

REGULAR MEETING

December 9, 2025

6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was called to order Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Authority Administrative Building, 462 South Fourth Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

Norman Koch, Chairman
Thomas McBryan, Vice Chairman
Cory Fasold, Secretary/Treasurer
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Derrick Backer, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Dept/Flood Dept Manager
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch presented the regular meeting minutes from November 4, 2025, and November 18, 2025 and special meeting minutes from November 18, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Derrick discussed the financial reports. Derrick stated Wastewater for October was \$3,159,756.72. Water for October was \$2,153,601.70. Solid Waste for the same timeframe was \$2,426,088.70. Recycling was \$65,739.92 and Flood was \$555,173.19. Most departments were close to being on budget. Wastewater was in the negative through year-to-date variance. All in all, we are in the green. Derrick stated that he and Matt went over the budget for the project between 4th and 5th Street, and it is coming in below what was anticipated.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Derrick discussed the Wastewater report that was submitted by Matt. The east side of the Packer Street project is complete. The Wastewater department purchased 510 Phosphorus credits from Shamokin-Coal Township Joint sewer authority for \$2,550. The Wastewater department also sold 5,419 Nitrogen credits to Christ Wesleyan Church and Can Do Inc for a total of \$13,547.50 which gave a profit of \$10,997.50.

Tom McBryan asked if a new pump for the sewage plant was included in the capital improvement

budget for next year. Tom stated the cost of a new pump would be approximately \$80,000. The current pump isn't pumping fast enough. Matt informed Derrick that a pump is being picked up next Friday and is being installed on the 22nd. This is a rebuild pump. The cost to repair the pump was \$2,000 because it was a minor repair. From Matt's understanding, the upsizing for a new pump wasn't going to happen until there was a full year's data for the use of tank 4 being used as a CSO, then the decision would be made at that point. Derrick will speak to Matt because the Board would like to get all the details for the purchase of a new tank.

SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, & FLOOD DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Pat reviewed the Solid Waste and Recycling Report. Pat reported the tonnage for November was down 389 tons from last year. A little over 2,000 tons is needed for December to match last year's numbers. It is going to be close.

Pat stated on November 7th, there was a surprise inspection from DEP. Everything was good and there were no violations.

Pat stated on November 19th, the scales were inspected by Fairbanks and all the scales were in tolerance.

Pat reported no radiation hits for the month of November.

Pat also reported another trailer of mixed goods was sold to NH Kelman. This past Tuesday was the first load of clear glass. The trailer was 23 1/2 tons at \$20 a ton.

Pat reported a heater went out in the recycling department today. That is being taken care of.

Pat next reviewed the Flood Control Report. Pat reported nothing has really changed. The inspection report of the Flood System was completed and sent to the Army Corp of Engineers. The Flood Department just received the inspection report that was sent back in June from the Army Corp of Engineers. There were no violations. The only recommendation is to keep track of a low hanging wire behind Zimmermans.

Pat reported the new tractor came in. The Flood Department put some weights on it and it's ready to go. Pat would like to keep the old tractor until the beginning of the next season just to make sure everything is working.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting.

Brian reported that the Water Department staff fixed a 6-inch water main break in the 600 block of Fairmount Avenue. The Water Department also fixed an 8-inch valve leaking at the intersection of Susquehanna Avenue and Julia Street.

Brian also reported the Water Department fixed a motor on the Carbon machine that stopped working at the water plant. They also fixed a surface wash arm on Filter 3.

Brian also reported the Water Department staff helped the office with red tags and shutoffs on November 20th.

Brian stated that Braden started on Wednesday and is doing good.

Brian reported that the John Deere salesman was there yesterday. The salesman stated they are on Costars. The salesman asked Brian if he was going to trade in the old tractor or if it was going to be sold. John Deere will give the Municipal Authority \$14,000 for a trade. Brian doesn't believe we would get much more if it was sold. If the Municipal Authority trades it in, John Deere will pick it up. The salesman let Brian know, they can start the ordering process now and it doesn't need paid until it gets here, which would probably be in February. Brian stated the cost, with the trade-in, would be \$123,000.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Derrick reported that he submitted the statewide LSA grant for the river intake and got letters of support from the Senator and Representative's office. Derrick was working with Lee to get some cost estimates because Derrick needs them for the grant itself.

Derrick also reported an RFP for engineering services went out and they will be opened on December 31st at 1:00 pm. Derrick wants to have the decision made at the first meeting of the year. 3 engineering firms have contacted the office for the full RFP. One company is out of Maryland, another company was from Lititz, and the other one was CES engineering.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Derrick reviewed the report Pat Burke submitted to the board. TCS completed the miscellaneous concrete repairs at the transfer station.

Derrick stated the flush truck LSA grant application is still pending. Derrick was informed the grants may be decided by the end of the year, if not, then in January 2026.

Derrick will check with Entech on the Act 537 plan update for the Susquehanna Avenue reconstruction project which is supposed to be completed by tomorrow, December 10th.

Derrick stated the only thing pending with Entech at this time is the fluoride project.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter submitted his report to the board. There were no questions from the Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept all reports. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated the 2026 Board meeting schedule is in the packet. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to approve the meeting schedule. Motion carried.

Derrick discussed the flood wall/toe drain situation. Derrick stated the city has all the contracts and Joel is reviewing them. A meeting to have a discussion on how the City and the Municipal Authority would like to proceed will be set up when the new council members for the City come onboard. Derrick explained to the Board how the contracts were signed.

Derrick discussed the Right-to-Know form. The state has a Right-To-Know form and it is on the Municipal Authority's website for everyone to use. Someone made a Right-To-Know request in an email and did not use the form but did have all the necessary information in the email. Derrick called the Office of Open Records to see if the Right-To-Know form must be used. The Office of Open Records told Derrick that it is a gray area and unless the Municipal Authority has a policy that says it has to be on that form, you can take an email because it is technically in writing. Derrick would like to put a policy in writing that states the state form must be used when submitting a right to know request.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to implement a policy that when requesting a Right-To-Know request, it must be requested on the standard state Right-To-Know request form. Motion carried.

Tom McBryan asked if the Municipal Authority charges for copies of a Right-To-Know request. Derrick stated that most people ask for digital copies and there is no charge for that. Derrick stated that it is \$.25 per copy over a certain amount of copies.

Chairman Koch started a discussion on the sale of the Wastewater 2012 F350 to Nate Hallman for a price of \$10,000. Derrick stated the \$10,000 is what it would have sold on Municibid.

On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to sell the Wastewater 2012 F350 to Nate Hallman for the price of \$10,000. Motion carried.

Derrick discussed the health insurance options for 2026. Derrick stated the broker went back to Capital and Geisinger to ask them if they could do better on the pricing. Both companies came down with the pricing. Capital came down to 4.8% and Geisinger came down to 1.4%. Geisinger has an implementation credit for the first year which is \$11,700. The cost for Geisinger insurance would be \$220,362.36 which is lower than what we are paying this year by 3.7%. Derrick discussed the comparison chart between Capital and Geisinger. Derrick explained why Geisinger is the better insurance. A discussion took place regarding the differences between Capital and Geisinger. Derrick also discussed a dental plan for employees. If the same split of cost is used as the health insurance, the Municipal Authority would pay 86% and the employee would pay 14%. Currently, dental insurance is not offered to employees. The cost would be \$9,314.52 to the Municipal Authority if you base it off who currently has health insurance. Tom McBryan brought up the concern that if the spouse does not have dental insurance on their plan, the employee would switch to the Municipal Authority's plan and our costs would go up. Chairman Koch asked if the employee could just take the dental insurance and not the health insurance. Derrick stated he believes that would be a Board decision. Currently, the vision coverage can be taken separately. A discussion took place regarding the extra cost associated with taking on dental insurance. Todd was contacted and he stated that he does not see any reason that dental insurance could not be offered separately.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to take the Geisinger health insurance plan and give Derrick the authority to ask if Geisinger would sign this as a 2-year contract with the same pricing instead of 1-year contract. If Geisinger will not accept a 2-year contract, then the Municipal Authority will do the 1-year contract. Motion carried.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to table the dental plan. Dave Persing voted Aye. Jerome Alex voted Nay. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch started a discussion on the letter the Municipal Authority received from Mayor Brosious of Sunbury regarding coming to a meeting to discuss the fluoride decision. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to send Mayor Brosious a letter inviting him to a Municipal Authority meeting to express his concerns. Motion carried.

Derrick started a discussion regarding Jennifer Kremer's 2026 salary. Jenn was not included in the 9% manager salary increase and she is the manager of the office. Derrick stated this was an oversight. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to increase Jennifer Kremer's 2026 salary by 9%. Motion carried.

Derrick next discussed the hiring of Gabrielle Landis for the open Office Clerk position. There were 62 applications for the Office Clerk position. 4 people were interviewed. All the interviewers felt Gabrielle would be a good fit for the position. This position would take over for Jenn's position when Jenn would go to Carin's position after she retires. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to hire Gabrielle Landis for the Office Clerk position at a starting rate of \$19.00 per hour. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerome stated that the FOG program came up in a City Council work session. The City is saying they don't have all the information. The City would like to have a meeting with the Municipal Authority. Derrick stated the City has all the information regarding the FOG program. Derrick stated they are looking for a time frame for a business to put a system in place. The City had previously wanted it to be 5 years. Currently, there is no time frame in place. That time frame would be up to the Board on a case-by-case basis. Jerome suggested having Todd write up a response to the City with the ordinance and what the Municipal Authority is allowed to do. The Board discussed starting with a 6-month time frame and if the business would need more time, they can come to the Board to discuss an extension. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to give parties 6 months to make corrections with extensions if needed. Motion carried.

Tom McBryan discussed having a water line placed on the Veteran's Memorial Bridge so Shamokin Dam could provide water to the Municipal Authority in case of emergency and vice versa.

COMMENTS

The list of expenditures from November 18 – November 25, 2025 was presented for payment. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Jerome Alex, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Jerome called to advertise for a special meeting on December 31st for general purposes.

Jerome asked how the new Facebook page is coming along. Derrick stated that he is having issues contacting the person who handles the Flood website and needs to talk to her before the company can proceed with getting a new proposal.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman