

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, September 11, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at 210 George Street, 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 Director of Operations, Nathan Roush; Thomas A. Rothermel, of counsel; Nicholas Szeredai, PE, of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy (SSM), consulting engineer to the Authority; and Scott Boehret of Transcend Business Advisors, Authority controller consultant. Diane Jones, a member of the public, was also present.

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 litigation.

The Board engaged in a moment of silence in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

Mr. Mountz made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Board held on August 14, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster 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. LaSota 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, Ms. Jones, a resident of Temple, presented to the Board. She expressed interest in joining the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. LaSota, who heads the Committee, thanked Ms. Jones for her interest and advised that he would be in contact with her regarding the same.

Mr. Roush presented the Operations Report for the preceding month, a full copy of which has been appended to these Minutes. The crew completed service renewals on River Road and Landover Drive, and a curb stop was replaced on Suellen Drive. An 8" water main leak was repaired at the intersection of Acorn Court and Laurel Run Avenue, and a 4" water main was repaired at the intersection of Eisenbrown Road and Vine Street. A new hypo tank was installed at Well No. 15, in compliance with DEP requirements. Mr. Roush additionally reported that Well No. 1 is back online after Optimum Controls Corporation (OCC) completed integration of the chlorine residual system. Leak detection was ongoing throughout the Township, including in particular, location of service leaks in the Fox Chase development. Mr. Roush advised that ongoing leak detection efforts have resulted in improved tank levels. Sewer laterals were cleaned and checked, including five (5) customer owned lines, six (6) traps, and two (2) Authority owned lines. The Operations Report then concluded.

Under the Engineer's Report, Mr. Szeredai of SSM provided a formal report of the Authority's consulting engineer for work completed August 8, 2025 through August 28, 2025. Mr. Szeredai referenced an eleven (11) 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, Mr. Szeredai reported that permitting was received for Well Nos. 8 & 9. A second permit application was submitted to DEP for coating of the clearwell, and use of a temporary clearwell during the coating process. In response, DEP requested clarification, which SSM will address.

The Mannerchor tank access road project was advertised for public bid. Bids were opened this past month. Of the six (6) bids, Barwis Construction, LLC was the apparent lowest bidder with a total bid price of \$134,663.00, which was below the estimated project cost. Mr. Szeredai advised that in addition to its own favorable dealings with Barwis Construction, LLC, SSM checked references of the contractor and found no issues of concern. Mr. Hoffmaster made a motion to accept the apparent lowest bid of Barwis Construction, LLC in the amount of \$134,663.00, which motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously adopted. SSM will proceed to issue the Notice of Award to Barwis Construction, LLC, and work with that contractor to formulate the contractual documents, subject to Solicitor review.

With regard to the proposed interconnection with Maiden Creek Township Authority, Mr. Szeredai advised that the DRBC has placed this matter on its docket in November 2025. SSM will provide updates in that regard as further information may become available.

As reported last month, Mr. Roush indicated that he continues to work with contractors to secure proposals with respect to exploring means by which the Authority's existing wells could be rehabilitated to maximize capacity. Mr. Roush anticipates presenting the Board with proposals for such work at the October meeting.

With regard to PFAS sampling, SSM previously reported that Sentinel submitted a proposal for pilot testing at Well Nos. 6, 8, 9, and 13, the total approximate cost of which is \$250,000. At this time, SSM awaits a revised proposal from Sentinel that would include a lease purchase option for the equipment. Further updates are expected at the October Board meeting.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve Payment Application No. 3, submitted by Performance Pipeline, Inc. in the total amount of \$60,137.00, for the manhole lining project that was previously authorized. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz, and payment was unanimously approved in the amount stated.

As reported last month, Mr. Szeredai confirmed that a new LSA grant opportunity is available for 2026 for projects in the range of between \$25,000 to \$1 Million. Grant submittals due November 30, 2025. Management was directed to identify the top three (3) projects that would be appropriate for grant application submission, and to work in concert with SSM for potential Board action in this regard at the October meeting.

There being no further active projects on which to report, and no additional questions posed by the Board, Mr. Szeredai'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.

Mr. Rothermel presented the Solicitor's Report. With regard to the construction project undertaken by the Muhlenberg School District, Mr. Rothermel advised that a meeting with representatives of the School District and Laureldale was conducted on August 25, 2025. At that meeting, the nature and extent of water and sewer improvements involving both the Township and Laureldale Borough were reviewed and clarified. Mr. Rothermel advised that the parties were moving forward with finalization of a requisite improvements agreement. No further questions were posed to Mr. Rothermel. The report of the Solicitor was unanimously approved, on Motion of Mr. Mountz, seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster.

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 \$376,202.00 in August, for a total operating account balance of \$4,054,010.00. Total interest earned over the past month, across both operating and certificates of deposit, was \$27,749.00. The sewer division realized a net gain compared to the prior month in the amount of \$515,306.00, for a total account balance of \$7,967,704.00. In August, interest earned in the sewer division operating and certificate of deposit accounts totaled \$119,217.00. Total interest earned in the sewer escrow account this past month yielded \$43,010.00.

As discussed the month prior, Chairman Kelly inquired as to the status of a system to streamline the check writing process. Mr. Boehret indicated that such change will likely be incorporated into the new accounting software system. Mr. Boehret was asked to keep this an action item.

Mr. Boehret advised that he continues to work with Management to secure refunds for taxes on electricity bills on that were erroneously assessed on three (3) properties.

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:

Regarding the lead service inventory update, Mr. Roush reported the following supplemental totals: Copper: 1,150; Galvanized: 277; Plastic: 24; and Lead: 0.

Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve Invoice No. 6436, submitted by Advanced Rehabilitation Technology, a Costars vendor, in the total amount of \$101,701.25, for application of OBIC lining in manholes, which project was previously authorized. Mr. Roush clarified that, as manhole depth varies, the payment pertained to 344.75 vertical fee, which totaled approximately 30 manholes. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster, and payment was unanimously approved in the amount stated.

Under the second public portion, Ms. Jones inquired as to the source of grant funds that were discussed under the Engineer's Report. Mr. Roush indicated that the majority of funds are made available through the Commonwealth.

Under Member and Staff Comments, Mr. Hoffmaster and Mr. Wolfinger thanked Management for conducting the system tour this past month. Mr. Hoffmaster also remarked that the PMAA conference was informative, and that Mr. Roush received high remarks from his contemporaries. Mr. Mountz shared in that sentiment. Mr. LaSota thanked Ms. Jones for her interest in becoming a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Chairman Kelly recommended that Management consider engaging in outreach programs for the local school and community as a means of highlighting the valuable services the Authority and its crew provide. Lastly, Mr. Hoffmaster recommended Management consult with the Fire Department Chief to discuss options for installing cameras on Well No. 13 and at other sites.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on Motion of Mr. Mountz, seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster, 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, October 9, 2025, at 210 George Street, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.


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