

MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

A regular meeting of the Board of Muhlenberg Township Authority, Water and Sewer Projects, was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at 210 George Street, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to notice both advertised and posted according to law.

The following members of the Board were present:

Jim Kelly
Walt LaSota
Steve Wolfinger
Rick Hoffmaster
Rick Mountz

In attendance were Authority General Manager Timothy Feltenberger; Director of Operations, Nathan Roush; Thomas A. Rothermel, of counsel; Jamie Lorah, PE, of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy (SSM), consulting engineer to the Authority; and Scott Boehret of Transcend Business Advisors, Authority controller consultant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Kelly. Mr. Kelly announced that the Board met in an executive session immediately prior to this meeting to discuss matters involving personnel, real estate, and litigation.

Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the previous regular meeting of the Board held on April 10, 2025. That Motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and passed unanimously.

Engineering bills for the preceding month were reviewed. Mr. LaSota made a Motion to approve the engineering bills for payment. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Hoffmaster and unanimously adopted.

The accounts payable for both the water and sewer departments for the preceding month had been distributed prior to the meeting, a full listing of which has been appended to these Minutes. Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to approve payment of the accounts payable for both the water and sewer departments, as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously adopted.

There was no comment under the first public portion.

Mr. Feltenberger presented the Operations Report for the preceding month, a full copy of which has been appended to these Minutes. The crew completed miscellaneous work orders such as cleaning out and straightening curb boxes, as well as vacuuming hydrant valve boxes as part of the hydrant replacement project. The crew also performed ongoing leak detection throughout the distribution system. In further discussion regarding leak

detection, Management reported that it plans to formulate a comprehensive training and implementation program aimed at increasing reliability. There was also discussion regarding potential equipment issues with the water meters that may be skewing leak detection results. Consequently, Management is exploring options for new residential and commercial meters, considering the age of the existing meters, expected service life of such equipment, coupled with certain recurring issues with the meters. Management will report on this issue at the next Board meeting. In addition, Mr. Feltenberger reported that the vac truck was utilized for jetting and vacuuming three sewer laterals. A 6" water main was repaired in the 3000 block of N. 5th Street highway. The crew cut-in a 4" valve at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Duke Street. A chlorine analyzer was installed at Well No. 1. Mr. Feltenberger reported that Wexcon completed the fire hydrant replacement project; all hydrants are now back in service. Lastly, sewer laterals were cleaned and checked, including nine (9) customer owned lines, eleven (11) traps, and two (2) MTA-owned lateral. The Operations Report then concluded.

Under the Engineer's Report, Ms. Lorah of SSM provided a formal report of the Authority's consulting engineer for work completed April 4, 2025 through May 1, 2025. Ms. Lorah referenced a nine (9) page report that SSM circulated to the Board in advance of the meeting. The report provides a narrative of the status of each of the projects of the Authority on which SSM is currently engaged.

With regard to the Laurel Run Creek water and sewer line repairs, Ms. Lorah reported that the project was advertised for public bid. Bids were opened on May 1, 2025. Of the four (4) bids, JNS Paving and Excavating Corp. was the apparent lowest bidder with a total bid price of \$78,300.00. Ms. Lorah advised that SSM checked the contractor's references and found no issues of concern. Mr. Hoffmaster made a motion to accept the apparent lowest bid of JNS Paving and Excavating Corp. in the amount of \$78,300.00, which motion was seconded by Mr. LaSota and unanimously adopted. SSM will proceed to issue the Notice of Award to the contractor for formulation of the requisite contractual documents. The Solicitor will review the same in advance of issuance of a Notice to Proceed.

Regarding DEP/EPA compliance issues, Ms. Lorah advised that Wexcon completed the 4 Log improvement work at Well No. 1, which is a treatment process that serves to remove contaminants. A construction completion certificate for this work was sent to DEP; SSM awaits the operations permit from DEP. Once permitting is received, Well No. 1 will be back online.

Ms. Lorah reported that the Laurelee Avenue water main replacement project was completed. Management will work with the Township to complete final paving.

With regard to the quarry property, Ms. Lorah advised that this past month, SSM completed a report regarding feasibility of the water supply. The Board was encouraged to review the same. Chairman Kelly directed SSM to review and update its file in preparation of a comprehensive cost estimate for drawing water from the quarry. The updated cost estimate should also include disposal and treatment costs.

Ms. Lorah confirmed that the one (1) application was submitted for the 2025 PA Small Water and Sewer Grant program. The application pertained to the Alsace Road water main replacement project, inclusive of proposed main work on McKnights Gap Road.

Regarding miscellaneous 2025 capital projects, Ms. Lorah reported that Wexcon completed replacement of twenty-five (25) fire hydrants throughout the Township. A change order was submitted totaling \$2,295.54, which arose out of a leaking riser. Management will process that change order request. Ms. Lorah confirmed that there were funds in reserve for that project, as the original plan was to replace a total of thirty (30) hydrants. Accordingly, to finalize this project and utilize allotted funds, Mr. Feltenberger was directed to review the list and determine the need for installation of new hydrants and/or replacement of existing hydrants.

Ms. Lorah confirmed that SSM is currently preparing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for submission.

With regard to the proposed Wawa and car wash development at the prior Manderbach Ford site on N. 5th Street Highway, Ms. Lorah advised that she was working with Management and the developer to possibly upsize and loop the system, which would provide increased pressure to that area of the Township. If the developer is amenable, the MTA will have to gain consent from the neighboring commercial developer and otherwise complete specs for that added work.

SSM is currently reviewing plans and a planning module for the proposed Rowe Tract apartment development.

With respect to the Laurel Run pump station, SSM submitted a proposal totaling \$34,700 for engineering services in connection with formulation of specifications for installation of a Motor Control Center (MCC), electrical upgrades, and permitting associated with such upgrades. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the proposal of SSM in the amount stated. Mr. LaSota seconded the Motion. The Motion unanimously passed.

There being no further active projects on which to report, and no additional questions posed by the Board, Ms. Lorah's report to the Board concluded. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to accept the Engineer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously approved.

Under the Solicitor's Report, Mr. Rothermel advised that he was continuing to work with Mr. Feltenberger to address accessibility issues to Mannerchor Tank. Mr. Feltenberger is in the process of securing a proposal from an excavating company to cut-in access to the tank on property owned by the MTA. Further updates are expected at the June 2025 Board meeting.

Mr. Wolfinger made a Motion to ratify approval of settlement of the lawsuit involving MMG. Mr. LaSota seconded that Motion, which passed unanimously.

No further questions were posed to Mr. Rothermel. The Solicitor's Report was approved by Motion of Mr. LaSota, seconded by Mr. Wolfinger and unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mr. Boehret, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes. The water division realized a net gain of \$12,337 over the past month, with \$27,196 in interest earned in the month of April. The sewer division realized a net gain over the past month of \$515,593, with a total of \$108,478 in interest earned in April. Regarding the sewer escrow account, total interest this past month yielded \$39,680. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to authorize transfer of \$4 million from the sewer operating account to PLGIT, approximately \$2.1 million of which is earmarked for payment to the City of Reading for sewer disposal costs under the IMA. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz. During discussion, Mr. Boehret confirmed that the PLGIT interest rate is currently 4.4%. The Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hoffmaster made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. That Motion was seconded by Mr. Mountz and unanimously adopted.

Under New Business:

Mr. Feltenberger advised that the Berks County Water and Sewer Association conference is scheduled for July 30, 2025. Management plans to attend, as well as operators.

Regarding the lead service inventory update, Mr. Feltenberger reported the following totals: Copper: 2,500; Galvanized: 178; Plastic: 200; and Lead: 0. Customer reporting has continued to dwindle. Management will work with SSM to formulate and send a reminder letter to those affected customers. Mr. Feltenberger also plans to include reminders in upcoming Township newsletters, and he will update the website. Ms. Lorah advised that SSM recently received a question from DCED in response to the MTA's grant submission for lead service line replacement. Ms. Lorah will keep the Board updated with regard to any further developments pertaining to that grant submittal.

Mr. LaSota made a Motion to approve payment to DRBC in the amount of \$33,283.79 for filing fees associated with the docket amendment submitted by Maidencreek Township Authority for the proposed water interconnection.

Mr. Hoffmaster confirmed that the Jim Dietrich Park farmhouse was reserved on July 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the MTA Board meeting. The public and crew will be invited to attend. Mr. Rothermel will advertise the meeting location change in the Reading Eagle.

Mr. Roush reported that two (2) individuals were interested in the part-time, seasonal property maintenance position. Mr. Roush will contact those individuals to further discuss the particulars of the position.

Mr. Mountz made a Motion to authorize the purchase of a 12" EZ-Valve at a total cost of \$12,740. The valve will enable the crew to isolate and blow off the main at Well No. 1. Mr. Wolfinger seconded the Motion, which was unanimously approved.

There was no comment under the second public portion.

Under Member and Staff Comments, Mr. Boehret indicated that the quarterly treasurer's report will be available for review at the June 2025 Board meeting. The report will provide data with respect to the budgeted versus actual figures.

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on Motion of Mr. Hoffmaster, seconded by Mr. Mountz, and unanimously approved.

The next regular meeting of the Board of the Muhlenberg Township Authority will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the main meeting room of the Muhlenberg Township Administration Building, 210 George Street, Reading, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania 19605.

 - VICE CHAIR
Title: _____