four (4) customer owned lines, four (4) traps, and one (1) customer owned line. Lastly, Mr. Feltenberger reported that the property owner at 1217 Riverview Drive expressed gratitude for the exemplary work performed by the MTA crew in remedying a valve issue on her property. The Operations Report then concluded.

Under the Engineer's Report, Ms. Lorah of SSM provided a formal report of the Authority's consulting engineer for work completed June 6, 2025 through July 10, 2025. Ms. Lorah referenced a ten (10) page report that SSM circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. The report provides a narrative of the status of each of the projects of the Authority on which SSM is currently engaged.

With regard to work on capping the water line in Laurel Run Creek, Ms. Lorah reported that the project was approximately 50% complete. The water line was capped, 120 linear feet of water line was removed within the stream bed, and the creek bed was regraded. Ms. Lorah presented Payment Application No. 1 for Board consideration, submitted by the contractor, JNS Paving and Excavating Corp., in the total amount of \$22,590.00. Based on inspection of the work performed thus far, Ms. Lorah recommended approval. Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve Payment Application No. 1 in the amount stated. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously approved. Ms. Lorah indicated that a change order would be presented at the August 2025 Board meeting, which will address added work to restore elevation of the manhole in the creek bed.

Regarding DEP/EPA compliance issues, Ms. Lorah advised that a construction permit was received for Well Nos. 8 & 9. A second permit application for coating of the clearwell and temporary clearwell were finalized and submitted to DEP for approval. Ms. Lorah further reported that she met with Authority Management to review the status of completion of the remaining compliance issues, which center on minor operational issues. Overall, the Authority has made significant progress with respect to remedying those issues of concern. SSM plans to provide DEP and EPA a status report to update the respective agencies as to the Authority's ongoing improvements and compliance.

Regarding miscellaneous 2025 capital projects, Ms. Lorah reported that Wexcon continued manhole lining work this past month. SSM recommended additional manhole lining be performed as a means of addressing inflow and infiltration, especially those manholes constructed of brick. ART, a Costars vendor, submitted a proposal totaling \$177,000 for 600 vertical feet of liners, which is estimated to be enough material to line another 50 manholes. Mr. Feltenberger confirmed that the total budgeted amount for this project was \$200,000, so this proposal is well within the budgeted expense. Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve the proposal of ART in the amount stated. Mr. LaSota seconded that Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. Further regarding 2025 capital projects, Ms. Lorah reported that planned work at the Eagles Landing and Crossroads pump stations is planned to begin in September 2025.

With regard to PFAS sampling, Ms. Lorah reported that a meeting was held with Sentinel on July 2, 2025 to discuss pilot testing at Well Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 13. A follow-up meeting with Sentinel has been scheduled for July 17, 2025 for purposes of obtaining a proposal for such testing. If the Board elects to proceed with the proposal, SSM will prepare a permit application for submission to DEP.

Ms. Lorah indicated that a new LSA grant opportunity was available for 2025 for projects in the range of between \$25,000 to \$1 Million. Grant submittals are due November 30, 2025. Since approval may take upwards of one year, Ms. Lorah recommends that any submittal not include emergent projects. This will be a topic of further discussion at the next Board meeting.

With regard to the proposed interconnection with Maidencreek Township Authority, Mr. LaSota inquired as to the status of review of the route for the planned water main, which was a prior Board directive. Ms. Lorah commented that the Board did not previously authorize SSM to conduct full survey work. Notwithstanding, Management, in concert with SSM, was directed to proceed with preliminary review of the route in anticipation of a full survey at a future date, as may be deemed necessary.

There being no further active projects on which to report, and no additional questions posed by the Board, Ms. Lorah's report to the Board concluded. Mr. LaSota made a Motion to accept the Engineer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Wolfinger and unanimously approved.

The Solicitor's Report included no pertinent updates.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mr. Boehret, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes. The water division realized a net increase of \$614,599 over the past month, with \$26,662 in total interest in the operating and CDs accounts earned in the month of June. Mr. Boehret commented that the water division funds were higher than average due to deposit of funds received from the PFAS 3M settlement, as reported the month prior. The sewer division realized a net loss compared to the prior month in the amount of \$3,478,297, which is largely due to transfer to the sewer escrow account of the quarterly payment due to the City under the IMA. In June, interest earned in the sewer division operating and certificate of deposit accounts totaled \$118,215. Total interest earned in the sewer escrow account this past month yielded \$36,349. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously adopted.

Under New Business:

Mr. Feltenberger reported that of the approximate 9,000 total MTA customers, 2,000 have thus far responded to the lead service line inventory. Of those who have responded, no lead service lines have been reported. Mr. Feltenberger is prepared to send a reminder letter to those customers who have not yet responded to the inventory request.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to send four (4) crewmembers to the annual Berks Water and Sewer golf tournament, which is scheduled for July 29, 2025. The crewmembers will not lose a day of pay to attend this networking event. Mr. Wolfinger seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Feltenberger advised that the MTA will be a participant at the National Night Out scheduled for August 5, 2025. Several crewmembers will be in attendance. The Authority will display trucks, and provide handouts to residents, in particular, information regarding emergency notifications. Mr. LaSota noted that the Citizens Advisory Committee provided valuable feedback with respect to suggestions to enhance the Authority's presence and interaction with attendees at the event.

Mr. Roush reported that all field operators are scheduled to attend the Berks County Sewer and Water Conference. The annual conference is not only a good networking event, but also provides continuing education credits for the operators.

Mr. Feltenberger advised that the sewer meter at 13th Street and Hampden Boulevard is not currently hooked up to the SCADA system, which does not enable the MTA to monitor flows and alarms. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the proposal of OCC, a Costars vendor, for integration of the sewer meter into the SCADA system, at a total cost of \$9,227. Mr. Wolfinger seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Feltenberger advised that he expects materials to take one (1) week to arrive, and installation to be completed two (2) weeks thereafter.

Mr. Feltenberger reported that upgrades are needed to the communication system at Well No. 1. OCC presented a proposal in the amount of \$11,290 for installation of an analog radio remote system, which will restore SCADA communication. The alternative is a cellular system, which is more costly and requires recurring monthly charges. Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve the proposal in the amount stated, which Motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously approved. Mr. Feltenberger and Mr. Roush further advised that they were investigating new and enhanced SCADA systems. If a new system is selected, Mr. Roush noted that all existing data could be migrated from the old system.

Mr. LaSota made a Motion to ratify approval of the Agreement of Buchart Horn in the amount of \$51,500 for hydraulic water system monitoring, and to authorize Mr. Roush to execute the same. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously approved. Mr. Roush noted that the hydraulic monitoring report will enable the MTA to detect flows, any system deficiencies, and will aide in isolating parts of the system during tank projects.

Mr. Roush noted that the annual PMAA conference was upcoming in early September 2025. The Board was welcome to attend. Any interested Board members are to contact Mr. Roush so that he may make necessary arrangements.

Mr. LaSota made a Motion to continue the current composite rate structure for Plan 14 of the Teamster's Health and Welfare Fund, commencing August 1, 2025. Mr. Wolfinger seconded that Motion, which was unanimously approved.

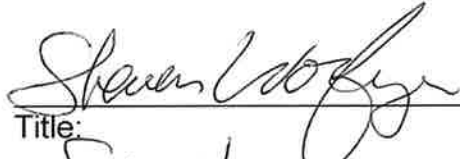
Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to change the nonunion healthcare plan to the HRA Plan. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously approved.

Under the second public portion, Mr. Young inquired whether both private and public water companies attend the PMAA conference. Mr. Kelly responded in the affirmative.

Under Member and Staff Comments, Mr. Wolfinger remarked that a customer had been in contact with the Township regarding receipt of a water shortage notice. Mr. Wolfinger indicated that he attempted further contact with the customer, who had not returned his calls. Notwithstanding, Mr. Wolfinger commented that a plethora of information is available on the Authority website regarding customer alerts, payment of bills, etc. This same information will also be made available to those in attendance at the National Night Out. Mr. Hoffmaster thanked the public who attended this meeting, which was held at the Jim Dietrich Park farm house as a special event to encourage public involvement and participation. Mr. Hoffmaster, also a Township Commissioner, went further to state, and adamantly affirm, that the Township was not going to sell the Authority. Lastly, Mr. Mountz mentioned to the public that the Authority and Board are collectively a good group of individuals that do good work for the residents of Muhlenberg Township.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on Motion of Mr. Hoffmaster, seconded by Mr. Mountz, and unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting of the Board of the Muhlenberg Township Authority will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 210 George Street, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.


Title: 