

REGULAR MEETING

July 1, 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 held Tuesday, July 1, 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
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Cory Fasold, Secretary / Treasurer
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Dept Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

Chairman Koch then presented the meeting minutes from June 3, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas McBryan, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Jason discussed a couple of updates with the audit. Tony was in last week and did some adjustments to the final stage of the audit. Tony did not complete everything so he will be in tomorrow to finalize everything which is why Jason doesn't have the financials. Jason found a number of reasons for the discrepancies discovered at the last meeting. There were considerable payouts for sick time and vacation time for people leaving. Jason has the information available if anyone on the Board would like to review it. Thomas McBryan asked if vacation time and sick time goes into the salary in terms of retirement. Jason said it does not.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. The Packer Street project pre-bid meeting was held on June 26, 2025. Three contractors attended the meeting.

Matt stated Giugis grease trap still has not been installed. Matt has been in contact with them every week. Jason and Matt spoke with Carlo and he confirmed the plumber is scheduled to be there

this week. Carlo told Jason and Matt there have been challenges getting the plumber to come get it installed. Todd suggested if it is not installed this week, a letter should be sent stating that they have 10 days to get the grease trap installed or the water will be shut off.

Matt reported CSO Pump #6 is currently out of service. Last week during a storm event, the motor was running, but there was no pumping. The next morning, an electrician came in to test the motor and everything was good with the motor. Matt is working with Zylem pumps in Malvern to schedule when this pump can be inspected and repaired. This is the company that rebuilt the motors for both CSO pumps in 2020. When the wastewater department pulls the pump, they will take the leads from Pump #5 and put them into the panel of Pump #6.

Matt reported the Kreamer Avenue pump station is having problems. Wipes are clogging the suction line before it's getting to the pump. The wastewater department staff are trying to figure out a way to put a basket in the line to collect the wipes ahead of time, but with the pipe coming in at the bottom of the wet well, there's no easy way to capture the wipes. Matt requested Entech look at the issue and offer suggestions to minimize the problem and will contact Entech in the morning.

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

Pat started by reporting that tonnage for June was 56.33 tons more than June 2024. The first week of June was a record breaking week. In a weeks' time, the Transfer Station took in 862 ½ tons, averaging 143.75 a day.

He next reported 1 radiation hit for the month of June and that was medical.

Recycling sold a full load of mixed goods to NH Kelman.

Pat reported the scheduled seal coating project at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center was postponed due to inclement weather. The new date is July 25 and 26 for the seal coating.

Pat stated the new container rental agreement was completed by Mr. Kerstetter and is attached for review and vote by the Board members.

Pat next reviewed the Flood Control Report. Not much has changed since last month. We had a lot of rain but just the small creeks needed to get pumped.

Pat stated the Norfolk Southern Spraying Levee is still ongoing. It is with the claims department. Pat reached out to Norfolk Southern and also Mr. Stender to help with the railroad. Mr. Stender told Pat that he will do whatever he can. Mr. Stender is also familiar with Flood Closure #1 and Pat gave him the engineers contacts to help coordinate with the railroad to help move that project along.

Pat reported the Levee Inspection was on June 26, 2025. Everything went well. The Army Corp of Engineers will be giving us a written report soon as well as recommendations for the property behind 1047 S. Front Street. The new owner of the property has redone the back of the property with stone but it's not what is needed. Pat has been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers and they told him to keep an eye on it and if anything goes towards the levee, document it and they will get back with Pat on how to proceed. Thomas McBryan discussed having an engineering reason for what is happening before changing things and suggested having the Army Corp of Engineers answer that question. Pat will be talking to the Army Corp of Engineers tomorrow and will get some answers.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Thomas McBryan, it was moved to accept the final draft of the Container Rental Agreement. Motion carried.

Pat also stated the dumpster issue with being invisible at night was addressed. The dumpsters now have reflective tape.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason started by reporting that the Packer Street project had a pre-bid meeting on June 20th with 3 contractors in attendance. Jason mentioned the quick turnaround time for the meeting could be a reason for the limited showing of contractors. The bid opening is scheduled for July 10th.

Jason stated he received an update on how many catch basin dig-out repairs needed to be completed. There are 58 repairs that have not been completed. Jason forwarded that list to Steve Welker. As per the existing Stormwater Agreement between the City and the Authority, it is the City's responsibility to fund those repairs. Thomas McBryan asked if Jason could send the City a letter requesting an anticipated schedule for those repairs.

Jason then discussed a situation at a redevelopment property at 616-618 Regan Street. Last week, the office discovered there has been approximately 3 million gallons of water and sewer usage at that property over the last 4 months. It amounts to about \$40,000. Jason contacted Mike Kula immediately to find out what was going on. The water was turned off so it wasn't leaking anymore. Mr. Kula, Jason and the water and sewer employees met at the property and went into the basement. The water was leaking into the basement and the sump pump was pumping it back into the sewer system. Jason stated there were issues with the meter and our office doesn't monitor city properties. He also stated that we do not charge redevelopment for anything. Jason has instructed our staff to analyze the redevelopment properties every month. There was discussion of what the Authority should do when redevelopment takes over a property. The Board stated that Jason should write the city a letter explaining what happened and moving forward, the Authority should be notified when properties are turned over to redevelopment and the city should instruct the Authority if the water should be shut off.

Jason stated the employee picnic was last Friday. Jason thanked the office staff and all those that helped set it up. It was very well attended and everyone had a good time.

Jason gave an update on the flood closure grant. The grant is about \$100,000 which is not going to be enough to cover the cost of the project. The project is going to be significantly more than anticipated based on the engineering costs. Jason spoke to the gentleman that handles those affairs and asked a few questions. First, Jason asked if the Authority can get extra money for the projects. He said there is no guarantee. The Authority will need to reapply for the same project, explain the need, and the reasoning behind it. Jason also asked if the Authority could get a grant extension. The gentleman stated that it would be very likely that it would happen but to wait to ask for an extension until about six months before the deadline. Jason stated that the Authority needs to determine from Entech how much this is going to cost. Entech was thinking the cost of engineering was going to cost as much as was approved for now, so the cost could easily double in price.

Jason reported the congressionally directed spending that the Authority had applied for through Senator Fetterman's office was advanced to the Appropriations Committee.

Jason stated that he met with the Finance Committee following the last meeting. Cory brought up the idea that the budgets should flow to the managers first, let them manage the numbers for their own departments, then Jason would get the budgets and review them. Jason already talked to the managers about this. The managers are involved in the budget but they have never just been given the budget to work on themselves. The board agreed the managers should have the responsibility of their

own budgets.

Jason mentioned the office staff use his business credit card when ordering anything office related. With Jason's departure, that card will be cancelled. Jason asked the Board who they recommended having the business credit card assigned to after he leaves. The Board decided that Jenn should take over the business credit card for the office.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Thomas Krieger, it was moved to have Jennifer Kremer assigned to the business credit card. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jason reviewed the Engineer's report. The Packer Street project pre-bid meeting was already discussed. Entech is still waiting for the HOP permit for Fourth Street. Jason signed the form on behalf of the Authority yesterday and submitted that through Entech.

Jason has no updates on the Transfer Station Deflectors. Jason will follow through with Entech on this.

Jason stated that there is no change with the Flush Truck LSA Grant application. There is still hope we will get that. That is almost a \$600,000 piece of equipment.

Jason discussed the Closure Structure #1. The Authority will need to get a final estimated cost so we can resubmit for additional grant funding. Jason will talk to Pat and get an estimate of the cost.

On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by David Persing, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

Jason discussed the FOG control program draft and SMA Rules and Regulations documents. Jason just received the draft yesterday. The Board will review the documents and discuss them at the next meeting. After the Board review, it will go to the city and Upper Augusta for their review. The board requested Tori come to the next meeting to discuss the program. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas Krieger, it was moved to table approval of the FOG control program draft until the next wastewater meeting. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter stated that all the things he is working on were already discussed during the meeting. He will also review the FOG control program draft to discuss at the next meeting.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by David Persing, it was moved to accept the Solicitor's Report as presented. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A discussion was held based on the Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase a \$1 million 20-year Treasury Bond. Thomas McBryan stated that rates are going down and because of our long term debt it seems appropriate to block \$1 million in long term treasury bonds. The interest rate is currently 4.79%. Cory stated the Finance Committee discussed taking half a million dollars from water and half a million dollars from flood. There would still be a reserve if there is an issue. The committee recommended buying 1 \$1 million bond but pull from the two departments. After some discussion, the board decided to purchase 2 \$500,000 bonds, one for each department.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to invest half a million dollars from the water department and half a million dollars from the flood department to purchase 2 \$500,000 20-year Treasury Bonds. Motion carried.

Thomas McBryan discussed how some senior people will be retiring and our pension fund is going to take a hit. He explained to the Board how the state pension works. He stated that a good portion of what the Authority pays is in stock investments. Thomas McBryan also discussed federal agency bonds. The Authority doesn't invest in them but they are a permitted investment and have a rate of probably nine tenths of a point higher than a typical treasury bond. Thomas McBryan stated this could be a way to take advantage of free income.

Cory then started a discussion on selling bonds if money was needed. After some discussion, the board decided it would be better to purchase 5 \$200,000 Treasury bonds instead of 2 for \$500,000. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Thomas McBryan, it was moved to rescind the prior motion to purchase 2 \$500,000 Treasury Bonds. Motion carried.

After more discussion, on motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to amend the above motion and purchase 4 \$250,000 20-year Treasury Bonds, 2 for the water department and 2 for the flood department. Motion carried.

A discussion was held to discuss and approve new Handbook verbiage addressing operating licenses. Jason gave the board the current language in the handbook and the recommended language for the handbook. Jason explained how the Authority currently gives the \$500 bonus for a license. The issue is giving the \$500 bonus before they pass all the necessary testing. After further discussion, Todd will send Jason the wording from the DEP website and Jason will incorporate the DEP language into the handbook language. The approval will be tabled for the next meeting after the Board reviews the changes.

A discussion was held on a policy to pay for licenses and training for employees and managers. Jerome stated that some places have formal agreements in place that state employees need to stay with the current employer for a certain period of time after paid trainings or the employee would need to pay back the employer for the cost of the training. This type of training would be beyond the scope of what is needed for the position, not mandatory training. After further discussion, the Board decided that any requested trainings would be decided on a case-by-case basis and no policy is needed at this time.

A discussion was held regarding a customer's excessive stormwater issue at 401 N Second Street. This has been an ongoing issue. Matt pulled up the map of the area on the laptop and showed the Board how the lines flow around the property. Thomas McBryan asked if the problem will be solved in the next phase of the Susquehanna Avenue project. Matt doesn't believe it will be solved because of the way the lines run. A discussion ensued with ideas on how to eliminate the problem. Matt recommended taking a catch basin off, installing a new stormline down Line Street, and turn it down to Baldy Street. Thomas Krieger asked Matt if he could give the Board a drawing with his recommendations so they have an idea on the scope of the project. Norman asked if this project could be done by the department. Matt stated that most of the project could be done by our employees and take 3 – 4 weeks to complete. Thomas McBryan suggested that the Water department look at the project first before getting Entech involved. Thomas Krieger stated that if the Water department can get a drawing together with the scope of the project, then it would be easier to figure out what our department can do and what a contractor would need to do. Then communication can be done to the residents on how long each section would be shut down. Thomas Krieger also stated that he would like to see the preliminary work of getting the pipe in the ground to start alleviating some of the groundwater off the system that it's on currently. Matt stated he will talk to the homeowner and let him know that the issue is being addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory asked when the manager’s meeting is held. Jason stated they are typically on Wednesdays. Cory also asked if the letters regarding the fluoride issue were sent out. Jason said he was still waiting for the engineer to get him the information from State College. Jason will follow up with the engineer in the morning.

COMMENTS

None.

The list of expenditures from June 18 – June 30, 2025, was presented for payment. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas Krieger, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch announced an Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and the Board convened in Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. The meeting was reconvened into General Session at 9:33 p.m. Motion was then made by Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas McBryan, to accept the resignation of General Manager Jason Neidig effective July 25, 2025. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman