

REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 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 called to order Tuesday, March 17, 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, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Thomas, Board Member
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Brian Book, Engineer via Zoom
Derrick Backer, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary
Autumn Lauver, Public

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch invited Autumn Lauver to address the Board. Autumn asked the Board when the water rate change was going to happen. Chairman Koch informed Autumn that there is no rate change that's going to happen this year. Cory asked Autumn if she was referring to something she read online. Autumn stated she read the article on Facebook. Cory stated the article was a misquote by the reporter. Cory explained rate increases would be discussed when the budget is discussed in the September - November timeframe. Autumn asked what things influence how the budget goes up every year. The members of the board discussed how costs, such as salaries, infrastructure projects, and fuel costs play a role in the budget. Autumn also asked why the water rates in each area are different. Chairman Koch explained that some water suppliers are private and more expensive than the Municipal Authority. This Municipal Authority is on the high end of the authorities in the area but this Municipal Authority is a bigger authority. Tom McBryan also mentioned the city turned responsibilities over to the Municipal Authority such as the storm water system. The Municipal Authority is responsible for that and we get no income for the storm water system. The Municipal Authority uses water and sewer money to pay for storm sewer projects. Tom McBryan also explained that DEP is not allowing the Municipal Authority to use the Shamokin Creek water as we previously have so the Municipal Authority needs to pump water from the river to our plant and the line going to the river is over 100 years old. Because of this, the Municipal Authority is faced with a multi-million dollar project to upgrade the system. Derrick stated the cost estimate for that project is around \$25 million plus. The Board thanked Autumn for her questions.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch presented the regular and special meeting minutes from February 17, 2026. There being no corrections, on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted as

presented. Motion carried.

Derrick reviewed the financial reports for January 2026. The actual total which is income less expenses for the Water Department was \$34,099.13. If you take off capital expenses, the total is \$33,745.12. The Board decided the flood discussion would be held at the next Water/Flood meeting. Derrick discussed the committed items for Susquehanna Avenue. The sewer and water under committed for 2025 had a remaining balance and that was an error. The amount has been adjusted, and it was \$500,000 difference. The city received a check for that and it was used in Phase 1.

Derrick also reviewed the financial reports for February 2026. The actual total which is income less expenses for the Water Department was \$96,103.44 and the department total if you take off capital expenses, is currently negative \$33,304.86 due to system upgrades at the beginning of the year.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Brian reported that the Water Department, with help from the sewer plant and the city, dug up water and sewer lines in the 1000 block of Market Street to get measurements for the city project. The Water Department also fixed a fire hydrant at 3rd and Walnut Street.

Brian stated the new chemical pump for the Del-Pac has been installed. Turbidity meters were calibrated for the first quarter of 2026.

Brian stated the tank mixers were installed at the hill tanks.

Brian also reported Josh Shaffer has left for a new job. His last day was March 12th.

Brian reported the Water Department staff helped the office with red tags and shutoffs. There were approximately 100 red tags and 15 shutoffs.

Tom McBryan asked if the owner of the property pays for a new meter because it froze. Brian stated that if the old meter can't be fixed, the property owner will be billed for a new meter. The new meters are not compatible with the old box, so the owner gets billed for a new MXU box. The cost of a new meter is \$200 and the cost of an MXU box is \$200.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Derrick stated that he is reviewing the existing handbook to identify areas where updates, revisions, or additional policies may be necessary. The handbook committee is going to go through the whole handbook page by page to add items or alter items as needed. After the review is completed, Attorney Kerstetter will review the changes, then the handbook will be submitted to the board for review.

Derrick stated that he is working with the engineer on multiple ongoing projects. The cost estimate for the water intake is estimated to be between \$25 and \$35 million. The first phase of the project is estimated to be between \$14 and \$18 million.

Derrick reported the building appraisal began last week and ended on Friday. The Municipal Authority should have the report by the end of April.

Derrick stated he is working with Matt and Solicitor Kerstetter on the easement for the replacement of UGI's gas line along Fawn Lane and the Municipal Authority's roadway. The agreement is

with UGI's lawyers.

Derrick stated he is working with SEDA-COG on federal funding for the water line project.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter reported that he is working on everyday items such as finishing the UGI easement agreement. Attorney Kerstetter is also reviewing the engineer contract.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian reported that the priority was to get the cost estimates for the water intake line to Derrick which was submitted by noon today.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Derrick informed the Board that the Municipal Authority is hiring a new Flood Manager and proposing a salary of \$27 an hour during the probationary period and increase it to \$28 after the probationary period is over. The applicant's name is Jared Geise. The committee felt Jared was the best choice and is recommending him for the position. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to hire Jared Geise for the Flood Manager position. Motion carried.

Derrick stated there is a position open for the Water Department and a very good chance another one could be coming up. Derrick also stated that there is potential for retirements in the Transfer Station and Wastewater department. Derrick asked the board if we can hire for the potential future openings if there are good people that are interviewed. The board agreed that if there are good applicants, the committee can recommend them.

On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to return Pat Bennett back to the salary he had before he took over as the Flood Department Manager plus the 9% manager's raise. This rate will be effective for the next full pay period. Motion carried.

Derrick started a discussion about a funding letter for the Susquehanna Avenue Phase 2 project. There was a project meeting with the city and based off the newest calculations, the shortfall for the project is \$1.4 million. Derrick stated that USDA said they need a letter from the Municipal Authority or the city that states if there is a shortfall, they will make up the difference. Otherwise, USDA will not give the \$3.2 million to the project. Jerome stated the city and the Municipal Authority agreed that the Municipal Authority would complete the letter saying the funding is available with the understanding that it's not guaranteed. After the meeting, Derrick received a phone call from Steve with the city, and he informed Derrick that USDA said the letter has to read the funding shortfall will be guaranteed or they won't give the \$3.2 million. Derrick informed Steve there would need to be a separate agreement between the Municipal Authority and the city that both parties must agree on the bid award. Cory asked if the entire shortfall would be the Municipal Authority's responsibility. He also asked what percentage of

the cost is the Municipal Authority's and what percentage is the city's. Cory stated that the shortfall should be based on the percentage of the project for each the Municipal Authority and the city.

After further discussion about the project, on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to send a contractual agreement to the city that the Municipal Authority will have a 50/50 consent on bid awards and after that contractual agreement is signed, the Municipal Authority will send the USDA the letter guaranteeing that the money is available for the project. Motion carried.

Derrick stated that the Transfer Station Manager does not have a cell phone. The Board agreed that all the managers should have a cell phone.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom McBryan explained how the Municipal Authority covers storm water since the city transferred the flood protection and storm water over to the Municipal Authority and we have no revenue coming in for storm water. All those expenses are coming out of the water and sewer departments to pay for the storm water system.

COMMENTS

The list of expenditures from March 4 – March 17, 2026, was presented for payment. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Tom McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch announced an Executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss a potential litigation issue and the Board convened in Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. The meeting was reconvened into General Session at 7:35 p.m.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman