

**WESTERN BUTLER COUNTY AUTHORITY  
607 MARKET STREET  
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063  
PHONE: (724) 452-5501**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A quorum was reached, and after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Thomas Tomayko called the February 12, 2026 meeting of the Western Butler County Authority Board of Directors to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT ON ROLL CALL:**

The following board members were in attendance:

Ed Eckenrode  
Paul J. Kremer Jr.  
Thomas Tomayko  
Dave Weber  
Marietta Reeb  
Jeff Fyock (exited at 6:41 p.m.)  
Dennis Blakley

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Manager: Autumn Kobe  
Solicitor: Matt Racunas  
Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley  
Samantha Schmucker of HRG  
Project and Construction Administrator: Jason Mack  
Recording Secretary: Natalie Hacker (remotely)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Greg Such was absent.

**VISITORS:**

One visitor, Joe Frank, was in attendance.

**MINUTES:**

In a motion made by Jeff Fyock and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved the January 15, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes.

In a motion made by Dennis Blakley and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously approved the January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

A list of bills in the amount of \$148,105.54 (Operating) and \$536,081.03 (Capital) was presented to the Board in the form of Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated February 12, 2026. Manager Autumn Kobe answered questions that board members had regarding the bills.

In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously approved all of the bills for payment as presented by the Manager in Expense by Vendor summaries with checks dated February 12, 2026 in a roll call vote.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:**

The Assistant Secretary Treasurer had nothing to report.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES:**

***Personnel Committee***

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- The Manager hired a new inspector, who is starting on March 2.

***Finance Committee***

The Committee had nothing to report.

***Facilities Maintenance Committee***

The Committee highlighted the following report items:

- There will be three upcoming Committee meetings during the final design phase.

### *Administrative Review Committee*

The Committee had nothing to report.

### **REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR:**

The Solicitor highlighted the following report items:

- The Solicitor communicated with a repeat delinquent account holder about a leak and requested credit. Their attorney could not prove that the water didn't enter WBCA's system, so WBCA did not issue a credit.
- The Solicitor dealt with an account that has been in bankruptcy.
- The Solicitor continued to work on issues related to the proposed ordinance that would make WBCA the owner of laterals under roadways.
- The Solicitor worked on the lot consolidation for the Zelianople-Harmony Sportsmen's Club and the contract for the Manager's job position.

### **REPORT OF THE ENGINEER:**

The Engineer highlighted the following report items:

- **Route 19 South Service Area Extension:** The Engineer is waiting on the pumps to be delivered, which is expected by the end of the month. The Contractors requested a time extension due to pump delivery delays.
- **Harmony Pump Station Upgrade (HPSIIP):** Construction is in progress on Front Street. The Manager and Engineer showed the Board the project tracker on WBCA's website, where anyone can track construction progress.
- **Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Upgrade:** The Engineer held a meeting in January and will have the first official final design meeting in February. The final design is estimated to be complete by the end of 2027.

### **REPORT OF THE MANAGER:**

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Fund Transfer:** In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Jeff Fyock, the Board unanimously transferred \$250,000 from the Operating account to the Capital account in a roll call vote.
- The yearly audit has begun, and the Manager is submitting audit documents to the Auditor.
- **Amendment of the Rules and Regulations:** In a motion made by Dennis Blakley and seconded by Tom Tomayko, the Board unanimously added the Amendment of the Rules and Regulations to the Agenda.

In a motion made by Tom Tomayko and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously amended the language in the Rules and Regulations regarding the deduct meter reading fee to differentiate between commercial and residential accounts, so that commercial residents will be read on a monthly basis and residential residents will be read on a seasonal basis, in June and November, in a roll call vote.

#### WBCA PROJECTS

- **HPSIIP:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 1 for Gravity and Force Main Construction in the amount of \$42,476.37. In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Marietta Reeb, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 1 for Gravity and Force Main Construction in the amount of \$42,476.37 in a roll call vote.

In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously agreed to the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad Inc. Engineering Cost Reimbursement Agreement in the amount of \$26,118 for a review of the delegated design of the railroad crossing in a roll call vote.

- **Rt. 19 South Project/Abbey Woods:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 9 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$98,374.59. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Ed Eckenrode, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 9 for W.A. Petrakis in the amount of \$98,374.59 in a roll call vote. Tom Tomayko and Jeff Fyock abstained because they live in the project area.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 9 for McCurley Houston Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$17,937.45. In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 9 for McCurley Houston Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$17,937.45 in a roll call vote. Tom Tomayko and Jeff Fyock abstained because they live in the project area.

- **Admin Building:** WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 17 for VendRick Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$155,136.81. In a motion made by Paul Kremer and seconded by Marietta Reeb, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 17 for VendRick Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$155,136.81 in a roll call vote.

WBCA and HRG recommend payment of Payment Application No. 14 for Central Heating and Plumbing Co., Inc., in the amount of \$15,975.80. In a motion made by Jeff Fyock and seconded by Paul Kremer, the Board unanimously approved Payment Application No. 14 for Central Heating and Plumbing Co., Inc., in the amount of \$15,975.80 in a roll call vote.

### PAST DUE ACTIVITY

A total of 49 customers failed to respond to the 30-day past due notification and were posted for water shut-off. Payment was due on or before 2/17/2026. Only customers on a public water service are included for shut off. Customers with a balance in excess of \$20 who are 60 days past due are included.

### LABORATORY

- The Manager gave an update on the fecal coliform violation caused by inaccurate flow meter readings.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Dave Weber shared that he would like more transparency and discussion on rate increases in the future.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- In a motion made by Ed Eckenrode and seconded by Tom Tomayko, the Board unanimously agreed to advertise WBCA by sponsoring a banner on Main Street that celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States at a \$100 cost.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and exited at 5:58 p.m. The Board went into a second Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. to discuss litigation matters and exited at 7:07 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to discuss, Marietta Reeb motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ed Eckenrode, and the 2/12/2026 Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Hacker, Recording Secretary  
Western Butler County Authority