

REGULAR MEETING

June 3, 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 3, 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
Patrick Burke, Engineer
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

Mr. Derrick Backer discussed the Susquehanna Avenue project. The city applied for a \$3.2 million dollar grant from the federal government through Congressman Meusser's office. It was preliminarily awarded barring all instructions and requirements are followed. The federal government wants to see on paper that the city is the owner of the stormwater and sewer utilities for phase 2 of the project, which the \$3.2 million dollars would cover. The federal government has 2 issues with the paperwork that was submitted for the grant. The paperwork stated there was an exhibit but it was not attached and it doesn't distinguish between stormwater and sewer utilities. The government views the stormwater and sewer utilities as 2 separate utilities. Discussion took place among the board members about the wording of the paperwork. Todd asked Derrick how the board can help him. Derrick stated it would be helpful if the exhibit could be located. Jason will look for the exhibit in the authority's records. Derrick also stated he will try to make the argument that the agreement covers sewer ownership as well as stormwater, and see if the federal government will accept that. Derrick will relay the outcome to the board at the next meeting.

-Chairman Koch then presented the meeting minutes from May 6, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Jason discussed the financial report which is for the first four months of the year for each department. The format is the same as it was previously. The loan from solid waste to recycling will not have any figures in January, February and March because we didn't change the loan policy until April. Chairman Koch stated that the board members should review the report and bring up any questions at the next meeting.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. He gave an update on the Packer Street project. The project is set to go out for bids the end of the week and be open for about 3 weeks.

Matt stated that the FOG Program ordinance is being drafted by Entech.

Matt stated Giugis grease trap is scheduled to be installed June 9, 2025. It will be inspected once it is installed.

Matt reported on Friday, May 23, 2025, he was called to Marlin's by a plumber for a clogged sewer. The sewer department employees opened the main and found large clumps of grease. Once the FOG ordinance is drafted and completed, a full inventory of the city will be completed. The city code office will be helping with a list of all the food prep businesses in town and then a physical inspection will be done and a report generated.

Matt was asked at the last meeting to get estimates on the sale value for the old truck. Matt went to Kelly Blue Book and it estimated a trade in value of \$10,076 and a private party sale estimate of \$12,200. The truck is a 2012 with 107,521 miles. Chairman Koch suggested selling the truck on Municibid. On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Thomas Krieger, it was moved to sell the truck with a reserve bid of \$10,000. Motion carried.

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING MANAGER'S REPORT

Pat started by reporting Flood Closure #1 sill replacement is in the same place as last month. Schnabel and Entech are working with the railroad to get the project started as quickly as possible.

Pat reported the river and creeks rose to levels that required the pumps to be activated. Everything ran without any issues. We had 8.2 inches of rain for the month of May. Pat stated that he read in the paper it was the third highest month for rain in history. Matt stated the aeration basins worked fine. Some adjustments were made that pump 4 now runs along with pump 6. Tom McBryan suggested looking at putting in a higher capacity pump in the future to get the maximum benefit of the two basins.

Pat stated the CDSR 2026 grant award is still pending. Pat and Jason were in contact with Senator Fetterman's office yesterday and today.

Pat also reported no change with the LSA grant.

Pat stated the Norfolk Southern Spraying Levee is ongoing. It is with the claims department and we should be hearing something soon.

Pat reported that our pumps all worked great with no issues. Reagan Street pump ran for 7 ½

hours, Church Street pump ran for close to 3 hours, Hopper pump ran for 2 hours, and Spring Run pump ran for 24 hours.

Pat reported that tonnage for May was around 140 tons over May 2024. May 19th was a record breaking day. The transfer station took in 221.22 tons.

He next reported no radiation hits during the month of April.

Recycling sold 2 loads of glass to NH Kelman. 24 tons of green and 22 tons of clear.

Pat reported we had our scale inspection on May 9th. The scales at the Transfer Station and Recycling Center both passed.

Pat also reported we had the DEP inspection on May 13th. No violations were noted.

Pat presented the annual Solid Waste report for signatures. There being no corrections on motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by David Persing, the report was approved as presented. Motion carried.

Pat started a discussion on changes to the container rental agreement done through the Transfer Station. Pat is proposing a rate increase to \$250 for a one week period. The one week period would follow the city ordinance for garbage containers sitting outside the home. Also, other haulers in the area have rental costs for twice as much as we charge currently. Cory had a concern with items being placed in the containers that are prohibited. Pat stated that the item is taken back to the customer. Cory suggested having a surcharge in place if an item is returned. Todd will review and write a new agreement for the effective date of July 1, 2025. The customers who already have agreements would continue with the current agreement.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by David Persing, it was moved to accept the new Container Rental Agreement with the following amendments: Increase the cost to \$250, Rental lowered to 1 week; Surcharge for any items that need returned; and a disclaimer notice. Motion carried.

Pat also stated on June 26, 2025, the Army Corps of Engineers will be doing their inspection.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason started by reporting that he had an update on the flood department toe drain project. Jason spoke with Nick from Senator Fetterman's office. The grant we lost for \$748,000 is back on the table under a different program. Jason will supply Nick with more details on the project and Nick will take that information to the committee that is responsible for the grant. The program maxes out at a million dollar payout so we are at the upper end of the scale.

Jason stated that the Packer Street project was already discussed.

Jason will be attending the Region 5 PMAA meeting in State College on Thursday, June 5, 2025.

Jason stated that at the last meeting Brian discussed the idea of making sure our employees are 100% fully licensed to operate the plant before we pay them the \$500 bonus. Jason reviewed the procedure we have in place for bonuses. In the past, we paid the \$500 bonus once the employee

passed the general and 1 sub class. Cory asked if the courses are completed during the workday. Jason stated that the courses are done for a series of 16 weeks and once per week for a full day, then the employee will test a month after the training is over. Jason read the bonus wording from the employee manual. Tom stated that the subclasses were started after the manual was written. Todd and Jason will work on rewording the employee handbook to make licensing that includes the ability to actually operate the system, the requirement to receive the \$500 bonus.

Jason next discussed drafting a policy for a \$5,000 spending cap that was discussed at the last meeting. Jason stated there is not a place in the employee handbook that discusses purchasing. Todd stated this would be a standalone standard operating procedure. Todd and Jason will work on updating the authority's purchasing policy.

Jason reported that he received a call from Derek last Friday that there was an immediate urgency to clear the sidewalks on Julia Street from the wreckage during the last wind/rain storm. A local contractor cleared the debris and the transfer station received all the tonnage from Saturday to today which brought up our total.

Jason touched on an article in the newspaper regarding Selinsgrove increasing their water rates 120%.

On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. The Packer Street project is scheduled to be bid by the end of this week.

Pat stated PennDOT has been responsive to the Highway Occupancy permit application for the work to be completed on 4th street. Entech addressed their comments and resubmitted the application today. Entech is also working with CES on coordination of the bidding.

Pat stated at a previous meeting, the board approved MPEC to proceed with phases 1 and 2 which was to design the permitting. We are now in the bidding process. The previous proposal was a time and expense fee not to exceed \$8600. The Board instructed Pat to add this topic of the next phase to the next agenda for approval.

Cory asked Pat when the projected start date of the Packer Street project would be. Pat stated that we are working with CES and are looking at the August timeframe.

Pat next discussed the Schnabel's proposal to start the process for the Norfolk Southern permit application for closure structure 1. Schnabel has had limited contact with a representative for Norfolk Southern who indicated that he has over 500 projects he is responsible for which is why it's difficult to get a response. Norfolk Southern requires up to 6 submissions for the approval of this construction and the approval process will likely take over a year to complete. Schnabel's approach is to get started with at least a 30% submission. Schnabel's submitted a \$25,000 proposal to get started working through the 6 submissions. Schnabel cannot guarantee the \$25,000 fee will cover the entirety of the approval process. Pat suggested the Board deal directly with Schnabel instead of Entech and Pat will oversee the process. After some discussion, the Board decided to table this issue for the next meeting.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to accept the Engineer's

Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter suggested Matt send a letter to Marlin's putting them on notice about the grease problem in the sewer line.

Attorney Kerstetter mentioned there is possible encroachment by a property owner at the old Bassett building just off South Front Street by the BBQ place. Attorney Kerstetter gave the deed and survey map to Jason to review.

Attorney Kerstetter discussed the legality of investments. He stated the 20-year treasury bond is supported by the full faith and credit of the United States which is fine for the Board to invest in. There is also no time limitation.

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 regarding a Funding Commitment Letter for the FEMA FMA 2024 application. Jason stated we submitted a grant request for the toe drains project. Originally we were informed we had to provide 10% of the total project. FEMA has changed the process and the amount is now 25% so our commitment would be \$4.5 million for the project. In order to proceed with the grant, the board needs to sign a commitment letter for the \$4.5 million. A discussion ensued about prioritization of projects. Jason stated we have a number of grants in place for this project totaling \$400,000 and approximately \$20 million worth of grants requested. Tom gave some background on how this project got started back in the 1950's. Jason explained he will talk to Derek about helping obtain more grants and if Jason and Derek are unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary amount of grant money, the board can back out of the commitment.

On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by Thomas McBryan, it was moved to approve a Funding Commitment Letter for the FEMA FMA 2024 application. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Jason brought up the fluoride topic from the last meeting. He has started drafting an article to be placed in the newspaper for public notification. The other option for notification would be to place a note on the water bills. Cory brought up the fact that this topic started because the employees wrote a letter to the Board stressing their health concerns. Jason and Todd had some conversations and Todd suggested the water plant employees go through retraining of the current use of the fluoride system. A Susquehanna company offers this kind of fluoride training. Brian will get more information on the training. Jason stated that we will also be looking at the PPE gear to make sure it's the correct type of gear. After some discussion, the Board decided to place an article in the newspaper with the date of the meeting so the public can attend.

COMMENTS

None.

The list of expenditures from May 21 – June 2, 2025, was presented for payment. Jerome asked what Dean’s locksmith payment was for. Jason stated it was for the slider unit on the front door. It wasn’t functioning anymore. On motion of Thomas Krieger, 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 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman