

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
AUTHORITY BOARD**

**Minutes of the meeting held on August 26, 2025**

A meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Authority Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Blain on the above date at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center located at 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Blain, were David Ramsey, Allen McCormack, Timothy Pramik, Yuhanna Njeim, Laura Kurtz, and Donald E. Enders, Jr. Also, in attendance were, William Weaver Sewer Director/Authority Liaison, Larry Stepansky, Morgan M. Madden, Solicitor, Melissa Smith, GHD, Alton Whittle, GHD, Jason Hinz, HRG and Bruce Hulshizer, HRG.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. McCormack led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Pramik motioned to approve minutes of the May 27, 2025, meeting. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and the vote was unanimous.

**Public Comment**

James and Cheryl Gordon, 121 Oak Park Circle, addressed the Board regarding the Colonial Park Drainage Improvement Project. The Gordons expressed concern about unclean stormwater flooding the area, water damage to their property and yard, change in project timeline and communication, and questioned why the project was delayed, why residents were not notified, and how the previously allotted funds were being used. They provided the Board with a packet of information, emails, and supporting documentation related to the project.

Annette Blair, Sherman Street, addressed the Board regarding ongoing storm drainage issues affecting her property and yard making it unusable.

Ms. Blair stated that there is no storm drainage system in her area and that she has been in contact with the Public Works and Sewer Departments since 2020. Township staff visited the site in 2024. She noted that she retained legal counsel after not receiving a response from the Township and requested an immediate solution to address the issue.

Sharon Orfanelli, 6010 Catherine Street and Sherman Street, stated that her mother had a trailer at the corner of Crosby and Catherine since 1979, which she replaced with a home in 2017. She reported worsening drainage issues since that time, noting that flooding now occurs after storms, primarily from runoff coming from the nearby strip mall. She explained that although a black curb was installed in front of her home to deter water, she continues to get water under her cement slab foundation.

Ms. Orfanelli said she contacted Mr. Weaver, who inspected the area. She described a pole across the street where water should flow underground toward a swale on Sherman Street, but it is not functioning properly.

April Hunt, 1012 Balthaser Street, stated that she has lived in her home for 35 years and previously maintained her property with a railroad tie retaining wall that helped prevent water runoff. She explained that since recent work was done by Doli, her property has significantly eroded—there is now a two-foot gully where she can no longer mow or maintain the area, and her yard has been washed back approximately three feet.

Ms. Hunt described how the drainage problems have worsened to the point that she cannot access parts of her yard. She reported persistent standing water, mosquito issues, and a strong odor resembling sewage. She urged the Township to revisit the site, stating the conditions are not safe or sanitary and that residents can no longer maintain their properties due to the extent of the erosion.

Ryan Gonder, 1007 Sherman Street, stated that the drainage problem affects his property as well as every home along the block. He explained that water from the street and the nearby strip mall flows through a single culvert pipe, which causes runoff to travel across his and neighboring properties. Mr. Gonder said the excess water has nowhere to go, leading to ongoing flooding and foundation concerns. He noted that the issue continues to worsen and urged the Township to take corrective action soon.

Mr. Blain directed Mr. Weaver and Mr. Stepansky to assess the situation and report back with any potential solutions that could be addressed from a Township perspective.

#### **Board Member Comments'**

Mr. Blain extended a welcome to the newly appointed members of the Authority Board.

#### **General Authority**

##### **Business**

##### **Independent Auditors Report And 2023/24 Authority Financial Statements**

Mr. Weaver reported that the Annual Audit has been completed. The Finance Manager has submitted the required report to DCED and advertised the Concise Financial Statement. He noted that page 43 of the report provides details on the Township's total debt.

Mr. McCormack made a motion to approve the Auditors Report And 2023/24 Authority Financial Statements. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

#### **Sanitary Sewer Fund** **New Business**

##### **Presentation by PFM for the 2025 Bond Issue**

Zach Williard and Karli Keisling of PFM Financial Advisors LLC provided an overview of the proposed Bond Issue.

Mr. Williard reported that the bond issue carries an interest rate between 4.0% and 4.5%, with a 30-year repayment term and tax-exempt loan proceeds. The goal is to close the financing before November 2025. The Township intends to borrow \$5 million in net proceeds, while the resolution reflects a higher not-to-exceed amount of \$7.8 million.

Ms. Keisling reviewed the total annual debt service and explained that the bond structure includes a 25-year wrap term, like the 2024 Bond Issuance, with the distinction that this issue will be bank-qualified and include a five-year call date, allowing for potential refinancing after five years. A Preliminary Financing Schedule outlining the proposed timeline was also presented for the Board's review.

Resolution 25-02; Authorizing the Bond Issue Subsidy Agreement

Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve Resolution 25-02, which authorizes the Bond Issue Subsidy Agreement. Mr. Pramik seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

Resolution 25-03; Authorizing the Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT

Mr. Enders made a motion to approve Resolution 25-03, which authorizes the Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Njeim seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

Draft 2026 Sanitary Sewer Budget and Sewer Rate Model

Mr. Weaver presented the Sanitary Sewer Budget and Sewer Rate Model, highlighting revenues in the amount of \$19,195,556.00 and operating expenses in the amount of \$20,472,813.00. The goal is to maintain rate increases at 3% and the model indicates a 3% rate increase will be needed next year, which equates to approximately a \$5 increase per customer.

Mr. Blain commented that there is still time to review and adjust the numbers prior to finalizing the budget, and that the rate increase remains preliminary at this stage.

Mr. Blain stated that the decision made 20 years ago not to pursue storage but instead to focus on I&I removal and line replacements is now paying off. He explained that this long-term investment has significantly reduced inflow and infiltration in the system, enabling the Township to meet state mandates. As a result, the Authority can now slow down some of the design and sewer replacement work, which will allow for better budget management. The proposed 2026 Authority Budget would be presented to the Authority Board at the November 25, 2025, meeting.

### **Township Reports**

#### Review of Presentation to DEP/Swatara for the Second Consent Decree Annual Meeting held 7/29/25

Alton Whittle of GHD stated that most of the information had already been presented in his prior report and that no new updates were included, but he wanted to follow up on the July 29, 2025, meeting with PA DEP. He added to Mr. Blain's earlier comments by noting that when the consent decree was first established, the projected budget required a \$8 annual rate increase. However, due to the work completed by staff and the effectiveness of the overall program, the Township has remained well below that projection and even went three years without a rate increase.

Mr. Whittle reported that PA DEP was very pleased with the Township's I&I removal efforts and stated they are using the program as a template for other municipalities. DEP also agreed that the Township is ahead of schedule, which he emphasized was a significant accomplishment for staff. He said the meeting included discussion of the Beaver Creek Corrective Action Plan (CAP), one of the major items under review. PA DEP was generally in agreement with the updated CAP and plans to complete its review and issue a final response. Historically, DEP has treated the CAP as the Township's plan to develop but retains responsibility for the final approval.

Mr. Whittle added that there was discussion about the possibility of ending the consent decree earlier than the current 2033 end date. Because most major milestones have already been completed, PA DEP will review the matter with its legal department, and the Authority will do the same, to determine whether an early release is feasible. He noted that the upcoming Beaver Creek project is expected to resolve the remaining items.

Mr. Whittle noted that there is also a separate Swatara Settlement Agreement related to flow sent to Swatara and potential growth restrictions. He stated that current conditions appear favorable, and both parties are reviewing whether the capacity requirements have been met and if the Township may be released from that agreement as well. He added that PA DEP indicated they plan to use the Township's report to support CRW's long-term consent plan, demonstrating that contributing municipalities have met their obligations. This may help prevent any additional I&I removal requirements from being imposed on the Township as part of CRW's program.

Mr. Blain thanked Mr. Whittle and the GHD staff for their continued work and support.

#### Update on Current Construction Projects

Mr. Weaver noted that Mr. Stepansky would provide an update on the construction projects under the Township Reports.

#### **Engineer's Report**

Melissa Smith reviewed the ongoing construction projects, noting that BC/7 has been completed, and she reviewed items remaining on the punch list. She reported that the striping on Devonshire Heights Road is complete, and an ADA ramp in that area will need to be reconfigured due to drainage issues related to its original construction. She stated that this project is essentially finished, and staff are working to close it out. The PC2 Trunk Line Project is also substantially complete, with some yard restoration remaining and a portion of external repair

lining still outstanding. The Township will be working with PAC to close out that project as well.

Ms. Smith noted that the current emergency repairs contract expires in November, and staff are preparing a new contract to ensure coverage for any emergency work beyond the capability of Township crews. She also reported that PennDOT-related coordination was discussed.

### **Stormwater Fund**

#### **Business**

##### Presentation by HRG for the Stormwater Asset Management Plan

Bruce Hulshizer, HRG, provided a high-level overview of the proposed Stormwater Asset Management Plan, noting that stormwater management is becoming the new focus area like sanitary sewer management and stressed the need for a comprehensive asset management program over the next ten years.

Mr. Blain noted that the Authority Board has previously discussed developing an asset management plan and stated that now is an appropriate time to revisit this effort. He stressed the need to establish a clear strategy for reviewing and managing Township assets in the coming years.

Mr. Weaver commented that the Township has experienced significant success in managing the sanitary sewer system but currently lacks a formal plan for stormwater.

Jason Hinz, HRG, noting that stormwater project selection has historically focused on projects too large for Public Works to handle. Once the Authority assumed responsibility for the stormwater system, the approach became more strategic, with projects largely coordinated alongside the sanitary sewer work required under the consent decree.

Mr. Hinz stated that as those projects begin to wind down, the timing is appropriate to take a holistic look at the entire system, as Mr. Blain suggested, and develop a long-term plan for future project implementation. That now is an appropriate time to develop such a plan.

Mr. Hinz noted that the work falls under the existing retainer agreement with HRG.

Draft 2026 Stormwater Budget and Stormwater Fee Rate Model

Mr. Weaver presented the Stormwater Budget and Stormwater Fee Rate Model. Bruce Hulshizer and HRG will take over the stormwater rate table. There is no rate increase projected for the next three (3) years.

Mr. Weaver also provided an overview of the 2026 Budget, noting that operating revenues are projected at \$3,750,141.00 and expenditures are \$3,560,150.00. He reported that the capital reserve revenues were \$141,744.00, and expenditures were \$3,507,356.00.

Mr. Weaver presented the stormwater rate model developed by GHD, explaining that stormwater data had been imported into the rate table to create the model. This information has been shared with HRG, whose financial team will take over the model in 2026 as part of the broader asset management plan. The 10-year plan will be integrated in the same manner used for the sewer system. He noted that the current model does not project any rate increases for the next several years because the Township has met its MS4 obligations and no MS4 costs are anticipated over the next five years. This period will allow time for asset management planning and for HRG to assume management of the rate model and future revenue requirements over the next 5–10 years.

Mr. Blain noted that the stormwater budget will be coming back before the Authority Board for final approval in November.

## **Township Reports**

### Update on DEP JPRP MS4 and storm sewer replacement projects

Mr. Weaver announced that he was approached by the editor of PEMA's Authority Magazine to feature the Township's stormwater MS4 program. He noted that, as part of the joint pollution reduction plan with Swatara and Susquehanna Townships, he co-authored an article that was published in the magazine's August issue.

Mr. Weaver reported that the projects HRG is designing have been coordinated with staff to a significant extent. He noted that the Township holds monthly meetings with HRG, as well as quarterly task meetings, due to the increasing demands of stormwater management. As Mr. Hulshizer previously stated, stormwater is becoming comparable in complexity to the sanitary sewer system and staffing and resource needs for stormwater have grown beyond what he originally anticipated.

Mr. Stepansky reported that the paving project discussed last quarter was completed in July, and the 2025 paving project will begin soon. Following the paving work, staff retrofitted a stormwater basin behind the Public Works campus using grant funding. This upgrade brings the basin up to current MS4 standards and provides compliance credit for the Township. He added that crews are currently working on the Lancaster Avenue section of the Clermont project, which is expected to be completed by late September or early October. Once finished, Public Works will conclude its work on the Clermont project.

Mr. Weaver added that the Public Works Basin project was funded by a grant. He will coordinate with Mr. Stepansky and the Public Works staff, with HRG assisting in preparing the reimbursement request for the project expenses.

Mr. Blain and McCormack expressed thanks and commendations to Mr. Weaver and the staff for their good work.

### **Engineer's Report**

Jason Hinz, HRG, provided an update on the Engineer's Report. He noted that the MS4 annual reports are due at the end of September, and the team has been working with Larry Stepansky to ensure a complete submission ahead of the deadline. He highlighted ongoing projects, including the Melbourne Drive storm sewer replacement in the Forest Hills neighborhood, which is under design, and the PC3 project, with hopes that Doli can complete most of the work this year, though some restoration may carry into next year.

Mr. Hinz also reported that the Friendship YMCA Stormwater Basin Water Quality Retrofit Project is undergoing a substantial completion inspection tomorrow, which will remove it from the active project list by November. He provided an update on the US Army Corps of Engineers storm sewer inventory and condition assessment program, noting that while the total project cost is about \$225,000, only 20% of the work has been turned over to date, and the Authority is working to recoup unrecovered costs.

Lastly, Mr. Hinz recognized his colleague, Natin Briner, for her contributions to the design of many of these projects, alongside Mr. Hulshizer.

Mr. Weaver reported that the next major project will be in front of the Township building next year. The Colonial Park Phase C design is nearing completion, but because it is a federal contract, HRG advised that the stormwater work cannot be incorporated into the pedestrian project funded by the Township's grant. Consequently, the stormwater work will need to be completed beforehand, and the Township is fast-tracking this effort.

Mr. Weaver reported that a grant application for \$500,000 has been submitted, with results expected from February through April of next year. HRG will prepare the bid early in the year so that work can begin promptly once the grant is approved. Mr. Weaver noted that there will be some community disruption directly in front of the Township building, but the stormwater project is big and represents the next significant item on HRG's project list.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Blain announced that the next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2025.

Mr. Ramsey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Blain adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Smith  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

Secretary