



HIGHRIDGE WATER AUTHORITY
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PRESS RELEASE

At its annual reorganization meeting recently John Stumpf of Burrell Township was reelected as Chairman of the Highridge Water Authority. Other officers elected were Vice-Chairman Thomas Whitcomb, Secretary James Mitchell, and Treasurer John McMullen.

Authority Executive Director George E. Sulkosky was appointed as the assistant secretary/treasurer for 2024.

Authority meetings will continue being held on the third Tuesday of each month starting at 6:30 p.m. Designated as depositories were Ameriserve Bank, Somerset Trust, Savings and Trust Bank, InFirst Bank, Truist Bank, and Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT).

Professionals appointed were Matthew Budash, Solicitor; Gibson-Thomas Engineers of Latrobe, Engineer; and the Human Resources Group, Labor Relations Consultant. Retained to conduct the annual audit was Rennie and Associates from Ligonier.

Adopted during its regular monthly meeting was a \$3.9 million dollar spending plan for 2024. Personnel costs at \$1,429,000 and debt service obligations of \$1,070,000 comprise the bulk of expenses.

There were no increases in water rates or operation and maintenance fees. Tap fees and customer facilities fees also remained constant.

Scheduled projects for 2024 include replacement of another five hundred water meters and several COVID-19 funded projects. A Westmoreland County grant of \$250,000 will enable both filtration plants to receive equipment upgrades. In addition, Burrell Township has donated \$406,941 to extending water service along Route 217 North, and Pennsylvania awarded Highridge another \$827,000 for the project which involves 13,200 feet of 8" and 6" water lines. A new service truck was also ordered for delivery this Spring.