

REGULAR MEETING

January 6, 2026

6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Michael Thomas, Board Member
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Derrick Backer, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Dept/Flood Dept Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary
Francis Scarcella, The Daily Item
Karen Vines, Public
Dr. John Lazur, Public
Teresa Garrison, Public
Alyssa Reid, Public
Josh Brosious, Honorable City Mayor
Andrew Ramos, Sunbury City Council
Jim Eister, Sunbury City Council
Larry Welfer, Public

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch called on Mayor Josh Brosious who was present for public discussion. Mayor Brosious spoke to the Board regarding the removal of fluoride from the city water. Mayor Brosious stated that he was there as a citizen and not on behalf of the City Council. Mayor Brosious asked the Board to consider other options such as ventilation in the room to keep fluoride in the water for the citizens. Mayor Brosious would like the Board to reconsider their vote because some people don't have the opportunities that many others have such as going to the dentist regularly. Mayor Brosious hopes the Board will revisit the decision again for the citizens of Sunbury.

Andrew Ramos asked the Board if the water was tested out of a random citizen's faucet for the percentage of fluoride. The Board stated that the water is tested on the main line but not at an individual faucet. Tom McBryan stated that it is usually around .7 to .8 parts per million. Derrick stated that our permit dictates how much fluoride the Authority can put in the water. Mayor Brosious asked if the employee's concern was the ventilation of the room. Tom McBryan answered that's how this started with employee's concern of using the powder form of fluoride. There is a liquid form of fluoride that can be used that would need the room to be ventilated also.

Teresa Garrison asked if the Board has taken into consideration the health risks of having fluoride in the water for the citizens and the accumulation of fluoride. Ms. Garrison expressed her concern that citizens could be getting more fluoride than is what considered healthy.

John Lazur, retired dentist, expressed his concerns about the fluoride removal and talked about the history and benefits of fluoride. Dr. Lazur stated that fluoride reduces decay by 25%. Dr. Lazur also stated that the clinic pulled 400 charts and found there was 50% less decay in patients in the areas that had fluoride than the areas that did not have fluoride. Dr. Lazur also explained that there are very limited Medicaid providers in the area. Dr. Lazur ended by saying that if the fluoride is removed there will be an increase in dental decay and it will affect everyone who goes to the dental clinic.

Teresa Garrison told the board she is in the medical field and spoke on the disadvantages of fluoride. Ms. Garrison stated that fluoride is a toxin and does not dissipate in the system so people have buildups of it. Ms. Garrison went on to explain how fluoride can harm people with chronic diseases.

Jim Eister spoke and asked if the board would reconsider their vote because of the long term effects it could have on the children who may not visit a dentist.

Karen Vines, from the Susquehanna Valley Dental Clinic, spoke about how the clinic is already overtaxed treating patients. Ms. Vines spoke with the head of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Oral Health and there are grants available to help offset the cost of keeping the fluoride.

Cory spoke and stated that he didn't take this decision lightly and gave it a lot of thought. Cory also stated that if he was voting for himself, he would keep the fluoride but he is on the board and needed to do what's right for the ratepayers so he voted to remove fluoride. Cory stated this all started because of the health hazard of the powdered fluoride for the employees. Liquid fluoride would be an option with a cost of approximately \$100,000. Cory also stated that many states are getting rid of fluoride. Dr. Lazur commented that there are states that are putting fluoride back in the water also. Cory stated that the board asked the public for their opinions and it was a 50/50 issue and talked about some of the reasons for and against fluoride. Some of the public opinion was that the Authority is forcing something in their body they don't want. If the fluoride isn't in the water and you want it, there are other ways to get it such as pills and toothpaste. Cory also stated that the Board will look at other ways to help people who want to have fluoride. Cory stated that he personally directed \$2500 out of a fund he controls to the dental clinic so they can purchase fluoride pills.

Jerome thanked Dr. Lazur for his presentation. Jerome also stated that there are only 3 areas in the region that have fluoride in the water. Fluoride isn't being added to the water systems.

Tom McBryan spoke about his decision to keep fluoride in the water. Tom believes it's a mistake

taking the fluoride out of the water.

Mayor Brosious asked if the Board would take another vote to reconsider keeping fluoride in the water. Chairman Koch stated that it's not on the agenda for this meeting and if it comes up and the board decides to go in that direction, the board will certainly look at it.

Tom Krieger spoke and appreciates everyone taking their time to come to the meeting and express interest in this topic. Tom believes the entire board did weigh all the facts for the initial vote. The fluoride issue has never been about money. The board has talked about taking the fluoride money and distributing it for fluoride related items to get it to the people who need it.

Chairman Koch also spoke that it was a very tough decision and it wasn't taken lightly. Chairman Koch ended the public comments and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from December 9, 2025, and the special meeting minutes from December 31, 2025. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted. Motion carried.

Derrick asked the Board if anyone had any questions regarding the financial reports they received. The Board had no questions or concerns.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. Matt stated the Capture rate for 2025 as of 11/30/25 is 91.8% which is really good.

Matt reported that a sink hole was formed at the side wall of the old gut on Race Street between 4th and 5th Streets. This will be repaired tomorrow. When it's being repaired, the Wastewater department will investigate where the concrete pipe goes because it's not on the system map.

Matt reported the Wastewater department was awarded \$200,000 from the LSA grant for a new flush truck. We will be getting truck quotes updated and truck demos scheduled in the near future. The total price of the flush truck is between \$650,000 and \$700,000. There is \$500,000 included in this year's budget. Tom McBryan suggested keeping the old flush truck and Matt stated they would like to keep the old truck.

Matt stated there is a rules and regulations schedule out for 2026. Matt and Blake, the pre-treatment coordinator, will be having initial meetings with all food service establishments to introduce the FOG program, spell out the requirements, and conduct special inspections to see what equipment they have. Then from that meeting till the third quarter, they will conduct a follow-up inspection to make sure the establishments are within compliance. That gives them a 6-month period for compliance.

Jerome introduced Andrew Ramos, who is now in charge of Code for the City, to Matt. Matt can update Andrew on the FOG regulations.

Matt informed the Board on the work that was performed by the dig crew this year on the collection

system.

Jerome asked Matt if there was any conclusion on why the area on North Second Street near the bakery gets flooded. Matt stated no but he received a response from the Army Corp of Engineers from his email back in August that they are working on the scope to investigate this but can't take on any new projects until they have a budget, which they currently don't have.

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

Pat reviewed the Solid Waste and Recycling Report. Pat reported the tonnage for December was down 178.25 tons from last year. Over the whole year, the tonnage was down 543.41 tons. This is due to the Hometown issue. Pat talked to Michael Fox, the manager at Hometown, and Mr. Fox will speak to his District Manager about going back to our transfer station.

Pat reported the transfer station bonding had increased from \$20,000 to \$25,295. This is due to the excessive tonnage from the year prior. There is a CD for the transfer station that's worth \$26,181 but the legal department said we can't use maturity or interest as part of that bond. The CD needs to be \$25,254. We have 60 days to rectify the issue. Some options are to cash in the current CD and get another one or get another CD to add to the current one. The Board doesn't want to pay a penalty. The current CD is fully mature in June. The Board discussed getting a CD for a year for \$30,000 for any increase the next year.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to buy a \$30,000 one-year CD for the bonding of the transfer station. Motion carried.

Pat reported there was 1 radiation hit for the month of December and it was deemed medical.

Pat also reported another trailer of mixed goods was sold to NH Kelman and 23 tons of clear glass to Tomra. We are getting \$20.00 a ton for clear, \$5.00 a ton for brown glass and we get nothing for green glass.

Pat next reviewed the Flood Control Report. There is no change with Flood Closure #1. The heater at the Reagan Street pumping station that was installed this past August by Heim is undersized. Heim did not realize it was the wrong size when they installed it. The heater is getting replaced with the correct one at no cost to the Municipal Authority.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Derrick stated he wants to have a committee put in place to review the employee handbook and see if there is anything missing or things that should be updated. Derrick would also like to review starting salaries, employee salaries and raises. Department supervisors have already started their processes by taking a hard look at evaluations which will be done twice a year. Jerome would like to have a retention policy for records put in place. Chairman Koch also mentioned looking into a retention policy for employees.

Derrick will be meeting with the water and wastewater supervisors to discuss the future work

being performed in house versus contracting work out and come up with a game plan for items coming up in the next few years.

Derrick stated since the landfill raised their rates, he and Pat have had numerous conversations to see if there is any way to expand and make any phone calls as needed to bring in more business.

Tom McBryan started a discussion on the 6 MG pump that was discussed at the last meeting. Tom feels the board shouldn't delay purchasing the 6 MG pump. A discussion ensued how the pumps are currently working and what would be changed if the pump was upgraded. Matt stated he will bring the storm data for 2025 to the next meeting for review.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter stated there are currently no serious legal issues. Attorney Kerstetter reported to the Board the lawsuit the Municipal Authority was involved in has been dismissed.

Jerome asked Attorney Kerstetter if he is a contract employee and his reply was that it's a yearly appointment. Jerome would like to have an agreement with Attorney Kerstetter which details his duties. Attorney Kerstetter will write an agreement with the Municipal Authority for the next meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by David Persing, it was moved to accept all reports. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Matt started a discussion on the replacement of the blower motor for the plant. Matt got a repair cost and a replacement cost for the motor. The repair cost is \$14,794 and the replacement cost is \$22,820. The motors are 23 years old. None of the 3 motors have been replaced, only repaired. The board had a discussion on getting the motor repaired versus getting a new motor. Matt will get the specifications on the current motor and the specifications on a new motor and what the repair time would be so the board can make a decision at the next meeting.

Matt next discussed the purchase of replacement parts for the flush truck. There are small holes forming in the suction tubes on the truck. They have been repaired but they do wear. Those tubes have never been replaced and the truck is a 2011. The total cost for 2 replacement parts is \$7,504.05 and the guys at the shop will replace them.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to order the parts for the Flush Truck. Motion carried.

Derrick sent an email to the City Council to set up a meeting to discuss the toe drain and the contracts. The City Council asked the Municipal Authority to give them dates for the meeting. The Board decided February 11th at 4:30 pm for a meeting with the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerome asked if the board should have more work sessions in order to have some of the discussions that happen during the regular meetings. Attorney Kerstetter explained that a work session relates to accounting issues. The board can have special meetings but not work sessions as defined in the Sunshine Act. The Board feels that special meetings are not needed at this time.

Cory discussed the budget and how the Board is doing a good job managing it.

COMMENTS

The list of expenditures from January 1 – January 6, 2026, was presented for payment. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Jerome Alex, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman