

Towanda Municipal Authority

April 20th, 2026

The April meeting of the Towanda Municipal Authority was called to order by Mr. Walsh at 5:01 p.m.

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

ABSENT:

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

Visitors: NONE

Minutes:

The March 16th, 2026 meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Snell.

The April 13th 2026 special meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Mr. Venezia, seconded by Mr. Christini.

Bills:

The bills were approved with a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Murray, motion approved. Mr. Snell stated he would like to talk with Ms. McGuire to get a better understanding of the new system.

Executive session:

The Board went into executive session at 5:03 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 5:21 PM.

Mr. Walsh stated the Board had a discussion on Property Acquisition.

Regular Business:

Ms. Schoonover gave an update on the transition on the new software. The Board had a discussion on the fee's associated with the Wipp payments. Ms. Schoonover and Mr. Strickland stated that everyone with in the office is working hard to make this transition smooth.

Water System:

Sewer System:

Wastewater Plant Tank Cleaning Project.

Mr. Casanave stated the Wastewater Plant Tank Cleaning Project is completed and that the past couple of weeks have been really good operationally. Mr. Casanave asked for the Board approval on the Change Order No. 1. Mr. Casanave explained the deductions and costs associated with the project, including hauling and dumping fees.

Mr. Strickland stated we will attempt to do this in house every year now that we are much better prepared.

Mr. Hatch made a motion to approve Mobile Solids Solutions Payment Application No. 6 in the amount of \$63,057.28. Mr. Christini seconded the motion.

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Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 (FINAL) reflecting a contract price increase of \$314,216.08, which balances the final as-hauled quantities for the project. Mr. Venezia seconded the motion.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Project:

Mr. Shura provided an update on the Water Treatment Plant Project, detailing the progress made and the challenges faced. Mr. Shura stated the project has moved quickly, with concrete pours and masonry block underway.

Mr. Walsh asked Mr. Shura if they were tracking the loan or grant. Mr. Shura discussed the tracking of loans and grants, and the need for reimbursement requests.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve Payment Application No. 7 for Lobar, Inc. Contract No. 2025-1 in the amount of \$331,610.22. Mr. Snell seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve PennVEST Requisition No. 8 for ME No. 77139 (Professional Services) in the amount of \$33,835.75. Mr. Snell seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve PennVEST Requisition No. 7 for ME No. 71499 (Construction) in the amount of \$331,610.22. Mr. Hatch seconded the motion.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to approve Contract No. 2025-1, Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$1,412.84 for changing the color of the exterior split face block. Mr. Christini seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Contract No. 2025-1, Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$22,251.16, for the excavation and removal of the abandoned chlorine contact tanks in the excavation for the headworks building. Mr. Howard seconded the motion.

Mr. Shura discussed the additional cost associated with excavation and shoring, including the removal of chlorine contact tanks.

Mr. Johnson stated his concerns with paying for change orders.

Mr. Hatch expressed his concerns about the transparency and accuracy of the associated costs. Mr. Hatch advised Mr. Shura to include a contingency amount in the budget to help cover any additional or unforeseen expenses. Mr. Shura mentioned the need for more Geotech borings to avoid similar issues in the future. Mr. Shura explained the challenges of estimating costs and the importance of carrying a contingency fund.

Mr. Shura outlined the plan for the next phase of the project, including the need for a pre application meeting with DEP and PennVest.

The Board discussed the potential impact of royalty money on future financial evaluations and the need for strategic financial planning.

Adjournment

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm. Ms. Murray seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita Gaspar
Recording Secretary