

Special Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority
377 Cedarcrest Drive
Duncansville, PA 16635

Thursday, March 19, 2026

The Special Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Jacob Wible.

In attendance were 5 Authority Members as follows: Jacob Wible, Edward Silveti, Robin Cadwallader, Rodney Patterson, and Ronald Sommer.

Also in attendance were Tim M^cGaw, Manager; Katie M^cGaw, Administrative Assistant; and Dave Cunningham, Engineer.

VISITORS:

Paul Amigh, Supervisor	Dodie Amigh, Planning Commission
Luke Helsel, BCSAC	Trina Illig, Grants Coordinator
Jordan Mansberger, WTAJ	Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror

Betty Robertson	Dick Weber	Judy Weber
August Robertson	Jamie Krupka	David Robertson
Joe Krupka	Dorothy Cavalet	Cathy Wyles
Alex Smith	Nicole Smith	Josh Darnell
Karma Darnell	Rob Malone	Rich Heininger
Connie Heininger	Michael Rowling	Tim Hammel
Jim Maisel	Felicia Field	Dave Robertson

Jacob welcomed the visitors and stated the purpose of tonight's meeting was to discuss the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project and to dispel some misconceptions. The Township of Blair adopts the Act 537 Plan that is prepared by Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority's (BTWSA) engineers based upon information received from the Sewage Enforcement Officer. The Act 537 Plan indicates that some homes along Reservoir Road have on lot disposal systems (OLDS) that are out of compliance. BTWSA is the entity responsible for establishing/maintaining the public water and wastewater infrastructure within Blair Township. BTWSA can only offer one solution to remediate out-of-compliance OLDS, that being a wastewater collection system. The other alternative is that each property owner would be responsible for bringing their OLDS into compliance, through the direction of Luke Helsel, Sewage Enforcement Officer, and Blair Township. Luke Helsel explained that he would be mandated to investigate each residences' OLDS and if any malfunctions are found then the homeowner would have 30 days to correct the problem. Luke also stated that the DEP is not mandating the Reservoir Road project at this time, however, if the project falls through, he is certain that the DEP will force the BTWSA to bring sanitary sewer to Reservoir Road.

Jacob called upon Dave Cunningham of Keller Engineers to explain the funding challenges BTWSA is facing regarding the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. Dave explained that he was recently informed that the \$2.51 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (also referred to as COVID-19 Stimulus money) has an expiration

of September 2026, a deadline that cannot be extended except through an act of Congress. Because of this, BTWSA made a request to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for an "expansion of the scope" so we could apply the ARPA money to wastewater rehab work on our current system in addition to Reservoir Road. This money could be applied to the Stowell Farm Wastewater Interceptor and to the replacement of wastewater lines in the Applewood section of Penn Farms. BTWSA has also asked if they could purchase new pumps for our three Pump Stations, which have pumps that are 26 years old and older.

At this point, Chairman Wible asked Dave, "when did BTWSA apply for the ARPA money," to which Dave replied that BTWSA applied for the funds in 2022, and received word at the end of 2023 that we had been awarded \$2.51 million, with a deadline of physical expenditures by September of 2026. Dave continued to say that although the deadline was September of 2026, he has never been in a situation where an extension to the deadline was not granted. He only recently found out that this is not the case with ARPA money. Dave stated that the ARPA money is a Reimbursement Program whereby BTWSA sends qualifying bills from contractors and vendors to the DCED, and then after reviewing the expenditures, the DCED deposits 2/3 of the money into a BTWSA bank account. This money comes with a 1/3 match by BTWSA, which is an obligation in and of itself.

Dave continued to explain that when BTWSA was awarded the COVID-19 funds, we still had a funding shortfall for the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project and when we were awarded the CDBG grant of \$3.8 million in 2024, this made the project more viable. There have been considerable delays to the project, the largest being the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. Most recently, DEP stated that unless we perform a house-by-house analysis of the OLDs, we would not be eligible for a PennVEST grant/low interest loan. When BTWSA got this news, we decided to address Contract 1 and Contract 2 areas only. BTWSA is hoping to put this Project out to bid in the Fall of 2026, and break ground by Winter 2026.

BTWSA will have a project budget gap of around \$2.1 million because we did not receive the grant extension. Dave prepared four scenarios, showing amounts used from BTWSA's Capital Reserve Account, how much would be financed, and how this would impact every sewer customer's bill, through a monthly increase in sewer rates. This ranged from using as much as \$800,000 in Capital Reserve, which would impact the monthly sewer rate at \$1 increase, to not drawing down the Capital Reserve at all, which would impact the monthly sewer rate at a \$4 increase.

After Dave was finished, Jacob asked for public questions or comments. Betty Robertson asked the Board if they were going to pursue Contract 3? She stated that BTWSA purchased a piece of her farm to house Pump Station #3. She was happy to sell it to BTWSA because they need public sewer in her area. But what happens now if Contract 3 doesn't go through? One visitor asked the Board if we use the \$2.51 million in ARPA funds in other areas of Blair Township, will BTWSA replace those funds for the Reservoir Road Project? Another visitor commented that when they purchased their property in 2024 they were promised the sewer expansion would go through. One visitor asked who, in authority, they should reach out to, to see if the ARPA grant can be extended? Jacob stated

John Joyce, John Fetterman, Dave McCormick, and possibly Scott Barger and Judy Ward. She continued to say that if they can move heaven and earth and get this grant extended, will BTWSA proceed with Contract 1, 2, and 3? Dodie Amigh asked the board to make a decision on financing the funds to complete Contract 1 tonight, she explained that she is happy to pay \$4 more per month to get sewer to Reservoir Road. Rodney said that he is not comfortable voting on an estimated rate and would want to see hard numbers before making a decision that affects user rates.

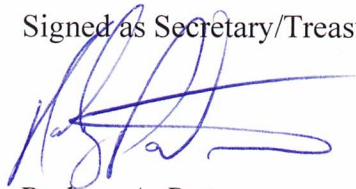
The Board continued to explain that we must be good stewards of the ARPA money and use it where we can instead of losing it completely. This project has other challenges besides financial ones. As an example, we have over 100 easements that still need signed. If we must pursue Eminent Domain on that many properties, it will cost an additional \$750,000 - \$1,000,000. In addition, we still need DEP approval on our Act 537 Plan. At this point, a visitor commented how the letter sent out to the residents asking for their easement was vague and did not give a deadline, only Open Meeting dates. Dave explained that the "easement deadline letter" was supposed to go out last month, but that was when we found out about the ARPA deadline and decided to table sending the letters until we knew more about the ARPA parameters. The visitor explained that there has been very little communication between BTWSA and the people along Reservoir Road. Motion was made to send a Newsletter, on a regular basis, to the residents of Reservoir Road to update them on the progress and explain any delays in the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Sommer VOTE: 5 Yes.

Ron Sommer thanked everyone for coming out tonight and for the positivity they were expressing toward the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. Up to now, most of the feedback has been negative.

Jacob announced the next BTWSA Meeting will be held on April 1, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Motion was made (at 7:50 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Sommer SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,



Rodney A. Patterson

