

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

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jacob Wible.

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

Also in attendance were Tim McGaw, Manager; Katie McGaw, Administrative Assistant; Pat Fanelli, Solicitor; and Dave Cunningham, Engineer.

VISITORS: Paul Amigh Nicole Smith Alex Smith
 Dorothy Cavalet Kathleen Wyles Jordan - WTAJ News
 Tony – WTAJ News

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of February 4, 2026. MOTION: Sommer SECOND: Silvetti VOTE: 5 Yes.

While the Board Members were looking over the Financial Reports, Jacob asked Katie if any expenditures needed to be called to the Board’s attention. Katie stated that no expenditures were out of the ordinary scope of business. Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for February 2026. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Jacob welcomed the visitors and asked if any of them wanted to speak to the Board. Kathleen Wyles is a resident within the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project area. She wanted to know how they will be billed after they are connected. She has been reading about our rates on our website and was confused about Flat Rate vs. Metered Rate. Robin Cadwallader explained that the residents on Reservoir Road will be billed at our Flat Rate for Sewer customers, currently \$55.00/month. Robin, a resident of the Fort Fetter area, continued to explain that she is billed at the Metered Sewer Rate because she has a water meter, so her sewer usage is calculated based upon metered usage. Kathleen also inquired about the \$50.00/day Failure To Connect fee and wanted to know at what point that fee would be imposed. Pat Fanelli, Solicitor, commented that it has not been determined yet how long a person would have to connect to our sanitary sewer line, so it would be after that deadline had passed. Jacob Wible stated that there were some new developments regarding our funding package for the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project that the Board needed to address and that the visitors who were interested in that project may wish to stay for that discussion. Kathleen stated that she had checked into it and that Jacob shouldn’t be allowed to serve on the Board since he would receive financial gain from the project, creating a conflict of interest.

No other visitors wished to speak, so Jacob asked Pat to present his update. Pat stated that he had heard from the Board of View with a couple dates as options for the hearing regarding the Thomas Hickey property, but whenever he reached out to Mr. Hickey’s

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attorney, none of those dates suited. The Board of View will have to offer new potential dates for the hearing.

Dave Cunningham gave some updates regarding the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. The Act 537 Plan was amended to include only the parcels in Contracts 1 and 2. This amended Act 537 Plan was approved by the Blair Township Supervisors and submitted to DEP. The three Easement Meetings for the residents of the Reservoir Road Project were held, with only 23 easements being signed to date. Jacob asked how many easements needed to be executed, to which Dave replied 145. Jacob pointed out that this means the return rate is only 7-8%. Dave reported that we have a new funding challenge: the \$2.51 million COVID-19 H2O PA grant has a money use deadline of 9/2026. A letter was sent to the director of the CFA Programs requesting to expand the scope to include additional wastewater rehabilitation areas within the existing BTWSA system, as well as the purchase of equipment and materials in preparation for the originally requested project along Reservoir Road. Dave also called John Joyce (U.S. Representative) to see if we could get an extension to the money use deadline, but Dr. Joyce stated that getting an extension would require an Act of Congress, which is highly unlikely. Dave suggested that the Board may wish to use some of this COVID-19 money for the Stowell Farm Wastewater Upgrade. Using some of this money would not oblige us to do the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project in the future, but if we wanted to do so, we could replace this money with a commercial loan and still proceed with the project. Ron Sommer stated that the cost of this project is high and proceeding with construction would affect every family in Blair Township. Ron suggested we table this project. Ed Silveti stated that the cost benefit of this project is weak. If it would serve more customers so we had a larger customer base, we wouldn't have any affordability problems. Motion was made to request the DCED Board to approve an expansion of the grant to include rehabilitation and replacement of portions of our wastewater collection system. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes. Dave had prepared a letter for the residents of Reservoir Road who had not executed their easements to request that they do so by April 30th. After discussion, it was decided not to proceed with sending this letter at this time. This prompted Kathleen Wyles to ask what BTWSA will do about malfunctioning septic systems. Jacob stated that BTWSA was offering one solution to the widespread sewage issues along Reservoir Road. If BTWSA does not construct a public wastewater system the responsibility falls back onto the homeowner, with any testing for functionality done by Luke Helsel, Sewage Enforcement Officer of the Blair County Sanitary Administrative Committee. Paul Amigh, Blair Township Supervisor, stated that this committee meets once/quarter. Next, the question was posed, what if BTWSA decides to proceed with this project in 5 years? Jacob replied that due to the funding challenges of the project, it is probably unlikely to see a funding package of this magnitude in the future that would make this a financially feasible project.

Dave reported that Jeff Long sent Keller Engineers an official capacity request for the re-worked Jeff Long Development in the Brentwood Phase V section of Penn Farms. He is asking for a capacity letter for 13 single family homes. Outside of wet weather events, Dave feels there are no capacity issues on this line, so Dave will issue a capacity letter with the language that during wet weather events there could be surcharges on this line.

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Dave stated that due to the uncertainty of the Reservoir Road grant, Keller Engineers hasn't done any work to advance the Orchard Drive Waterline Replacement Project. The Board agreed to put that project on hold until we have more information on the Reservoir Road grant.

Tim McGaw stated that one of our pumps at the Baker's Pump Station failed on February 24. RAM had to be called to remove the broken pump and install the spare pump. The Repair Estimate for this pump is \$6,639.00. A new pump costs around \$50,000. Motion was made to have RAM Industrial rebuild the pump from Baker's Pump Station at a cost of \$6,639.00. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 5 Yes.

Tim stated that he received a quote from Barry Wolfe of Argos HR Solutions LLC, to revise our Employee Handbook for \$650.00. Ed Silvetti stated that he feels we should engage with others and not act on the ARGOS quote. Tim was instructed to contact Altoona City Authority and other local Authority's to see whom they used for their Employee Handbook. Tim will contact Barry at ARGOS tomorrow.

Katie reported that we received a check from EMC for \$1,837.91 as a 2025 Dividend Refund.

As of February 11, we have five signatories who are authorized to sign for BTWSA on our four accounts at First National Bank: Jacob Wible, Edward Silvetti, Rodney Patterson, Ron Sommer, and Tim McGaw. Katie suggested keeping Ed and Rodney as primary signers because they can sign checks in the morning. This way, she can get them ready to be mailed on the same day.

Robin inquired about the amounts paid on the 30-Day Delinquent notices report. Robin noted that 21 Delinquent Letters were sent and 21 customers paid, but the total amount that was paid was less than the total amount due. Katie explained that sometimes customers cannot pay the full amount due, but if they make arrangements with us for repayment, we roll the unpaid amount onto next month's bill.

Ed inquired about the BTWSA Pension Plan through Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS). He wanted to know if a retiree could withdraw a cash lump sum. Katie stated that PMRS allows a Lump Sum Payment up to a certain amount but does not allow 100% withdrawal of funds. Choosing this option obviously reduces the retiree's monthly benefit. Ed would like to review the contract we have with PMRS.

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

Motion was made (at 8:31 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Cadwallader SECOND: Wible VOTE: 5 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,

Rodney A. Patterson

