LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

144 CHARTIERS ROAD
JEFFERSON, PA 15344
724-883-2743

MINUTES
September 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority was called to order at 5:00 p.m., at the Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority office.

Those members present were:

Tom Goughenour, Chairman
Tim Phillips, Vice Chairman
Jamie Forman, Secretary
Benjamin Bupka, Treasurer
George Riecks, Asst. Sec-Treas.
Brian Sypin
James McCollum
Gary Mylan
Joshua Forman
Tom Davidson

Also attending were:

Adam Belletti, Solicitor
Bob Dengler, Engineer
Scott Guthrie, Customer
Bruce Howard, Lead Operator
Sharon Confortini, Secretary

MINUTES

A motion approving the minutes of the August 19, 2026 meeting was made by Mr. Sypin, seconded by Mr. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion approving the Treasurer's Report and to pay the outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Joshua Forman, seconded by Mr. McCollum and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Scott Guthrie, 110 Elizabeth Drive and Pine Street, Jefferson PA, stated he has surface water that runs past two manholes along the sewer line and out of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority's ditch; then down the hill into his garage. Mr. Howard stated he remembers the Authority had put a French drain in the area but the homeowner is responsible to maintain the French drain; said maybe the French drain is clogged. Mr. Goughenour said the Authority would look into the matter further; see what can be done to resolve the issue.

OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated a tree had fallen onto the Burson Pump Station from a recent storm and had ripped out the electrical line. Mr. Howard stated the cost to repair the electrical lines and the roof, along with cutting down the trees, would cost about $7,000.00. The board decided not to get reimbursed by their insurance company because the Authority has a $2,500.00 deductible and could also incur an increase in their insurance premiums.

Mr. Howard stated PA Rural Water informed him and David Brichetti they have an apprenticeship program that can help train new operators. This apprenticeship is free and operators can get their operator license faster. Either Pa Rural Water would come to the plant or the information could be obtained online. The board agreed to have Mr. Howard look into this further.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Confortini distributed a letter from East Bethlehem Township indicating they disagree with Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority charging their municipality for riser rings they may need to repair their roads. The board members acknowledged East Bethlehem's decision but also agreed that with the big increase in the cost of the riser rings they have to continue to charge the municipalities for the riser rings when they need them from the Authority.

LEGAL REPORT

None

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated he finally received a response from the Greene County Planning Commission regarding the Act 537 Planning Module for the Country Club Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Andrew Wise, Greene County Planning Commission, informed Mr. Dengler he would review the planning module and get back to him. At that time, Morgan Township would need to approve a Resolution to proceed with the Country Club Sewer Extension Project before sending to PaDEP for approval.

Mr. Dengler stated although Representative Reschenthaler's office informed him the grant request for additional money for the Country Club Sewer Extension Project is included in his 2027 Appropriations Request Mr. Dengler feels there is a good chance, with the upcoming elections, it may not get included in the budget as planned. As of this date the Authority has secured $500,000.00 grant money towards the estimated $1,675,215.00 Country Club Sewer Extension Project; the Authority might have to wait until the 2028 Appropriations Requests to secure additional funds.

Mr. Dengler stated the $830,000.00 grant application submitted last year to the Statewide LSA Grant Program for the Pitt Gas Sewer Rehabilitation Project was not on the approval list; therefore, the Authority did not get the requested funding.

Mr. Dengler stated there is another Statewide LSA Grant that became available; applications are due November 30, 2026. According to Mr. Dengler the projects have a better chance of getting approved if the Authority requested funding between $450,000.00 and $500,000.00; then possibly getting a PennVest loan for the remainder of the Country Club Sewer Extension Project. Another option would be to complete the Country Club Sewer Extension Project in phases as the Authority receives funding; starting with extending the line down Route 221 to the Country Club with the $500,000.00 already received. The next phase would be to extend the sewer line to the fifteen homes on the Country Club Road when the Authority receives additional funding for the project. Mr. Mylan feels the Authority should get funding for extending the sewage line up Chartiers Road or try to get funding to improve the sewer lines in Pitt Gas before extending sewer service to the Country Club Road. The board tabled the decision until the November board meeting on how much money to request and for which project to include in the grant application for the Statewide LSA Grant Program.

Mr. Dengler stated he spoke to Mr. Howard regarding the Draft General Permit for Land Application of Non-Exceptional Quality Biosolids. Mr. Howard stated he would take a sample out of the sludge and send to H&H Water to determine if there is any concentration of perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate in the sludge that would need addressed to comply with the new General Permit from PaDEP.

Mr. Dengler stated he would get together with Mr. Howard and Mrs. Confortini to review the budget for 2027. Mr. Dengler stated he would bring the figures discussed with Mr. Howard and Mrs. Confortini to the October 2026 board meeting for review by the board members.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Riecks made a motion authorizing the hiring of Julian Longwell as the part time secretary starting October 1, 2026. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard stated he would be retiring in 2027. Mr. Sypin made a motion to place an ad in the Observer Reporter newspaper for three days to hire a full time operator. Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sypin made a motion authorizing Mr. Phillips, Mr. Riecks, and Mr. Jamie Forman to be on the hiring committee for the hiring of the new full time operator. Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sypin made a motion to adjourn at 5:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Jamie Forman and the motion carried unanimously.