



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, Treasurer Frank Ferra and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Colleen Marino.

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.

Adopted during its regular monthly meeting was a \$4 million dollar spending plan for 2026. Personnel costs at \$1,455,000, maintenance costs of \$550,000 and debt service obligations of \$542,000 comprise the bulk of expenses. Water rates were raised from \$9.00 to \$9.20 per thousand gallons while operation and maintenance fees per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) were maintained at \$8.00 per month. Tap fees and customer facilities fees remained constant at \$1,850 and \$250 per unit.

The Authority announced it has been awarded a one-million-dollar grant through the 2024 Local Share Account (LSA) funding program for the Route 217 North Blacklick Township Phase II, Part A Waterline Project. The project will extend public water service to approximately 55 residences along McCormick's Bridge Road and portions of Route 217, Williams Road, and Thompson Road.

The Authority extends its sincere appreciation to Senator Joe Pittman, the Blacklick Township Board of Supervisors, Representative Jim Struzzi and the local residents whose cooperation and support were pivotal in securing this funding through the Commonwealth Financing Agency. Their collective efforts have made this critical funding possible.

The Board welcomed Ken Ewing, appointed by the Indiana County Commissioners, and expressed appreciation to Larry Deal for his 14 years of dedicated service. The commissioners also reappointed long-standing board member John Stump. In additional board matters, the Authority announced that John McMullen will be resigning from the board effective February 6, 2026, coinciding with John's 90th birthday. Mr. McMullen has served as Authority treasurer since 1990.