

Millcreek Richland Joint Authority Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2024

The Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority Meeting of July 1, 2024, was called to order by John Wolgemuth, Authority Chairman at 7:02 P.M.

Present: James Bottomley; Rebecca Schnoke, Arthur Wealand, John Wolgemuth; Jessica Weaver, and Cody Shalters

Also in attendance: Dan Hershey, Amy Leonard, Esq., and Justin LaTourette

Public Comment:

Jill Fidler and Dave Cherrington from Fulton Bank spoke about moving all of the Authority's financial accounts to Fulton. Since the billing system switched to Diversified, the sewer revenue account was moved from JBT to Fulton because JBT was not compatible with Diversified. Fulton will continue with the sewer revenue account regardless of whether the Authority transfers any additional accounts there.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the June 3, 2024, meeting were offered. Mr. Wolgemuth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schnoke, to approve the June 3, 2024, meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report and bills to be paid were reviewed for June 2024. Mr. Wolgemuth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bottomley, to pay all bills marked with asterisks as presented on the June Treasurer's report. All voted in favor. Ms. Weaver abstained.

Mr. Wolgemuth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bottomley, to approve the Treasurer's report. All voted in favor.

Ms. Schnoke provided an update regarding the shut-off list. Approximately half of the prior overdue accounts have been paid. No shutoffs were posted but Ms. Schnoke will prepare the notices and Mr. LaTourette will post them. There are approximately 60 accounts that need to be posted.

Ms. Schnoke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolgemuth, to not post any property with a balance of less than \$100. All voted in favor.

Justin LaTourette – Purified Operations LLC:

Mr. LaTourette reported no violations. June was a quiet month. He tested the generators and the one at Station 5 needs to be replaced. Green Acres will be spraying the bank at Station 1.

Mr. LaTourette flushed the line at Cherry Lane and Cardinal. There was a question about if the Authority owns it as it is a 4-inch line.

The company conducting the curbing project on Race Street by the Authority building never sealed our new blacktop. Ms. Schnoke will address it as the Borough has additional concerns to discuss regarding wrapping up that project.

There was a PA One call about 110 Church Street, Richland. The map shows a lateral at that property. Ms. Schnoke directed Berks Homes to contact Mr. Hershey, but they have not. They will need to purchase an EDU and tapping fee.

Millcreek Township paved Alumni Alley and the Authority provided a ring.

Ditchcreek is almost done televising all of Newmanstown, and expects to complete in the next 2 weeks. So far, they have identified one area that needs to be addressed, and some jetting is needed. They will provide Mr. LaTourette with a final report.

The Authority is not yet on the schedule for SWERP. That project will hopefully occur in August.

The air conditioning at the Authority building needs to be serviced. In the past, the Authority had a contract for service with Cocalico Plumbing and Heating, someone had to call them to come service it.

Dan Hershey – Hershey Engineering:

Barry Ludwig is now solely focused on wastewater at Myerstown Borough.

The Elm Street development continues to have issues with private streets and private lines. The current proposal has a single line for 6 townhouses, which presents concerns for shutoffs. The developer may pursue a bulk user approach. Mr. Hershey will speak with Randy Hess.

No update regarding Bethany Road.

For Ash Road, Mr. Hershey issued a plan review letter and is awaiting a response.

Mr. LaTourette conducted testing for the Pump Station 2 improvements. The force main is in good shape for its age. He took amp and pressure readings. There was discussion regarding needing to upgrade to 8-inch main from 6-inch main. If the Authority would keep the 6-inch main, it would require a 2-step pump. If it is upgraded to an 8-inch main, a single stage pump that is more efficient could be used. The biggest variable will be the cost of the directional drilling, which is significantly more if it is rock, and less if it is soil. It would also require a PennDOT permit

Mr. Hershey will speak to the developer and include Ms. Leonard and Mr. LaTourette. A decision on this is needed to proceed with the rest of the plans.

Amy Leonard, Solicitor: none.

Board Member Reports: none.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business:

Ms. Miller declined the position. Mr. Shalters's wife is not interested. Ms. Leonard will repost the position on Indeed.

Mr. Hershey explained the Act 537 Plan. The Borough's plan is from 1960s.

New Business: none.

Ms. Schnoke has an option to clean to office. The first cleaning will occur this week. The Authority will pay more for the first cleaning due to the length of time no cleaning has been done.

Mr. Wolgemuth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shalters, to hire a cleaning person at a cost of \$120 for the first cleaning and \$60 for all subsequent cleanings. All voted in favor. Ms. Schnoke abstained.

Richland Library is looking for contributions to cover the costs of a new HVAC system.

Ms. Weaver made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schnoke, to donate \$1,500 to the library. All voted in favor.

Contact from Direct Energy Business LLC, and NRG Business Marketing LLC, who worked with Maybelle about selling electrical power. To start November 2025. Ms. Schnoke will follow up to get additional information.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, Mr. Wolgemuth made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bottomley, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Secretary, Jessica Weaver