

REGULAR MEETING

October 7, 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, October 7, 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
Cory Fasold, Secretary / Treasurer
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Derrick Backer, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Dept/Flood Dept Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Kathy Paige, Recording Secretary
Francis Scarcella, The Daily Item
Aimee Buehner, Public

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch called on Aimee Buehner who was present for public discussion. Aimee stated she was here on behalf of her involvement of different community groups. Aimee asked the Board to give strong consideration for Derrick Backer to maintain a position on several of the community groups he has been very active and involved in from his previous position. Aimee spoke specifically about the Blueprint Community downtown Sunbury team. Sunbury was chosen as 1 of 4 planning activated community municipalities by the Department Communities and Economic Development (DCED). DCED chooses municipalities where things are on the move and projects are scheduled to happen. DCED talks to community individuals about projects and where they can allocate or find funds for planning. DCED will be looking at the flooding problem on North 2nd Street by Reagan Street and pay for people to come in and assess the issue. DCED is also focusing on parks and recreation ordinances and zoning. Aimee stated that Derrick was pivotal for Sunbury being chosen for the planning activated community. Aimee also stated that Derrick has the knowledge, experience and patience needed for the community. Derrick explained that all of this helps with economic development which helps new businesses and homeowners come into Sunbury which equals more rate payers which helps the Municipal Authority. After further discussion, it was under the consensus by the Board when Derrick was hired that he was able to act in the best interest of the community itself and what's best for the Municipal Authority. As far as the Board is concerned, they have no issues.

On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to allow Derrick to proceed in his position with Community Blueprints. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch presented the special meeting minutes and regular meeting minutes from September 2, 2025. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Larry Welfer, the minutes were accepted. Motion carried.

Derrick discussed the financial reports. Derrick stated Wastewater is a little below what was projected through August but very close. Flood and Solid Waste were above what was budgeted. Everything is going very well.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. The Packer Street project started last week and they are completed with the water lines. There is a project meeting on October 8th at 1:00 pm to discuss the project.

Matt stated the approved proposal for the FOG program is still with the City Council for their review and there is no update at this time.

Matt also stated that he and Hal provided 2 plant tours this week to about 40 students in the Environmental Studies program at Susquehanna University. This week the students will be at the water plant.

Matt is recommending the hiring of Logan Boucher for a Laborer position with the Wastewater Department. The starting salary will be \$19.00 an hour. On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to hire Logan Boucher for the Laborer position in the Wastewater department at \$19.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Matt next discussed the pump replacement at the fabridam pump station. The pump was sent to Axiom in Schuylkill Haven to get rebuilt, however, upon inspection it is not cost effective to rebuild the pump. Axiom had a quote of \$7,367. This is a Flight pump and Matt reached out to the Flight dealer and their price was \$5,516.76 including delivery. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Thomas Krieger, it was moved to purchase the pump replacement for \$5,516.76. Motion carried.

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

Pat reviewed the Flood Control Report. Flood closure #1 sill replacement grant is still pending. Pat spoke to the Railroad and they are streamlining it for the Municipal Authority. Senator McCormick's office representative has helped with the process.

Pat stated the CDSR 2026 grant award is still pending.

Pat reported the capacitors for the actuator issues still didn't work. The gate can be closed by hand in an emergency and has only been used to test if they work, so Pat put the cost in next year's budget. Pat recommends replacing it with the newer generation 3 which costs \$14,972.

Pat also reported the river is at its lowest level since 1993. Also, the bags are going to start going down next week.

Pat next reviewed the Solid Waste and Recycling Report. Pat reported the tonnage for September was down by 95.54 tons from last September. Pat stated that Hometown has new management and when he spoke with their representative, the new management was directing everyone to go to the landfill to see how that does with their profit and loss. It has now been 3 weeks since they started this.

Pat reported on September 18th, he received a letter from Jay Alexander from Wayne Township proposing a \$2.00 per ton increase. Pat will call Jay and speak to him about his request, letting him know about the Hometown issue and how the tonnage has gone down and now isn't the best time for an increase. Derrick stated Hometown may want to have a month of data to show if it's cost effective going to the landfill.

Pat also reported no radiation hits for the month of September and another trailer of mixed goods was sold to NH Kelman.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Derrick stated that he met with Senator Culver and discussed potential projects including the toe drain, Susquehanna River Water Intake, the South 2nd street project, and the WTP outflow. Senator Culver will be talking to DEP about the WTP outflow because she agreed with the Municipal Authority that it shouldn't need to be done how DEP is requesting. The Municipal Authority has some time before a decision needs to be made because the next meeting is when the Board needs to approve the proposal from Entech.

Derrick stated he met with all the Department Managers to talk preliminarily about their budget. They went over their capital budgets and non-capital budgets, and operation and maintenance. Derrick will meet with the Managers again in the coming weeks to work on finalizing numbers.

Derrick reported there was a meeting with the City and the Municipal Authority about different projects. The second part of Packer Street will be done next spring and the hope is Susquehanna Avenue phase 2 will start as well, but that is dependent on the USDA grant.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Derrick discussed the report Pat Burke submitted to the board. Entech has no update on the Packer Street water and sewer main improvement project.

Derrick stated there is no change in the Flush Truck LSA Grant. The next meeting that would

decide the grant is November 16.

Derrick also stated there is no change since the last board meeting regarding the Transfer Station Deflectors. Entech will meet with Municipal Authority staff to discuss options for the proposed deflector system.

Derrick next discussed Closure Structure #1. Schnabel Engineering has submitted the application to Norfolk-Southern for the closure structure improvement project. We now await their response on the projected engineering review fees and review schedule.

Derrick discussed the Susquehanna Avenue Reconstruction Project. DEP advised Entech that an Act 537 Plan update is required. That update will be completed through a special study. Entech is scheduling a pre-planning meeting with DEP to discuss the requirements in more detail.

Derrick stated that there is no change on the toe drain. Derrick reported that Senator Culver will be setting up a meeting with various agencies including PEMA/FEMA, and other individuals to talk about the toe drain and also the water intake as well.

Derrick also stated the FOG program is still being reviewed by the City.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter discussed the tapping fee and connection fees. Attorney Kerstetter received some information from Jenn that dated back to 2005. He discovered the Municipal Authority does not charge a tapping fee. The tapping fee is calculated to basically represent the value of all the existing infrastructure per capacity unit. Payment of a tapping fee allows new customers to catch up with current customers that have been paying (or paid) for the existing infrastructure. The connection fee is the actual physical connection. The Municipal Authority does have a connection fee. It's \$1,000 for up to 20 feet of either 10-inch sewer line or 2-inch water line. In 2005, the Municipal Authority decided not to impose a tapping fee. Attorney Kerstetter stated that most authorities have a tapping fee and a connection fee. The tapping fee is an engineer driven calculation. Entech does the calculations. Jerome started a discussion on how businesses expect fees when they invest and the Municipal Authority has costs associated with it. Attorney Kerstetter suggested looking back at 2005 to see if the tapping fee calculation was done at that time before we ask Entech the cost of a calculation. He also suggested having Matt and Brian come up with the costs associated with the connection fee for the next meeting. Attorney Kerstetter will follow up with Jenn if a tapping fee calculation was done in 2005, then he will ask Pat for a price.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to accept all reports. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Derrick started a discussion on board member insurance exclusion forms. Attorney Kerstetter

stated that we are now being told by Adam Purdy that board members do not need to complete the form. Attorney Kerstetter indicated that he had an email from Adam Purdy that if a board member is out on Municipal Authority business, they are covered by workers' compensation. Officers will receive a higher payment than non-officer board members, according to Adam. A discussion followed regarding how employees are classified by department instead of title for workers' compensation. Derrick was asked to get the list of employees with how they are classified for the Board to review. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Thomas Krieger, it was moved the Board will not sign the Insurance Exclusion Forms. Motion carried.

Derrick started a discussion on the Industrial Appraisal Company (IAC) appraisal agreement. IAC gave the Municipal Authority a quote of \$18,360 to appraise the buildings and equipment. The Board agreed the appraisal is needed so the insurance can be changed if needed. On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to pay \$18,360 for the IAC appraisal. Motion carried.

Derrick next started a discussion on the minimum usage of vacation time. In the employee handbook, it states employees are mandated to use 4 hours of time at a minimum. Derrick spoke to Carin and there is nothing on the accounting side that would prohibit changing the time and he also spoke to the Department Managers and they did not have any issues with changing it. Derrick proposed to the Board to change the 4 hours to 1 hour. Derrick stated this would be beneficial because if an employee only needs to take an hour and they are mandated to take 4 hours, the employee isn't working for 3 more hours than need be. On motion of Thomas Krieger, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to alter the employee handbook to decrease the minimum usage of mandated time from 4 hours to 1 hour with no changes to the reporting periods and requesting periods. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory asked for an update on the fluoride. Derrick stated that we are still taking comments from the public and have received a decent amount of feedback. The information will be provided at the next meeting for the Board to decide on how to proceed. Derrick also stated that he is getting some numbers of the liquid fluoride for the next meeting.

Cory also asked who maintains a wooden sign near the road that goes to the boat launch at the fabridam that says Army Corps of Engineers maintained by the Sunbury Municipal Authority. It needs to be replaced. Pat stated he will check into it.

Tom reminded the Board that if the decision is made to keep the fluoride, it will need to be an engineered item. A discussion ensued about the cost of engineering.

Derrick thanked Francis from the Daily Item with helping the Municipal Authority receive back payment from a business.

COMMENTS

The list of expenditures from September 16 – October 6, 2025, was presented for payment. Cory had a question under solid waste for a \$25,000 used jockey truck. Pat stated it was on there from last years budget. The Solid Waste department would have had to purchase a jockey truck if we were going to go

somewhere besides Wayne Township. Pat stated we are not going to purchase a jockey truck. Cory said that amount should be moved into the uncommitted. On motion of Jerome Alex, seconded by Larry Welfer, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Jerome informed the Board that he found out that Sunbury does not have an ordinance on how long a box or dumpster can sit on the street. This does not affect the Municipal Authority and we are keeping the policy of having a dumpster for 1 week.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording Secretary

Approved:

Chairman