

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority, held on Wednesday, April 1, 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 M<sup>c</sup>Gaw, Manager; Katie M<sup>c</sup>Gaw, Administrative Assistant; Pat Fanelli, Solicitor; and Dave Cunningham, Engineer.

- |           |                 |                  |                             |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| VISITORS: | Paul Amigh      | Dodie Amigh      | Dave Robertson              |
|           | Betty Robertson | Dick Weber       | Judy Weber                  |
|           | Dave Robertson  | August Robertson | Joe Krupka                  |
|           | Jamie Krupka    | Alex Smith       | Nicole Smith                |
|           | Becky Manna     | Matt Manna       | Missie Miller               |
|           | Brad Germaux    | Jim Jackson      | Felicia Field               |
|           | Josh Darnell    | Karma Darnell    | Bill Kibler, Altoona Mirror |

Jacob Wible, Chairman, announced that Robin Cadwallader resigned as Secretary/Treasurer on 3/19/2026. Jacob asked Pat Fanelli, Solicitor, to explain the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Pat stated that the Secretary is responsible for acknowledging records of the Authority and the Treasurer is responsible for the Treasury of the Authority and is a signer of checks. Motion was made to nominate Rodney Patterson as Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION: Patterson SECOND: Wible VOTE: 5 Yes.

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

Motion was made to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 19, 2026. MOTION: Silvetti SECOND: Wible VOTE: 5 Yes.

While the Board Members reviewed the Financial Reports, Jacob asked Katie about Check 21192. Katie explained that BTWSA pays an annual Administrative Fee to BNY Mellon. Katie continued to say that no transactions in March were outside the ordinary scope of business. Motion was made to approve the Payroll & Bills for March 2026. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

Pat Fanelli, Solicitor, commented that he had nothing that required action tonight but that he would chime in when needed.

Dave Cunningham stated that a lot of residents' questions about the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project were answered at the BTWSA Special Meeting on March 19, 2026. Dave wants guidance from the Authority Board on what direction to move. The deadline to spend the ARPA money is September 30, 2026. In the past couple weeks, Tim has been gathering quotes from local banks for a supplemental loan to be used as the match for the ARPA funds. Ed Silvetti commented that to date, no

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comprehensive offers have been submitted. Ed wants to see solid commitments from banks and wants them to provide a report as to how this will impact our current user rates. Dave stated it is unlikely for a bank to provide a report on how a loan will impact user rates. Ed wants to try to project what our O&M costs will be, both for our current system and the Reservoir Road Expansion, so we can make an informed decision. Jacob stated that when we get solid commitments from banks, we will call a special meeting to vote on financing. Dave suggested that BTWSA could proceed with working on the existing system with the ARPA money, and the match could come out of our capital reserve. Jacob stated that even with the funding secured, how are we to proceed with the Expansion if we are still caught up in delays with DEP? Rodney Patterson suggested telling DEP that we have a "mix" of funding, both from grants and private loans, and see if that placates DEP. Jacob announced that the Board had received a letter from the Blair County Commissioners questioning why we had not met the ARPA deadline and offering their support for the project without providing any funding options to back up their stated support. Dave estimated that we could probably spend around \$600,000 of the ARPA money for materials for the Reservoir Road Project, which would require a \$200,000 match for the Authority. The Board asked Dave if the Reservoir Road contingency money covers the expense of pursuing Eminent Domain? Dave responded that the contingency money does not include pursuing Eminent Domain. To date, we have only 23 signed easements out of 145 total easements that are needed.

At this time, a visitor at the meeting stated that they live within the Reservoir Road Sewer Expansion Project area and have water service from Hollidaysburg. They wondered how they would be billed once our sewer expansion goes through. Robin Cadwallader stated that BTWSA would read their water meter and bill them for metered sewer. Currently the basic rate is \$40.35 per month, which includes the first 2000 gallons. Another visitor inquired if the Reservoir Road wastewater mains would be bored. Dave responded that the force mains will be bored, but the main wastewater collection lines will not be bored. Betty Robertson asked if the Contract 3 project area had been divorced from the Reservoir Road Project. Dave explained that we had planned on funding Contract 3 with a grant/low interest loan offer from PennVEST, but they are requiring a home-by-home inspection of On-lot Sewage Disposal Systems (OLDS) by the Sewage Enforcement Officer. Ed explained that without a grant/loan from PennVEST, Contract 3 would not be affordable. Ed continued to state that he will not impose a Rate hike of over \$17-\$18/month on every BTWSA customer to fund Contract 3. Betty Robertson responded that "the Board has sat on their butts and that is why this project isn't done yet." Jacob countered that we waited 11 months for the Act 537 Plan and another 11 months for the CDBG fund coordination. At this point, an argument arose among the visitors as to whether to sign or not to sign their easements. Robin stated that all BTWSA's current customers are bearing the expense of the Reservoir Road Project. BTWSA has spent over \$550,000 in engineering fees, plus application fees, attorney fees, easements, land for pump stations, etc. Robin stated that BTWSA is trying to find a way to do this project, but we can only do what we can within our financial boundaries.

One visitor stated that there is the belief that the BTWSA sewer will include stormwater. This person said the sanitation problem on Reservoir Road is too much stormwater. Tim McGaw spoke up and said the Reservoir Road Sewer Project will be for sanitary sewer

only, not stormwater. We pay the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for every gallon that we send. We cannot pay to treat stormwater.

Another visitor, Matt Manna, expressed his concern that constructing the sewer main between his house and the river could potentially kill the trees that line the banks of the river. These trees protect his house from being flooded. He stated he will not sign an easement.

This brought up the topic of the river and floodplain. The project design has Pump Station #1 housed in a floodway. It is questionable as to whether DEP will issue the necessary permits for this pump station.

At this point, it was decided that the Easement Deadline Letter would be mailed out in the next 2 weeks, with a deadline for signing of June 30. If this deadline is not met, the decision to pursue Eminent Domain will have to be made because that process takes about 6 months, and no construction can begin before all easements are settled. There will be another Open House Easement Meeting at the end of April.

Moving on, Dave stated that Keller Engineers sent a Capacity Letter to Jeff Long regarding his Mattern Woods development of 13 single-family lots. This letter included language warning about wet weather surcharges in the existing 8-inch wastewater collection line.

Dave has submitted Chapter 94 Letters to the three WWTP's that we send wastewater to: Hollidaysburg, Duncansville, and Freedom. Dave also submitted the Chapter 110 report, which informs the Department of BTWSA's water consumption, to DEP.

Not on the Agenda, but a matter of concern, is that the Newry Pump Station is overloaded. They have an Upgrade Project in the works, which may result in a rate increase. Tim and Dave will attend a meeting on April 8 at Freedom Township Municipal Building to learn more about this issue and how it will affect the Authority.

Jacob brought up the possibility of changing the BTWSA Meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. Motion was made to change the time of the BTWSA Meeting from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m., effective with the June 3, 2026, meeting. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Cadwallader VOTE: 5 Yes. Katie stated that she will advertise the change in the Altoona Mirror.

Jacob reported that the Board had prepared an official statement regarding the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project and was presenting it as a Resolution. Upon the request of one of the visitors, Jacob read the narrative out loud for everyone to hear. Motion was made to adopt Resolution 2026-2, pending a few grammatical edits by Robin. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Patterson VOTE: 5 Yes.

At the BTWSA Special Meeting, held on March 19, 2026, a motion passed that stated there will be a Newsletter sent to the residents of Reservoir Road on a regular basis to update them on the progress and explain any delays in the Reservoir Road Wastewater Expansion Project. The first Newsletter was sent on March 25, 2026. When asked if everyone had received their letter, all but one visitor had received it. Katie instructed this visitor to provide their name and property/mailing information to Dave Cunningham so he can add them to the Mailing List.

The next item on the Agenda was the former Betty Robertson property, which BTWSA purchased for Pump Station #3. Jacob asked Betty Robertson if the Robertson family wanted it back. Betty stated that the family wants it back if they are never going to get public sewer on her section of Reservoir Road, but she does not want it back if getting it back means the end of BTWSA pursuing extending the sewer into her area. Pat Fanelli, Solicitor, stated that there are a lot of moving pieces to discuss about this property, including, but not limited to, engineering and legal components.

- Tim McGaw, Manager, reported that the pump at Baker's Pump Station was repaired and returned. Now we have a problem with a leaking radiator there. It has been fixed by BTWSA multiple times but has now reached the end of its lifespan. Tim called two companies for quotes to build a new radiator. BRG out of Plainfield, CT, quoted \$3015 to build the radiator, with additional shipping costs between \$500-\$1000. IRW out of Blairsville, PA, quoted \$3300 to build the radiator, and Tim stated that there would be no shipping charges because BTWSA personnel would drive out to Blairsville to pick it up. Motion was made to approve purchasing a new radiator for Baker's Pump Station at IRW out of Blairsville, PA, for \$3300. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Silveti VOTE: 5 Yes.

Ed stated that the Loan Quotes Tim got weren't comprehensive enough. Before we can proceed any farther, we must initiate the underwriting process with these banks. In the meantime, FNB is almost finished with their proposal. We should hear from FNB in the next week or so.

Jacob announced the next Authority Meeting will be held on May 6, 2026, at 7 p.m.

Tim asked the Board to hold an Executive Session after they adjourn to discuss personnel matters.

Motion was made (at 8:47 p.m.) to adjourn the Meeting. MOTION: Wible SECOND: Sommer VOTE: 5 Yes.

Signed as Secretary/Treasurer,



Rodney A. Patterson



## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-2**

### **BLAIR TOWNSHIP WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**Be it Resolved** that, in the interest of its commitment and clarification, the BTWSA Board adopts the following narrative herein included as its "BTWSA Board Statement Regarding the Reservoir Road Sewerage Project (RRSP)." In sum, the BTWSA Board will continue its support for a financially-viable Reservoir Road Sewerage Project (RRSP), inclusive of all reasonable efforts to achieve this goal. In this effort, the Board will do the correct thing in support of its fiduciary responsibilities and consistent with all laws and regulations governing such matters.

**The RRSP has been the subject of discussion and construction consideration for more than ten years. Over this same period, some Reservoir Road residents have supported this project and some have not. No doubt all residents have valid reasons for their support or nonsupport of the project. Regardless, the need has remained clear: malfunctioning, conventional on-lot systems have stunted residential growth and other considerations have influenced this project's perceived importance.**

**To clear up any misperceptions of the BTWSA position in advancing the RRSP, this resolution seeks to provide clarification and restate said position that has changed little since the Board actively took steps in support of same. To be clear, these steps have included actively seeking grant funding; authorizing costly, but necessary, engineering work required to even apply for RRSP funding; and legal work to establish and acquire project easements. These all necessitate lengthy and complicated steps in the process.**

**The RRSP will serve a geographically-dispersed and limited customer base. Consequently, the cost benefit of a very expensive RRSP would be limited when financing this project, even when including all current BTWSA customers and potential new RRSP customers. The RRSP cost cannot be such that the user fees are beyond customers' willingness/ability to pay. Accordingly, this project was always going to rely on governmental grants. Such grants have become relatively scarce in recent decades due to changing priorities and mounting federal debt. But two competitive grants were secured with much difficulty and with lengthy application periods. The first grant (Federal ARPA) with its use restricted to the RRSP (Contract Area #1) came with an expiration date of September 2026. Most Commonwealth and Federal grant contracts include provisions for term extensions because projects encounter unforeseen construction and legal delays, so this makes sense.**

**The second grant, more recently secured, was a CDBG Grant, applicable almost exclusively to Contract Area #2. At this current point in time, the project is**

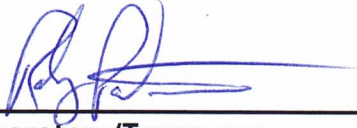
moving forward, notwithstanding difficulties in securing easements from new customers who would benefit from the RRSP, as well as with securing required governmental permits, always fraught with bureaucratic delays. With regards to Contract Area #3, this phase of the project cannot be advanced without additional grants. Thus, the grants quest will continue, but success is not guaranteed.

Presently and unfortunately, a grant extension for the ARPA grant beyond its September 2026 expiration has proved to be impossible, making its use for the RRSP limited at best; the bidding process alone would likely use what time is left.

With no ARPA grant extension possible, conventional financing is the only viable alternative and is being actively pursued by the BTWSA. Pending bank analysis of the RRSP financial viability and a loan offer, the BTWSA Board will continue providing support for a project that must not exceedingly or adversely affect current rates on the current customer base, as well as being affordable for the new customers along Reservoir Road.

The processes and actions described above may seem to many Reservoir Road residents as BTWSA “foot-dragging,” but it is not. Indeed, it is how the process has unfolded.

Adopted: April 1, 2026



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Secretary/Treasurer

