

Sykesville Area Water and Sewer Authority Special Meeting 1/20/25

Chairman Rick Fike called a meeting of the Sykesville Area Water and Sewer to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those answering roll call were Rick Fike (Chairman), John Sedor (Vice Chairman), Dave Reiter, and Don Zimmerman. Absent was Gabriel "Butch" Sweka.

Visitor present were Nathan Alvetro, Don Reid, Travis Long, Jessica ZaJac, and Brian Williams (Foreman).

A motion to approve minutes for July 15, 2024, was made by Dave Reiter and seconded by John Sedor. Motion carried.

Mr. Alvetro was present to discuss certain issues about the tap installed on Memorial Park Road for his new house. Chairman Fike stated that the Authority understands that the tap was installed before the road was paved which saved the road from being dug up in the future, however, because it is now an existing tap the Authority believes that Mr. Alvetro should be charged the minimum monthly fee of \$35. Both Mr. Alvetro and Foreman Williams informed that the tap is not hooked into the sewer system and that the Borough agreed for the Borough Crew to install the tap before the road was paved to avoid digging it up in the future. Council also agreed to allow Mr. Alvetro to pay the tap fees (\$2,000 each) and to start the billing process when he is hooked into Sykesville's water and sewer systems. Secretary Neale informed the Authority that residents who are paying the \$35 minimum are hooked into the system (monthly fee stops if capped), Mr. Alvetro is not yet hooked in but once he is, he will be billed accordingly. Mr. Alvetro projects that he will be hooked in by August 2025. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Sedor and seconded by Reiter to allow Nathan Alvetro to pay his tap fees and to start the monthly billing once he is hooked into the water and sewer system. Motion carried.

Travis Long informed that he/his team performed a rate evaluation for Sykesville's water and sewer customers. He informed that the Authority is not in the "red", however, he would fully support any increases made and recommended to increase the rates annually around this time. Increasing the rates every year will help with costs and lower the chances of a bigger increase. Fike informed Mr.

Long that the water last increased in 2016, however, that \$1 increase was to help pay for the PennVest waterline project from DuBois. Alvetro informed that there will be a consolidation in the near future with Sandy Township and the City of DuBois which may affect Sykesville's rates.

Mr. Long informed that the Authority could legally (JHA recommends) increase the tap fees (new connection) for the water (\$4,128) and sewer (\$4,192). This covers the capacity for what is in the line at the plants and the distribution components. Currently new connections prices for the water and sewer are \$2,000 each.

A motion was made by Sedor and seconded by Zimmerman to increase Winslow Township and Troutville Borough's sewer rates from \$4.49/1,000 gal. to \$6.50/1,000 gal. Motion carried. Mr. Long stated that it equates to about 4% a year based on an 8 year time period to follow inflation (if questions are asked). Secretary Neale informed that she would discuss the process of this increase with Solicitor Gianvito (send out letters, resolution, etc.).

Sedor made a statement that when Council spends any money on equipment, grants, etc. out of the water and sewer accounts, the Authority needs to be notified of a breakdown of the costs and needs to be notified of borrowing of monies and when the money is reimbursed back to the accounts. Mr. Long informed that a schedule could be presented of borrowed money (grant projects), that way the Authority knows what is being spent and when the money will be reimbursed to said account(s). For example, JHA engineering fees (around \$350,000) are paid from the Sludge Fund (100% refundable from PennVest). Mr. Long informed that the Sludge Fund account should be fully reimbursed April/May (PennVest should reimburse by then). A motion was made by Sedor and seconded by Zimmerman to meet with Council in discussing this matter.

Mr. Long informed the Authority that JHA are still actively looking at any and all grants that become available for upgrading the water and sewer lines.

Mr. Long informed that DEP has notified that there have been complaints of algae by the bridge in Troutville/Stump Creek (nutrient loadings). He informed that the algae are not coming from the plant, its agricultural. The farmers are overloading the corn fields which have beaver dams holding everything. JHA started additional monitoring to protect the Borough by monitoring upstream of the wastewater

treatment plant outfall, monitoring the plant, monitoring downstream (same distance as upstream), and monitoring below the bridge. The results will determine where the problem is coming from.

Mr. Long informed that currently when something gets flushed (shouldn't be), it goes to the head of the plant and gets "ground up" through the comminutor which then goes into the lagoons. There is a new technology that scans these unwanted debris being flushed, captures the substance then places into a garbage can (avoids unwanted substances and taking up space in the lagoons). Mr. Long recommended looking further into this new technology and stated that it would cost around \$100,000. On the back side of the plant, currently chlorine is being used as a disinfectant which goes through the contact tank. Chlorine is up and down based on concentration and temperatures (performance of plant). DEP is recommending going UV rather than using chemicals (100,000-\$150,000 to upgrade). Fike questioned if there have been inspections of the liners recently, Mr. Long stated that they were inspected two years ago and will have to be inspected again this year. There are grants available (\$100 application fees).

Sedor asked questions on the grant process, "can we apply a little at a time". Long responded yes and informed depending on the grant (if 100% funded) JHA will advise doing projects in stages rather than completing an entire area.

Fike questioned when digging up roads for water/sewer lines, could installing new sidewalks be part of the grant applied for. Mr. Long informed that he will look further into this when applying for grants in the future.

Sedor raised questions on whether the upcoming stormwater project(s) would help with the flooding in his yard. Long confirmed that it would and if extra drainage (French drains) needs added, that would be a simple modification. Long stated that any area that has this issue, Foreman Williams/Office should be notified so that the information can be forwarded to him. Sedor asked if the drainage will be corrected under the bridge by the railroad as it is going upstream and stated that there are dips from the sewer lines in various places around town (paving settlement). Long informed that the drainage will be corrected under the bridge to flow downward and stated that the Authority will have the opportunity to meet with the inspector to review details.

Zimmerman asked how many more years the Borough will have the water tank. Long answered "easily 30 years". Alvetro informed that the tank was just inspected this year.

Fike requested that Long inspect the plant (pumps, roof, etc.) to see what needs further maintenance (if any).

Brian Williams and Michael Gamble are further studying in obtaining water and sewer licensing. Sedor informed that Williams and Gamble were permitted to review/look at DuBois system(s).

A motion was made by Sedor and seconded by Reiter to approve and adopt "*A RESOLUTION OF SYKESVILLE BOROUGH ELIMINATING REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT FEES ON WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS AND REPLACING THEM WITH A ONE-TIME NON-REFUNDABLE FEE*". Motion carried. Secretary Neale informed the Authority that the unclaimed/unknown deposits will have to be turned over to the state and stated that the interest accumulated will be split between the Water and Sewer Accounts.

Fike presented a letter to the Authority from Don Zimmerman resigning his position on the Water and Sewer Authority. Secretary Neale will advertise the position.

After a brief discussion, the Authority decided to keep the water and sewer rates the same for Sykesville's residential customers. The Authority will revisit this topic at the July 2025 meeting.

The Authority also decided to keep Sandy Township's sewer rates the same and Winslow Township's water rates the same. This will be further reviewed at the next Authority meeting.

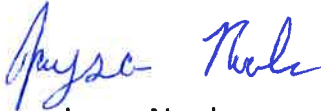
A profit and loss (July-December 2024) was presented to the Authority for the Water, Sewer, Sludge Removal, Capital Improvement, Security Deposit, and PennVest accounts.

Sykesville, Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy's daily water and sewer flows (July-December 2024) were presented to the Authority for their review. Along with the flows, also presented were Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy's monthly water and sewer bills (July-December).

The next Water and Sewer Authority Meeting will be on Monday, July 21st at 6:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Dave Reiter and seconded by Don Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaysa Neale
Borough Secretary

