

REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 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, June 17, 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
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Thomas Krieger, Board Member, via phone
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Patrick Burke, Engineer
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order and Cory Fasold led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Koch asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Charlie Schlegel.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

Chairman Koch called on Tony Gagliardi of Klacik & Associates to provide a report of the 2024 Audit performed for the Authority. Mr. Gagliardi started by thanking Jason and the staff for all their assistance. Mr. Gagliardi indicated there were no findings. Mr. Gagliardi gave some main points on each section of the audit. The net position on the balance sheet improved by almost \$900,000. Mr. Gagliardi recommended doing an asset reevaluation. This should be done about every 5 years or so. Mr. Gagliardi stated that Klacik will file follow-up state reports as required. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by David Persing, the Audit was approved. Motion carried.

-Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from May 20, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Jerome Alex, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Jason reviewed the financial reports. Jason focused on the amounts that are typically \$10,000 or higher and deviations. There is a wastewater employee expense that is over by \$23,000. Jason will be looking into that and will get the board an update. There are labor discrepancies and pension amount discrepancies that Jason will also look into. Jerome asked why the rent on the water department is behind. Jason will be looking into that number also. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas McBryan, the Financial Reports were accepted. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch started a discussion to decide what direction the board wants to take regarding proceeding with the process to remove or keep fluoride in the water. Thomas McBryan started by saying the state report pointed out that the water treatment plant does not have the proper ventilation of the storage room where the feeding of the chlorine is done. Pat explained there is not a requirement to have a public meeting. There needs to be public notification. Larry stated that for the safety of the employees, he feels it's time to move away from the powder fluoride. Thomas Krieger also agreed that it's time to move forward with removing the fluoride. Thomas Krieger stated that we need to get the public's opinion and start the process moving. A motion was made by Thomas Krieger and seconded by Jerome Alex to start the process of eliminating fluoride. Cory Fasold voted Aye. Thomas McBryan, Larry Welfer, and David Persing voted Nay. The tie-breaker vote by Chairman Norman Koch was Aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Thomas McBryan and seconded by Jerome Alex to have the engineer do a preliminary design on meeting the DEP standards for ventilating the fluoride room at the water treatment plant. Larry Welfer and David Persing voted Aye. Thomas Krieger and Cory Fasold voted Nay. Cory asked how long it would take if the board decides to get rid of the fluoride. Pat stated that it would probably be a 3 to 6 month process. Pat stated the first step of the process would be to start the public notifications. Pat said when State College started this process, they put inserts in the bills, put advertisements in the newspaper, and posted information on their website. Jason asked the board how to proceed with the notifications. Pat will be getting more guidance with DEP on which medical professionals would need the notification. Jason will inform the board when the notifications are ready.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Brian reported that a 6-inch main break at the intersection of 11th and Reagan Street was fixed. The water department installed approximately 220 feet of 2-inch water main on S. River Avenue between Chestnut Street and Court Street. The water department turned off service at 300 N. Ninth Street because the house is being torn down.

Brian stated Erik and Josh are 75% completed with the lighting upgrade in the water plant.

Brian next reported DEP inspected the water plant on May 22nd and May 29th. There were no violations, just a couple of minor deficiencies.

Brian contacted Susquehanna Safety Solutions and Coyne Chemical to set up training for the use of fluoride and proper handling. Susquehanna Safety Solutions cost is \$600 for the training. Coyne Chemical has not responded so Brian will set up the training with Susquehanna Safety Solutions.

Brian stated that the water department flushed all hydrants and blowoffs the week of June 2nd. All 160 hydrants are in working order. The water department also exercised 16 valves on the new water main on Reagan Street from Front Street to 4th Street and Susquehanna Avenue from Reagan Street to Packer Street.

Brian reported lead and copper testing was completed the week of June 16th. 46 tests were picked up today.

Brian also reported the water department staff helped the office with red tags and shutoffs. The shutoffs were done today.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason started by reporting there was no update for the City's proposed walkway on top of the levee.

Jason stated that Charlie Schlegel's name and picture will be included in an In Memoriam slide presentation during the awards ceremony at the 2025 PMAA Conference in Bethlehem in September. If any Board Members would like to attend the conference, let Jason know and he will make the arrangements.

Jason then discussed the upcoming budget for 2026. Jason will begin working on that next month. Jason will be working with managers to get their capital budgets completed by September 1st and Budget Committee meetings will begin early September.

Jason stated he has a report generated by Eurofins, a company out of California, who did the diagnostics of a creek sample for the class-action lawsuit from NY State. Next week a sample should be done with the river water and we will get another report for that. Jason has a copy of the report for anyone who wants to look at it. The report didn't show anything significant.

Jason reported a situation that he became aware of today. The old mill has 2 businesses. One business is a coffee business that is operational. The opposite side is a company that is not operational. The water department shut off the fire service for the side that is not operational due to leaks. The concern is one side having fire service and the other side not having fire service. The owner of that company asked for 2 days to figure out what's going on. Jason will let the board members know when there is an update.

On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke submitted his report to the board. Pat also stated it was discussed at the last board meeting about formally approving and proceeding with the bidding phase of the Packer Street water and sewer project not to exceed \$8,600 for the bidding support, which is phase 3 of the proposal that Pat submitted to the board in June of last year. Thomas McBryan questioned the cost of the bidding since the city is handling some of the work. Pat stated that it is not to exceed cost so if it comes in at half the cost, that is what Entech would bill.

A motion was made by Thomas McBryan and seconded by David Persing to approve the bidding phase engineering services on the Packer Street project not to exceed \$8600. Motion carried.

Pat also discussed the paving project in and around the water treatment plant. Brian had previously got a proposal from G&R Charles for \$48,000 to do the paving. This will require having to do the bid process. To gather the bid documents, narrative, quantities, and posting on PennBid, Entech is proposing a not to exceed cost of \$4500 for that service, plus attend a pre-bid meeting.

A motion was made by Thomas McBryan and seconded by Cory Fasold to approve Entech's proposal to bid the paving of the Water Plant driveway, not to exceed \$4500. Motion carried.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter reported he finished revising the container rental agreement and sent the agreement via email to the board members for review. This is planned to start on July 1st. Larry Welfer asked if there could be reflective tape placed on the containers for better visibility. Attorney Kerstetter said that could be done internally.

On motion of David Persing, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Jason stated every year at the PMAA meeting a representative from each authority is needed to vote on behalf of the authority. Jason is requesting the board choose a representative for the authority. Norman stated that Jason should be the representative because he is the one that attends the meeting.

A motion was made by Thomas McBryan and seconded by Cory Fasold to select Jason as the representative to vote on issues on behalf of SMA at the PMAA Conference in September in Bethlehem. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory started a discussion about losing business at the transfer station that was discussed at a previous meeting. He asked if there was a way that we could lower our cost so we could keep that business. Jason explained the cost analysis and how it's a very thin margin and giving more of a discount isn't feasible.

Thomas McBryan asked to have a short meeting with the finance committee after the board meeting.

COMMENTS

None.

The list of expenditures from June 4 – June 16, 2025 was presented for payment. On motion of David Persing, seconded by Thomas McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman