

Towanda Municipal Authority

February 23, 2026

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

PRESENT: Michael Walsh, Carmen Venezia, Roger Hatch, Mark Christini, Fred Johnson, Katrina Murray.

ABSENT: Eric West, Joseph Snell

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

Visitors: NONE

The January 19th, 2026 meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Christini.

Bills:

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

Water System:

Mr. Casanave discussed Eilenberger Spring Line emergency repairs. Mr. Casanave stated the repair was a success. Mr. Strickland stated it definitely was a success. Mr. Strickland stated we were losing 180 gallons a minute. Mr. Strickland stated we are currently on line, looks like we are currently losing 20 gallons a minute. Mr. Johnson asked if the pressure reducing valve on Brocktown was sustaining. Mr. Strickland stated yes, that it is working/sustaining.

There was a brief discussion on putting in monitoring points.

Mr. Casanave discussed the payment change in paying Sikora Brothers. The original quote was for \$182,788.00. Mr. Casanave stated that we found a mistake they made and the true number that will need to be voted on is \$159,483.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to pay Sikora Brothers \$159,483.00. Mr. Christini seconded the motion.

Mr. Casanave discussed SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant Application. Mr. Casanave stated the application was submitted by the deadline. The grant request was \$410,025.00 the match was a 20% match. The TMA match would be \$82,066.00 for a total project cost of \$492,391.00. Mr. Casanave stated the final scope includes replacing 13 air release valves and manholes, buying and using GIS equipment to map the 14-mile length of the line in Diamond Maps, adding four insertion meters and manholes along the line to join the existing 3 meters, replacing the pressure sustaining valve at the Brocktown, and installing 31 new residential water meters capable of recording and measuring both flow and pressure, so the pressures at many more spots along the line can be monitored.

Mr. Casanave stated the decisions on the grant award are expected in July. Mr. Casanave stated that he believed they would give you three years to spend it.

Mr. Casanave stated that TMA was notified a couple weeks ago of \$300,00.00 award under the PA Small Water and Sewer program for the repair of the Eilenberger Spring Line near the property at 2444 US Route 220. Mr. Casanave stated about half this work has already been done by TMA. Mr. Casanave stated the remainder of the funds could be used to fund the remainder of the repair. Mr. Walsh questioned whether the funds could be used anywhere on that line? Mr. Casanave and Mr. Strickland stated it would have to be at the location where it was applied for. Mr. Hatch questioned if the funds could pay for invoices that had not yet been paid for. Mr. Casanave stated it could not be retroactive, because it has to come from the invoices incurred after the signing of the grant and only at the grant location.

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Sewer System:

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the building at the sewer plant. Mr. Casanave and Mr. Strickland gave the update.

The Board discussed the change order. This change order is for additional excavation below the depth indicated in the contract drawings that was required for the Headworks Building due to unsuitable subgrade material. This change order is for the actual time and materials required to excavate to suitable subgrade material and place structural flowable fill up to the contractual limit of excavation. Mr. Hatch wanted to know if we are verifying quantities and verifying hours etc.. Mr. Casanave stated that this was being done. Mr. Casanave reviewed the process of the verification. Mr. Christini wanted to know if there was an inspector there at all times. Mr. Casanave stated that yes there is.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Lobar, Inc. Payment Application No. 5 in the amount of \$187,285.50. Mr. Venezia seconded the motion.

Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve Master Mechanical Corporation Payment Application No. 4 in the amount of \$21,482.10. Mr. Christini seconded the motion

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve Urban Electrical Contractors, Inc. Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$31,759.69. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. Christini made a motion to approve Requisition No. 6 for PennVEST Loan No. ME 77139 (Professional Services) in the amount of \$14,598.90. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Requisition No. 5 for PennVEST Loan No. 74199 (Construction) in the amount of \$240,527.29. Mr. Hatch seconded the motion.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve Contract 2025-1, Change Order 2 in the amount of \$75,910.92. Mr. Christini seconded the motion.

Mr. Casanave discussed the WWTP tank cleaning project. Mr. Casanave stated that MSS verbally represented to our treatment plant operators that they felt they were done. The only problem with that is the bottom of the East tank still had a day and a half of shoveling and clean up and wash down work to do. Mr. Casanave stated that he contacted the owner of the company. The owner stated he did not know why this guy said that, but they do have other jobs they need to move on to. Mr. Casanave stated the bottom line is there is a couple of days of someone's work left to empty the bottom of the East tank. Mr. Casanave stated that they said that they had to. Mr. Casanave explained to the board what the options were for what happens when a contractor does this Mr. Casanave stated you have a pay application in front of you which I am still going to recommend you approve as it is for legitimate work that they did through the end of January before all this happened, but you are also holding on them \$44,000.00 in retained funds. If Towanda has to finish this by hand, we are going to track the costs and we are going to take it off that last bit that we owe them.

Ms. Morgan stated to get it in writing and make sure the writing includes that any work that we pay for is going to be deducted from the retainage. Mr. Casanave will be in touch with Ms. Madden to make sure the wording is correct.

Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve Mobile Solids Solutions, Inc. Payment Application No. 5 in the amount of \$60,114.60. This application covers work through January 30, 2026, which is about 2 loads shy of finishing the East Tank (and completing the project). Mr. Venezia seconded the motion

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Other business:

The Board went into executive session at 6:04 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 6:24

Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. Ms. Murray seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Gaspar
Recording Secretary