

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
STATE COLLEGE BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
January 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, Thursday, January 19, 2023 with Chair Person Jeffrey Kern presiding.

Special note: This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting.

PRESENT

Board Members: Chair Person Jeffrey Kern, Rachel Brennan, Nathaniel Warner, Gary Petersen, Emory Ensore, Andrea Murrell, Lauren McPhillips; Solicitor, Robert Mix; Treasurer, Dennis Hampton; Engineer, Mark Glenn; State College Borough Liaison, Brian Robbins; College Township Water Authority Liaison, Richard Harris; Ferguson Township Liaison, Ford Stryker; Harris Township Liaison, Mike Smith; Patton Township Liaison, Rich Schmidt; Executive Director, Brian Heiser; Director of Finance, Denise Smith; Communications and Projects Coordinator, Julia Shaffer; C-Net; Shad Hoover, CMT Labs; Dave Yoxthaimer, Aqualith Technologies, Joe Gaetano, Hartman Insurance; David Roberts, citizen; Wes Glebe, citizen.

Chair Person Kern introduced Andrea Murrell as the new Authority Board member. Ms. Murrell gave a brief background of her education and experience.

ELECTION OF 2023 OFFICERS

Officers for 2022:

Chairman:	Jeffrey R. Kern
Vice-Chairperson:	Rachel A. Brennan
Secretary:	Julia Shaffer
Assistant Secretary:	Katie McCaulley
Assistant Treasurer:	Denise Smith
Treasurer/Financial Consultant:	Dennis E. Hampton

Officers for 2023:

Chairman:	Jeffrey R. Kern
Vice-Chairperson:	Rachel A. Brennan
Secretary:	Julia Shaffer
Assistant Secretary:	Katie McCaulley
Assistant Treasurer:	Denise Smith
Treasurer/Financial Consultant:	Dennis E. Hampton

It was moved by Ensore, seconded by Petersen that the same officers for 2022 be reelected as the 2023 officers. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF 2023 CONSULTANTS

Consultants for 2022:

Solicitor:	Lee, Green & Reiter
Auditor:	Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
Engineer:	Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Inc.

It was moved by Ensore, seconded by Brennan that Lee, Green & Reiter be retained for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Ensore, seconded by Brennan that Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Inc. be retained for 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved out of the Finance committee that Boyer & Reiter be appointed as the auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

Consultants for 2023:

Solicitor:	Lee, Green & Reiter
Auditor:	Boyer & Reiter LLC
Engineer:	Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Inc.

Review of 2022 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chair Kern instructed committee members to review their current committees and other committees. If there are any requests to change committees, submit them to him directly and it will be considered. The new Board members were asked to submit their suggestions. Final 2023 committee appointments will take place at the February Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Brennan, seconded by Enscore that the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Mr. David Roberts, resident of Benner Township, expressed his concern over the PFAS issues in the Walnut Grove Development in Benner Township.

Mr. Wes Glebe, asked what the Authority's stance is in regards to the Walnut Grove water infrastructure project. Executive Director Heiser stated the Authority is actively participating in DEP's feasibility study to determine which public entity would be best suited.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENTS

It was moved by Enscore, seconded by Brennan that bill payments in the amount of \$1,767,645.02 be ratified as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BOARD FUND REQUISITIONS

It was moved by Murrell, seconded by Warner that the Board Reserve Fund requisitions in the amount of \$19,246.25 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF PENNVEST LOAN FUND DISTRIBUTION

It was moved by Enscore seconded by Brennan that the PennVest Loan Fund distributions in the amount of \$20,818.72 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ONE-INCH SHORT CONNECTION FEE

Executive Director Heiser reviewed the details of this connection fee and reasons for the requested increase. It was moved by Warner, seconded by Enscore that the request for the One Inch Short Connection fee be increased to \$2,750.00 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – No report.

Facilities, Operations and Planning Committee – No report.

Appeals – Executive Director Heiser stated there had been a request for an appeal last month but the customer has since withdrawn the request.

Public Relations – No report.

Source Water Protection – No report.

HR Evaluation – No report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Heiser welcomed Andrea Murrell to the Authority Board and Rich Schmidt as Patton Township Liaison. Mike Smith was reappointed as the Harris Township Liaison.

DISTRIBUTION- The sinkhole repair plan for the main break at Amblewood Way was distributed to the HOA President, Vice President, management company and Centre Region Code yesterday via e-mail. It was requested that it be distributed to owners and renters of buildings A and B of the complex. The tentative plan is to start repairing the sinkhole in relation to the waterline replacement on January 30th. A leak in Calder Alley between Allen and Fraser streets occurred Monday evening. Due to a large diameter gas main located within inches of the water main, the water was shut off that evening, and repairs started Tuesday morning. Everyone was back in water before noon Tuesday. The Borough still plans to bid the first phase of the Calder Project late winter, early spring for construction this year. This phase is from Fraser Street to McAllister Street as well as Kelly Alley; Humes Alley; Allen Street, between Calder and College Ave and McAllister Street. Fire hydrant rebuilding continues as weather permits.

PRODUCTION- The construction permit to discontinue fluoridation was received January 5, 2023. Required public notices will be sent out beginning this month, February and March. The notice is posted on the website, and will be published in the newspaper and other areas for public access. Fluoridation will cease March 31, 2023. The first round of UCMR 5 samples were collected, the sample collection process will continue throughout 2023. UCMR 5 samples for 29 PFAS substances and lithium. We were notified on Saturday of a fuel oil spill in Pine Grove Mills, the spill occurred January 10, 2023, reported Saturday January 14, 2023. The spill discharged into Beaver Branch Stream, which flows into the Spruce Creek basin. The ground water flow at the point of discharge flows back to the Slab Cabin basin. DEP is continuing to work on the situation. Dave Yoxtheimer, SCBWA consulting Hydrogeologist, explained the differences between the locations of the surface water and ground water divides. He suggested monitoring for the spill contaminants in the Slab Cabin groundwater flow. DEP is still developing a plan that may require us to sample at Well Field 7 for potential contaminants.

BILLING AND CUSTOMER SERVICE- The new customer portal went live earlier this month, giving customers more access to their accounts. It will allow them to set up payments, view current bills and billing history.

ADMINISTRATION- An introductory meeting to discuss the tentative audit schedule was conducted with staff. Supply issues continue to get worse, still waiting on several large ticket items from last year. Most of the items that would typically be scattered throughout the year have been ordered to avoid supply issues in regular operations.

MAJOR PROJECTS- Kennard Road- materials and service line installation bids are advertised and expect to award in February. There are four easements that remain unsigned. Nixon Kocher plant- At the job meeting yesterday it was determined that substantial completion will need to be pushed back a month, to March 9th.

LIASON'S REPORT

State College Borough Staff Liaison – No report.

Benner Township Water Authority Liaison– Not present.

Centre Regional Planning Commission- Not present.

College Township Water Authority Liaison – Mr. Harris reported a significant leak on the customer side of a meter. The leak rate was approximately 100,000 gallons a day for almost a week.

Ferguson Township Liaison – No report.

Halfmoon Township – Not present.

Harris Township Liaison – No report.

Patton Township Water Authority Liaison – No report. Mr. Schmidt asked if Park Forest Elementary school traffic was going to be impacted by the work on Amblewood Way. Executive Director Heiser stated traffic should not be impacted and crews would access the work area off of Galen Drive.

University Area Joint Authority Liaison – Not present.

CONSULTANTS REPORT

Solicitor – No report.

Engineer – Mr. Glenn stated the Calder Way project is a multi-utility project and the Borough did receive roughly two and a half million-dollar PennVest Loan to install larger diameter storm sewer, larger sanitary sewer and a corridor for underground electric, including fiber and hopefully the gas company will replace their mains as well. The restoration for the cartway will be asphalt pavement. There are three more phases after this one is complete.

Treasurer – Mr. Hampton provided a yearend report. Overall revenue exceeded budget. Overall expenses remained under budget even though underground locates exceeded the budget by 9%, maintenance of fire hydrants by 76%, and vehicle fuel by 16%.

Executive Session

At 4:44 p.m. Chair Kern called for the suspension of the regular meeting to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

At 5:40 p.m. the Board returned to its regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:41 p.m., it was moved by Enscore, seconded by Brennan that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.