

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, June 12, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at 210 George Street, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, 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

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; and Scott Boehret of Transcend Business Advisors, Authority controller consultant.

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, real estate, and litigation.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Board held on May 8, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and passed unanimously.

Engineering bills for the preceding month were reviewed. Mr. Hoffmaster 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. LaSota 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.

There was no comment under the first public portion.

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 leak detection, cutting in a 10" valve at Well No. 1, repairing a hydrant at the intersection of Kutztown Road and Hay Road, and replacing a Hay Road booster pump check valve. The crew was also trained on new leak detection equipment, as well as flagging. Mr. Feltenberger reported that all crew members are now certified flaggers.

Lastly, Mr. Feltenberger advised that sewer laterals were cleaned and checked, including four (4) customer owned lines and four (4) traps. 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 May 2, 2025 through June 5, 2025. Ms. Lorah referenced a nine (9) 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 DEP/EPA compliance issues, Ms. Lorah advised that permitting was being submitted to DEP for media replacement at Well No. 6, as well as permitting for coating of the clearwell and a temporary clearwell at Well Nos. 8 & 9. Ms. Lorah noted that SSM plans to send a status report to DEP to update the agency on the Authority's ongoing improvements and compliance.

Regarding access to the Mannerchor Tank, Mr. Feltenberger reported that an excavating contractor reviewed the site and found it suitable for construction of a full access lane on property owned by the MTA. The Board directed SSM to prepare bid specs for the project with the aim of it being advertised for public bid next month.

Ms. Lorah reported that survey work was completed for the Reading Crest water main loop project. The next step is completion of a wetlands review, which is scheduled for completion on June 13, 2025. Permitting will be submitted to DEP once the wetlands review is finalized.

With regard to the PennDOT/Reading Blue Mountain Railroad stormwater project on Rt. 61, the Authority is required to relocate its water main at that site. SSM is completing surveying work of this project on June 12, 2025, and will submit the same to PennDOT for review by the end of June.

Regarding miscellaneous 2025 capital projects, Ms. Lorah reported that Wexcon completed replacement of twenty-five (25) fire hydrants throughout the Township. Wexcon submitted a change order totaling \$24,773.99 to account for replacement of three additional hydrants and installation of two new hydrants per request of the fire company. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the change order submitted by Wexcon in the amount stated. That Motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously approved.

Ms. Lorah confirmed that SSM is currently preparing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for submission. Mr. LaSota indicated that there was a minor discrepancy in the report that required correction. Ms. Lorah will address that issue. Once CCR is finalized, the report will be posted on the website. Mr. LaSota additionally suggested that Management attend a Township meeting to report on the CCR.

With regard to PFAS sampling, Ms. Lorah indicated that well monitoring is ongoing throughout the system. SSM is also continuing to monitor proposed regulatory changes regarding PFAS remediation, which may potentially entail either carbon-based filtering or an ion exchange system. Although the MTA remains in compliance with current PFAS

standards, in order to further prepare for impending regulatory changes, Ms. Lorah recommended that pilot testing be conducted at well sites that may likely exceed more stringent regulatory limits that are currently being proposed. Chairman Kelly, on behalf of the entire Board, directed SSM to submit a proposal for pilot testing, and to schedule a meeting with Management to review the pilot testing proposal.

Mr. LaSota requested that SSM update and enhance the Engineer's Report to provide further detail with respect to various projects on which it is engaged. Ms. Lorah will update the project status reporting in advance of the July meeting.

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. Hoffmaster made a Motion to accept the Engineer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously approved.

Under the Solicitor's Report, there was no further discussion regarding the Mannerchor Tank access lane from what is noted earlier in these Minutes.

The Solicitor advised that the 18-month maintenance period on the Penn Plaza water main relocation project behind Restaurant Depo expired June 7, 2025. Mr. Feltenberger performed a visual inspection of the site to confirm that all municipal improvements remain operational and in satisfactory condition. On motion of Mr. LaSota, seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously approved, Mr. Feltenberger was authorized to release maintenance security to the developer in the amount of \$4,905.00.

Mr. Rothermel reported that draft documents were circulated to the Solicitor of Muhlenberg School District relating to municipal improvements in conjunction with construction of a new school building and athletic fields. In response, the School District requested waiver of posting of financial security, as well as an extension of time up to two years to complete the improvements. The consensus of the Board was to grant the School District's requests, considering among other reasons, the School District retains financial security from its contractor for the entire scope of the project. Mr. Rothermel was directed to revise the draft documents in accordance with Board directives.

No further questions were posed to Mr. Rothermel. The Solicitor's Report was approved by Motion of Mr. Hoffmaster, seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mr. Boehret, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes. The water division realized a net decrease of \$454,157 over the past month, with \$26,215 in total interest earned in the month of May. The sewer division realized a net loss compared to the prior month of \$1,172,684. In May, interest in the sewer division operating and certificate of deposit accounts totaled \$112,057. Total interest earned in the sewer escrow account this past month yielded \$41,512.

Mr. Boehret submitted al Budget-to-Actual Report for the reporting period of year-to-date (as of May 31, 2025). Mr. Boehret noted that revenue was tracking well. Revenues exceed budgeting in the sewer account, and to a lesser extent exceed budgeting in the

water account. Expenses are also on track for the year, although repairs at Laurel Run pump station have negatively impacted forecasting, at least in the short term.

Mr. Boehret confirmed that funds received from the first PFAS class action lawsuit involving 3M (\$304,732.57, with the balance of \$1,218,930.42 payable in annual installments through calendar year 2033) would be deposited in a separate interest bearing account. Lastly, Mr. Boehret reported that the Authority realized an increase in approximately \$45,000 in interest since the change was made from MidPenn Bank to PLGIT. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously adopted.

Under New Business:

Mr. Feltenberger reported that customer feedback regarding the lead service line inventory has continued to dwindle. In conjunction with SSM, Mr. Feltenberger will prepare a reminder letter to those customers who have not yet responded to the inventory request. Ms. Lorah commented that SSM continues to monitor changes with respect to regulatory directives, which may later require modification to the reporting parameters.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve non-union personnel wages, effective July 1, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously approved.

Mr. LaSota made a Motion to approve non-union personnel bonus payments, effective July 1, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously approved.

Mr. LaSota made Motions to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Authority and Local Union No. 429, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 (the "CBA"), and to authorize Officers of the Authority to execute the CBA. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously approved.

Mr. Roush reported that a change order submitted by Albarell Electric, Inc. will be processed in the amount of \$7,813.90 for added electrical work performed at the Laurel Run pump station.

Mr. LaSota made a Motion to approve a proposal of Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc., a Costars vendor, totaling \$37,000.00, for installation of a turnkey bypass flow meter connection at College Heights pump station. That Motion was seconded by Hoffmaster and unanimously approved. Mr. Roush reported that a proposal submitted by Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc. totaling \$9,000.00 will be processed for installation of a turnkey bypass connection at Laurel Run pump station.

Mr. Roush reported that the purchase of a replacement air compressor at the College Heights pump station was no longer necessary by virtue of a replacement part having been sourced at a significant cost savings to the Authority. The total cost for parts and service is estimated to be \$6,000.

Mr. Roush reported Technical Solutions & Consulting performed temporary flow metering for one week at the Heather Knoll lift station, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

Mr. Roush recommended hydraulic monitoring be conducted of the Authority's water distribution system, which will help identify the pattern, flow, pressure and volume of the entire water distribution and storage system. SSM provided a proposal for engineering costs for such study totaling \$51,500, to be performed by Buchart Horn, Inc. The Board directed Management and SSM to proceed with this professional service.

No further discussion was held regarding PFAS.

Mr. Feltenberger confirmed that the July 10, 2025 Board meeting would be held at the Jim Dietrich Park farm house. All public are welcome to attend. The Authority will provide light refreshments. The Solicitor advertised the meeting location change.

Mr. Feltenberger reported that the Authority's bill payment system, Diversified, is releasing a system update on June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, the Authority will move to that new system. Diversified is providing training for staff members. The upgraded system will provide for customer autopay. In addition, the fee for credit card payments will be reduced.


Mr. Roush and Mr. Feltenberger discussed recommended enhancements to the Authority website with respect to its content and features. Management will work with the current website host to implement such design changes.

There was no comment under the second public portion.

Under Member and Staff Comments, Mr. Boehret indicated that he is working with Management to improve policies and procedures with respect to developer escrow. Mr. Boehret will provide further updates in this regard at the July 2025 Board meeting. Mr. Feltenberger reported that company phones were provided to the crew, as well as official Authority e-mail addresses. Ms. Lorah reported that a pre-construction meeting was scheduled at Laurel Run creek, with the project to be mobilized later this month. Mr. Roush reported that three crewmembers attended training on main break repairs. Mr. LaSota reported that he would provide the Citizens Advisory Committee with notice of the July 10, 2025 Board meeting at Jim Dietrich Park, with the intent to meet with the Committee at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Lastly, Mr. Hoffmaster suggested that Management schedule a tour of Authority facilities; Management will proceed to circulate dates.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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, July 10, 2025, at the Jim Dietrich Park farm house, 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd., Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania 19605.


Secretary

Title: _____