

REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 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 called to order Tuesday, October 21, 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
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Derrick Backer, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Patrick Burke, Engineer
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary
Erik DePhillips, Water Department Employee
Francis Scarcella, The Daily Item
Todd Eachus, Pure Green Bio Ag
Nathan Eachus, Pure Green Bio Ag
Victoria Rosancrans, Public
Karen Vines, Public
Dr. Julio Lara, Public

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch started by calling on Nathan Eachus and Todd Eachus who were present for public discussion. Nathan and Todd both work for Pure Green Bio Ag from West Hazleton, PA and represent the PFAS settlement that has already paid out \$40 billion in stage one which was for bigger cities. Stage two is for the smaller communities. The settlement funding is a major mediate contamination of PFAS and drinking water systems across Pennsylvania. Nathan stated the federal threshold for every chemical is four parts per trillion. This settlement covers anything two parts or higher because the national team thought that two parts per trillion was a serious threshold. This runs parallel with the UCMR 5 Clean Water Act testing which is every 5 years and test for 30 chemicals, not just 2. If any of those 30 chemicals are two parts per trillion or higher, the Municipal Authority will have the ability to join the settlement. There is no cost on the Municipal Authority. All the testing is covered by their team. They are working with an engineering firm that is helping with the PFAS mediation across the state with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Todd stated, as Nathan said, the settlement allows for small towns to do raw source drinking water sampling that allows for the Municipal Authority to work with Eurofins, a nationally certified lab by the settlement. Todd stated the settlement deadline is December 31, 2025, for communities to involve themselves in the water testing. If the water sample is two parts per trillion over the testing threshold of any of the 30 chemicals, the town can then enter the settlement, extract dollars from the chemical company settlement,

rather than have rate payers pay for the equipment in the future. It pays for engineering, equipment, and planning. It pays for 100% of the costs that get designed by the Municipal Authority and their team after the water testing is over the federal contamination levels. Tom McBryan asked Brian if we have test results and Brian stated we were good. Cory asked if they are working with any municipalities drawing from the Susquehanna River. Nathan stated currently no. Nathan is recommending, even if you think the water levels are below, to do the water testing. This would hold a place in line for the settlement. The attorney's get a 30% contingency, Nathan's workplace, Pure Green Bio Ag, would get 10%, and the water authority would get 60%. The next step would be to put the Municipal Authority's legal team, engineering team, and members of the Board on a call with the national legal team for any questions and then a document would be signed and authorized by the Board. The water agreement needs to be signed and placed before the federal court before December 31, 2025, and the money is awarded between January 1 to June 30, 2026. Nathan stated that DEP is embarking on a new water plan for the Susquehanna River basin. Pat stated that he is on that committee. The Board thanked Nathan and Todd and will let them know if they have any more questions.

Chairman Koch next invited Victoria Rosancrans to speak from the public. Victoria had a few questions regarding the fluoride topic. Victoria stated the agenda does not state a vote for fluoride and is hoping this is cleared up in the discussion. Also, Victoria would like to know how many public comments were received and the stance on those comments. Victoria also asked if there will be an engineer's quote for the upgrade to a new fluoride system. Victoria quoted some remarks from prior meeting minutes. Pat clarified a statement regarding public notifications in that the public does need notified but DEP does not require a public meeting. Pat also clarified that no equipment was removed, the Water Department has the physical capability to remove the equipment. Victoria ended by asking if all the information is available tonight and if the pros and cons and costs will be discussed.

Tom Krieger discussed how the Board needs to do right across the board for what's best for the community and addressing a safety concern for our employees. The Municipal Authority can't expose our employees, but the Board also doesn't want to do anything detrimental to the people drinking the water. Tom wanted to note this was never about the cost, but to make sure the employees are taken care of and that the rate payers are getting what they are paying for. Victoria stated that she has no issue with the Municipal Authority staff writing that letter because if there's no proper ventilation, that is a problem. Cory stated that the motion made months ago was to investigate the process of eliminating fluoride. Part of the process was getting feedback from the community. Cory also stated the responses are basically 50-50 on keeping or removing the fluoride. Cory also reiterated that this has nothing to do with the money aspect. Taking away the fluoride will cost money as well. Jerome stated that Sunbury is one of the few municipalities that still has fluoride in the water. Jerome also clarified that motion to approve on the agenda is for a vote. Derrick stated the Municipal Authority received 34 comments from people and it was 18 to remove fluoride and 16 to keep fluoride. Tom McBryan stated there was a federal report that stated when fluoride was taken out of the water, there's a 25% increase in cavities. Tom McBryan then discussed the costs associated with fluoride. Pat stated that his estimate for just the exhaust fan was \$2,000 but did not include anything else. Victoria asked if there is anyone who could help with funding. Derrick stated he spoke with the Oral Health Coalition, and they have some funding but it would not be enough to cover the costs.

Chairman Koch next invited Karen Vines and Dr. Julio Lara to speak from the public. Karen Vines stated she is the Clinic Manager of Susquehanna Valley Dental Clinic. Also in attendance is Dr. Julio Lara who is the doctor at the clinic. Karen stated the clinic sees Medicaid and low-income patients from Shamokin and Sunbury. Patients that have fluoridated water come in with less incidents. Karen also stated if the fluoride were removed there is no doubt they would see an increase in patients with severe decay. The patients from Shamokin are more dentally compromised than patients that live in the city of Sunbury. The other thing they worry about as a clinic is they are already overtaxed with patients. The clinic is one of the few doctors in the area that accept Medicaid patients or low-income patients, and they are the only one who exclusively takes patients that do not have the ability to pay. Karen stated her concern going forward if the fluoride was removed what will that do to the clinic in 10 years. Dr. Lara expressed how difficult it is to work in this area. Some patients have significant issues with no ability to pay. Dr. Lara stated that fluoride is the only thing making his job slightly easier. Dr. Lara also stated that Medicaid will pay for children to have dental work but the people who are over 21 are not covered. Dr. Lara stated the costs of keeping

fluoride would be cheaper because people will not be going to the ER. Dr. Lara then explained to the Board how fluoride works in the teeth. Larry asked Dr. Lara if fluoride tablets or toothpaste with fluoride would help. Dr. Lara answered, they help but not many people take them and there is a lot of misinformation. Jerome asked Dr. Lara if the clinic reached out to Shamokin to put fluoride in their water. Karen answered no, but that is a great idea. Jerome also asked if they are recommending patients to take fluoride tablets. Dr. Lara answered that he has not recommended they take fluoride tablets.

Cory invited Erik to speak since he is the employee who handles the fluoride for the Municipal Authority. Erik stated he is the one that handles the fluoride every day. If the machine breaks, Erik fixes it, and Erik is the one who fills it because he is the Chief Operator and doesn't like the other employees doing it. Erik was asked if he has the proper PPE and he stated that he does, but the room is not sealed to the rest of the building and exhausting it out to the outside needs done properly. Tom Krieger spoke about needing to provide for the employee's safety and also the safety of the people the Municipal Authority is providing to. The vote tonight will come down to either fluoride or no fluoride or liquid fluoride because the Municipal Authority can't keep what it is doing now. Erik explained that he is not for or against it, he just wants the room to be safe for the employees. Erik also stated that the Municipal Authority uses 100% fluoride powder which is the worst form of fluoride. Tom Krieger asked Erik when this issue was previously brought up to the Board. Erik believes it was probably 10-15 years ago.

Derrick asked Pat if he had an estimate to change to the liquid fluoride. Pat stated the estimate for changing to liquid fluoride with a 1,050 gallon double-walled tank, putting it in the same room, would be \$98,000. The one issue is to make sure the graded floor can carry the weight of the tank. DEP requires a 30-day supply on hand at the full rated plant capacity. Pat also stated the estimate includes a fill pipe going right out through the exterior wall so nobody handles the chemical. The Board discussed putting in a concrete pad and floor drains to try and eliminate any problems. Brian brought up that Lewistown lease their equipment and if there are any issues, the Municipal Authority doesn't have to deal with it. This could be another option. Chairman Koch asked Pat if there is a filter system and Pat stated no. Jerome asked how we are going to prevent it from going into the neighborhood. Pat stated we would have to ask the manufacturer what they recommend. The Board thanked Karen and Dr. Lara for attending the meeting and providing information.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch presented the special meeting minutes and regular meeting minutes from September 16, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Larry Welfer, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch started the discussion for the fluoride removal or upgrade motion. The Board started a discussion on the pros and cons of having fluoride. Derrick stated the public opinion was 50-50 with many different reasons for keeping it and getting rid of it and were already discussed. Each Board member expressed their opinion on the topic. Cory asked if any Board members know the reason why some states are banning fluoride. Derrick stated he read it is about the forcing of medication. Chairman Koch asked Pat if the Board moves to take the fluoride out, is there a process through DEP to follow and are there costs associated with that. Pat stated he believes the permit would be \$2500. A motion was made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Larry Welfer to upgrade to liquid fluoride. Dave Persing voted Aye. Jerome Alex, Cory Fasold, and Tom Krieger voted Nay. Chairman Koch asked Brian and Erik what they would like to see be done, upgrade or remove it. Brian stated he would like to see it removed because the liquid fluoride is just as dangerous if something happens. Erik expressed that from what he understands about the liquid fluoride, it is just as bad to work with as the powder fluoride, so he doesn't want to work with that either. The tie-breaker vote by Chairman Koch was Nay. The Board expressed that this was a very difficult vote for everyone, but it comes down to the safety of the employees. Derrick asked the Board if they felt buying toothpaste and toothbrushes for the schools would be appropriate. The Board

told Derrick to get Todd's opinion on the legality of making a donation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Derrick discussed the financial report. Derrick met with Brian and Matt and everything is looking good. Derrick added a staff member for the front office for a future possible retirement. Derrick also added a pension increase. Tom Krieger asked Derrick if he feels the office is understaffed. Derrick stated he believes the office is adequately staffed right now but would like to plan ahead in case of the possible retirement. Cory informed the Board that Derrick submitted an employee report for workman's compensation purposes. On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by David Persing, the Financial Reports were accepted. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Brian reported the Water Department staff dug up a leaking valve at 2nd and Market Street. Fox Tapping is coming Wednesday, October 22nd, to put a line stop in so it can be fixed. The Water Department staff have been helping the sewer plant by installing catch basins in the last couple weeks.

Brian stated all fire hydrants and blowoffs were flushed the week of October 6th. The Water Department found 2 hydrants that must have been hit by a car. One hydrant is fixed and the other hydrant will be fixed as soon as possible. Derrick will call the insurance company to inquire if the hydrants would be covered under our insurance policy.

Brian also reported the filters and clarifiers turbidity meters were calibrated.

Brian reported G&R Charles finished paving the driveway at the water plant.

Brian stated SRS ran the electrical service from the pole to where the panel will go for the tank mixer project. Brian is still waiting to hear from DEP to move forward with the project.

Brian stated Mid-State Paving installed a 2-inch water main from 5th Street to Kreamer Avenue. They also installed the 8-inch water main from 3rd Street to 4th Street.

Brian also reported the Water Department staff helped the office with red tags and shutoffs.

Brian informed the Board that Jake's last day was September 26th. They are in the process of hiring a new employee. Interviews are set up for Thursday and Friday. The Board had a discussion on hiring wages.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Derrick started by discussing the flood wall ownership and responsibility. Derrick read over the contracts regarding the Municipal Authority's responsibilities to replace the infrastructure related to the floodwall and its equipment. Derrick also spoke to Todd and it's a complicated issue. Derrick explained the different contracts that were signed over the years by the City. Tom Krieger suggested talking to the City about sharing the cost of the toe drains. Tom McBryan discussed having the agreements reviewed and having a definite explanation of ownership between the Municipal Authority and the City. Derrick stated that someone needs to have federal contract experience to review them. Tom Krieger had a recommendation on an attorney and gave that information to Derrick. Derrick will call the attorney and get some general information from them. Jerome stated that this topic should be on every agenda going forward for future reference. Jerome also stated that a meeting should be set up with the City regarding

the agreements.

Derrick had a meeting with the Water Department, DEP, and Senator Culvers office regarding the outflow relocation to discuss if the Municipal Authority must relocate it. The individual was less than receptive so the Municipal Authority does need to do it. An extension letter was put in today for the design not to exceed 120 days. Anything over 180 days is an amendment to our permit. Derrick stated we have a proposal for Schnabel to do the engineering at a cost of \$15,000. Erik and Pat came up with an alternative solution to relocate the outfall pipe. Pat and Erik showed the Board the alternate approach which involves installing a new outfall pipe through the northeast abutment of Pond 5. Schnabel believes this to be a feasible solution that should not necessitate the completion of an embankment stability study by DEP dam safety. More discussion ensued about how this will affect the log jam problem and Pond 5. On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to approve the Schnabel proposal to complete the design of the WTP outfall relocation NTE \$15,000. Motion carried.

Derrick stated he had a meeting with the City to talk about the FOG program. The City's concern is the open-endedness of the timeframe that a business would have to put in a grease trap. The mayor's recommendation was to give the business 5 years. Derrick stated it is the Municipal Authority's responsibility to establish a timeframe. More discussion ensued on how much the city would be involved in the FOG program since the Municipal Authority already voted to adopt the FOG program. Derrick will talk to Todd about some of the legalities of the program.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat stated he arranged for a meeting with LB Water Company in Selinsgrove with a pipe supplier and an experienced contractor to get their insight into what we may want to consider in terms of the type of pipe and construction methodologies for the eventual river crossing project. The meeting will be on November 6th at 10:00 am if anyone is interested in attending. Pat needs to know who will be attending because LB Water would like a headcount.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Tom Krieger discussed the TCS estimate. Tom stated he spoke with Pat and Pat reached out to 3 companies and the only 2 that got back to him were TCS and T. Ross and T. Ross never gave him an estimate. There was a mismeasurement done and now it needs to be fixed.

On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to approve the work for \$6,500 from TCS Services. Motion carried.

Thomas McBryan brought the Board up to date on the million-dollar investment of bonds. The face value of the bond is 4.75. The Municipal Authority bought the bond at a discount of \$14,271. The bond now sells at a premium of \$29,960. The bond value has increased \$44,234 and if you add in the interest rate for a 2-month period, which is \$7,917, the total gain is \$52,150. This is a 32% return. Thomas McBryan recommends buying another million-dollar bond because of lowering interest rates. Thomas stated the Municipal Authority can sell part of the bond. On motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to invest \$500,000 from the flood department, \$250,000 from the sewer department and \$250,000 from the water department to purchase a \$1 million bond. Motion

carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry Welfer submitted his resignation letter from the Municipal Authority to the Board effective October 21, 2025. Larry thanked the Board and stated it was a privilege to serve. The Board congratulated Larry and thanked him for being an asset to the Board.

Jerome asked Pat where we stood on the cost of the tapping fee. Pat stated that the cost to do the calculation for the rate to charge for the tapping fee normally comes in at around \$10,500 which Jerome feels is a high cost. The Board discussed the difference between the connection fee and the tapping fee. Pat stated that the cost comes in higher when they don't have all the information they need and he did receive that information today. Pat will forward that information to Derrick and Derrick can give Pat more details so Pat can get a more exact cost estimate. Tom Krieger brought up the costs the Municipal Authority pays for engineering costs. Pat stated that Entech can sit down with the Board to discuss the fees.

Jerome next asked about the elevations on Packer Street. Derrick stated one manhole was 4-6 inches low and the other two manholes were 4-6 inches high. Derrick stated they have a solution for the issue.

Jerome next asked Pat where we stand on the report needed to be done for Susquehanna Avenue. Pat stated there was a meeting with DEP about 2 weeks ago and the solution was good for the special study. The solution DEP provided was to allow the Municipal Authority to do certain tasks concurrent with others. Usually, DEP only allows for 1 task to be done at a time.

Jerome also asked where we stand on getting the appraisals done. Derrick called the Municipal Authority Association and they've never had anyone ask that question so they put it in their forum and the only person that answered recommended the company the Municipal Authority already got a quote for and it would take around 8 months to have the appraisal completed. Cory recommended to Derrick to keep trying to reach out to the other company and put it on the next agenda to make a decision and if he doesn't hear back from that company reach out to the first company and see if they can do it in 4 months. Currently, the Board does not know if the correct insurance premiums are being paid.

Cory stated there are only 4 more meetings to talk about PFAS testing. Jerome doesn't feel there is any reason to not do the testing. Brian stated that we did testing but he is not sure the testing was for all 30 chemicals. Cory asked to have this put on the next agenda for discussion.

Cory next started a discussion about hiring a previous employee. After further discussion, the Board decided to set a date to have a conversation with the previous employee about a position.

COMMENTS

The list of expenditures from October 7 – October 20, 2025 was presented for payment. On motion of Jerome Alex, 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 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman