

# Towanda Municipal Authority

December 15, 2025

## **Amended 1-19-2026**

The December meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Michael Walsh, Katrina Murray, Carmen Venezia, Roger Hatch, Joseph Snell, Mark Christini, Fred Johnson,

**ABSENT:** Eric West

**OTHERS:** Morgan Madden, Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C. via phone conference; Eric Casanave, Stiffler McGraw; Stacy Schoonover, Borough Manager; Chad Strickland, Superintendent; Brian Shura, Stiffler McGraw

**Visitors:** NONE

The December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes were approved as written, with a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Snell.

## **Bills:**

The bills were approved with a motion made by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Mr. Johnson, motion approved.

## **Water System:**

Mr. Strickland stated that we have a leak and we know it's a big leak in 2.3 miles. Mr. Strickland stated we finally found it. Mr. Strickland presented photos of the leak in a storm pipe. Mr. Strickland stated upstream of the pipe there is nothing. Downstream, that is completely Eilenberger water. Mr. Strickland stated that is 180 gallons per minute. We are currently only producing 240 so approximately 3/4 of it is dumping into the creek right now. Mr. Strickland stated that it's 12 feet deep underneath the pipe, Mr. Strickland stated he didn't believe this could be done in house. Mr. Strickland stated that the main is in the middle of 220 in the southbound lane but towards the yellow line. Mr. Johnson asked if it was pinpointed. Mr. Strickland stated that we have not because it is too deep and not enough pressure.

Mr. Strickland stated that we are trying to find leaks everywhere. We have currently found 3. They have all been service lines.

Mr. Strickland stated when we commissioned a plant back in 2021, our SCADA integrator at the time, Larry Lehman was trying to work through the bugs of communication. A majority of our water comes from Robert's, but the lag in communication from Pall water filters is so long that the plant over pressurizes. Once it over pressurizes you need to go in and hit a button manually to relieve the pressure. Mr. Strickland stated he has the SCADA guys looking into it, but it's been a problem since day one.

Mr. Casanave stated what Chad is telling is some of the limitations and the communication between the plant and Roberts. By the time the plant gets a signal to change the flows at Robert's there's a couple minute lag before it over pressurizes and then shuts down. They found a spot, flow wise that works until there is a little bit better communication.

Mr. Johnson asked how we could correct this quickly.

Mr. Strickland stated the first step having the SCADA guy see what they can do with AT&T communications to be able to speed that up. Next plan of action, I have frontier to get fiber to Robert's.

Mr. Casanave suggested to move the water line out from under Route 220. The plan involves relocating the line under the creek and then back up to the existing line.

Mr. Johnson asked what are we going to do? Mr. Strickland stated he and Mr. Casanave would go out and measure it. It may be only 300 feet instead of 500 feet. In any case it is not going to be a cheap project. Mr. Johnson stated it is right in PennDot's lane. Mr. Johnson stated he thought this needed to be done quickly. It is an emergency.

Mr. Walsh asked if we could get a proposal. Mr. Walsh stated it will be a tough time of year to get this done. Mr. Walsh stated we should move forward with getting the proposals. Mr. Walsh questioned whether there were anymore surprises. Mr. Strickland stated this is the one we have been looking for that I have been concerned about. We have located it but it's just in a very bad location.

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Mr. Casanave discussed PennDot District 3-0 Blanket agreement. Mr. Casanave what PennDot does from time to time is renew a road, they have a paving project. It is going to require raising and re-leveling a couple of your sewer manholes. Mr. Casanave stated the he thinks they are starting right now. Mr. Casanave stated they ask the authority to have its engineer prepare a specification and get involved and look at the plan to make sure everything. Before they give us online access to their plans, they need the authority to authorize us to do that. They have a project going on right now they want to do in 2027. Mr. Casanave proposed a blanket agreement stating that if PennDot needs any engineering on behalf of the authority, that we as your retained as you engineer, can just do it. Mr. Casanave stated what he has done is not really any different from our retainer agreement, but it specifically mentions working on PennDot jobs, that way when Penndot sees that they know they don't have to have you adopt a resolution, get approval, and then have approved by Harrisburg and wait 4 months just so we can log in.

Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve the PennDot District 3-0 Blanket Agreement. Mr. Venezia seconded.

## **Sewer System:**

Mr. Shura discussed the Lobar Inc. Payment application No. 3 for Contract No 2025-1 in the amount of \$152,029.58. and Master Mechanical Corporation Payment Application No. 2 for Contract No. 2025-2 in the amount of \$180.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve payments. Seconded by Mr. Venezia.

Mr. Shura discussed PennVEST Requisition No. 4 under Loan No. 77139 (Engineering) in the amount of \$11,130.75 and PennVEST Requisition No. 3 under Loan No. 71499 (Construction) in the amount of \$152,209.58.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve requisition no. 4 and No. 3. Mr. Venezia Seconded.

Mr. Shura discussed the Change order: Contract 2025-3, Change order 2: \$34,288.55. This change order was for the relocation of existing electrical service to the WWTP, installation of conduit the majority of the distance to the future ATAD generator location, and field work to confirm an existing unknown ductbank was not in service prior to excavation.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve the Change order. Mr. Hatch seconded.

Mr. Casanave discussed Mobile Solids Solutions Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of \$134,092.80 for Contract No. 2025-4, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Tank Cleaning and Approve Mobile Solids Solutions Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$76,143.60 for Contract No. 2025-4, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Tank Cleaning.

Mr. Snell made a motion to approve Mobile Solid Solutions Payments. Mr. Christini seconded.

## **Other business:**

Engineering Services Agreement-2026 was reviewed.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to enter into the 2026 agreement with Stiffler McGraw. Mr. Christini seconded.

TMA ordinances/ agreement:

Mr. Walsh stated that he met with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Madden and they went over TMA ordinance agreements. Mr. Walsh stated that they added Monroeton Boro and Towanda Township to the original ordinance. Mr. Walsh also stated that they had also discussed adding, and moving water and sewer regulations out of the Borough code and replacing it with TMA Rules and Regulations. Mr. Walsh stated the only other thing that he asked is that we have a separation agreement. The other thing is how do we distribute the costs.

Ms. Madden stated one point of clarification, we have a separation agreement So to the extent that that agreement doesn't adequately or accurately reflect what the cost sharing looks like, what the liability sharing looks like, etc, will create a new management agreement that does reflect those things for both parties to agree to, and then hopefully the Borough Council will agree to update their ordinance to

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incorporate those agreements by reference.

Mr. Christini stated one other detail is the number of members needs to be clarified, because for the four municipalities, it still says six. Mr. Walsh stated that this would be up to the council.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission-Consumptive Use Grants:

Mr. Casanave stated that Mr. Nagle, Mr. Vogel and Mr. Casanave attended a webinar offered by Susquehanna River Basin Commission had offered, which at its core is money that SRBC allocates toward reducing lost water and efficiently using the water you do have. Mr. Casanave stated a couple of years ago we had got one of these grants to m replace our water meters. Mr. Casanave stated we could do some kind of monitoring plan for Eilenberger that would include replacing our air release valves, all 23 of them a couple leak monitoring stations like we have in Leesway, Sawmill Rd and Paradise. This may give you a better idea where some of the problems are positioned in future grants if you had this in place Mr. Casanave stated they do not make their decisions until later next year. Mr. Casanave stated the application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup>. It will not be announced until June or July. Mr. Casanave stated he would have more information for next month.

## **Budget:**

Ms. Schoonover suggested we raise the bulk water rate. Ms. Schoonover stated the rate has not been changed since 2014. Mr. Strickland stated the closest person selling bulk water was Canton and they are at \$12.00 but looking to raise it to \$14.00. Ms. Schoonover stated the other increase she was looking at was Sludge. There were some issues so we shut down a lot of trucks from bringing in sludge. Ms. Schoonover stated that she did a 3-year average. Right now, we are at .07 cents. She would like to increase this. The Board decided to increase Sludge to .08 cents and increase Muffin Monster to .09 cents.

Ms. Schoonover stated with us raising the other 2 items, she didn't believe we needed to raise rates to affect customers.

Mr. Christini made a motion to accept Ms. Schoonover's rate changes for sludge and Muffin Monster and to keep other rates the same Mr. Johnson seconded.

Mr. Walsh stated everything looks right on budget other than high engineering costs, and we should be able to back those out.

Mr. Johnson had questions about the financials and discussed them with the Board

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Murray made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Snell. Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Anita Gaspar*  
Recording Secretary