

DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority was held Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.

It was noted that in order to assist in the preparation of the meeting minutes, the Secretary records the meeting. The recording is deleted following the approval by the Board of the minutes and no permanent recording is kept by the Secretary.

The following members were present:

Steve Bright      Ralph Honigmann      Rod Lebo      Mark Spotts      Dan Dierolf      Barbara Orth

Matthew Miller was absent.

Engineer, Fred Ebert, Solicitor Jestyn Payne, Dennis Miller and Jacob Sonnen (Authority Operators) were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag of the USA.

**Visitors:** Aiden Russell from Ebert Engineering, Inc

### **Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, January 28, 2026, were reviewed and approved on a motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Rod Lebo. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Letter from Aqua Water to Chairman and Solicitor, 2 Arc User magazines (Dennis), Certificates of Insurance (Kohl Bros, Blatt & Myers), Postcard from John Deere regarding expo on 3/11, PA Rural Water on April courses available, Diversified letter regarding updates, THINK and new invoice formatting. Dennis and Barb worked with Dana at Diversified to finish updating rates in our billing system.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. The Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$2,061,065.09 was approved on a motion by Barbara Orth, seconded by Dan Dierolf. Unanimously approved.
2. Bills in the amount of \$48,625.81 were presented for payment, which were ratified or approved on motion by Barbara Orth, seconded by Dan Dierolf. Motion was unanimous.
3. Auditor discussion: Motion to accept William Koch Associates as our auditor by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Mark Spotts. This is a 1-year contract which was given to Solicitor to review. Price not to exceed \$10,000. Motion carried.
4. Edward Jones statements are available upon request.

### **Engineer's Report:**

1. **SSM File Transfer:** EE, Inc. has reached out again for the files. Now dealing with Brooklyn to get files. Mark Spotts said on June 11, 2025, Jamie Lorah and SSM received a letter from us requesting files. He recommends contacting State Licensing Board to file a complaint. Solicitor said he is willing to contact Patrick McCoy, VP at SSM and let him know we need these files before our next meeting of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, we will file complaint. This is affecting our business. There are developers that have been requesting our standard details so that they can revise plans.
2. **Womelsdorf - High Street Paving:** Had grant meeting. There is approximately \$7 million available. The borough manager of Womelsdorf alerted us to this grant. Limited time to make application. We need a construction budget, letters of support from Senator Fetterman, Senator McCormick, and from Berks County Commissioners (Derrick Harris). It is a WARDA Project. Application is not out yet but when it comes out, only 7-10 days to apply.

### 3. 2026 Penn Vest Loan One – Furnace Tank Painting:

The following is a list of the items that have been accomplished since the last Authority meeting:

- Land Use Acknowledgement Letters
  - Berks County Planning Commission received 2/2/26
  - Heidelberg Township received 1/14/26
- Farmland Preservation Board Consistency Letter
  - Berks County Farm Preservation received 1/29/26
- Last Three Years of Audited Financial Statements
  - Auditor proposal received and authorized 2/19/26
  - Need Authority to categorize Authority Financial Statements per Penn VEST requirements
- Tank Pictures Received
  - Received from Authority 1/28/26
- Metals Contract
  - Under review by Solicitor's Office
- PA DEP Public Water Supply Permit
  - Submitted to PA DEP 2/11/26
- Categorical Exclusion
  - Application approved by the PA DEP 2/10/26
  - Public Notice (30 days) published in Reading Eagle 2/18/26

The following items are currently in process:

- Authority Charter Extension
  - Womelsdorf and Robesononia will adopt the ordinance in March
  - Advertising in March
  - Filing with PA Department of State in late March
- Resolution Authorizing Loan Application
  - Agenda item for February Authority Meeting
- Letter of Responsibility
  - To be signed at February Authority Meeting – done.
- Construction Cost Estimate
  - Draft completed
- Construction Schedule
  - Dependent on Penn VEST application

The next Penn VEST application deadline is April 29, 2026. The Authority may need an interim meeting depending on the timing of receipt of information and Penn VEST requirements. The Audit and the PA DEP Public Water Supply permit are the two major outstanding items.

4. **2025 Local Shares Grant Application:** All submitted in November. Earliest award in September.

#### Developments:

5. **Bethany Road, Maple Avenue Apartments and East High Street.**

6. **Aiden on Sixth:** Talked to their engineer a few times. Got marked up plans from Dennis and Glenn. Want to get rid of dead ends.

#### Solicitor's Report:

1. **Reorganization of Committee positions:**

**Personnel Committee (Incumbents – Steven Bright and Mark Spotts, new – Dan Dierolf)** Motion is made by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Barbara Orth, that Steven Bright, Mark Spotts and Dan Dierolf are nominated to the Personnel Committee with Steven Bright acting as Chair thereof. No other nominations were made. A vote on the motion was called. Steven Bright, Mark Spotts and Dan Dierolf abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Steven Bright, Mark Spotts and Dan Dierolf are elected members of the Personnel Committee.

**Budget Committee (Incumbents – Ralph Honigmann, Rod Lebo and Barbara Orth)**

Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Mark Spotts that Ralph Honigmann, Rod Lebo and Barbara Orth be nominated to the Budget Committee with Ralph Honigmann acting as Chairman thereof. No other nominations were made. A vote on the motion was called. Ralph Honigmann, Rod Lebo and Barbara Orth abstained. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Ralph Honigmann, Rod Lebo and Barbara Orth are elected members of the Budget Committee.

**Physical Plant and Equipment Committee (Incumbents – Matthew Miller and Mark Spotts – new – Dan Dierolf)** Motion is made by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph Honigmann, that Mark Spotts, Matthew Miller and Dan Dierolf be nominated to the Physical Plant and Equipment Committee with Dan Dierolf acting as Chairman thereof. A vote on the motion was called. Mark Spotts and Dan Dierolf abstained. Matthew Miller was absent. The motion was unanimously approved by all those voting. Based upon the vote, Mark Spotts, Matthew Miller and Dan Dierolf are elected members of the Physical Plant and Equipment Committee.

Execution of Resolution memorializing Officer appointments and Engineer and Solicitor appointments. Signed by Chairman and Secretary.

2. **Extension of Term of the Authority:** Going well. We have signed ordinances from each of the boroughs. On course.
3. **PennVEST:** Motion by Steve Bright, seconded by Ralph to sign resolution authorizing board to submit financial assistance application. Motion carried. Gave document to Engineer. Also, signed and sealed letter of responsibility.
4. **Tank #1 and Tank #2:** Nothing to add. Contractor is aware of status. Metals work should be bid out in April for June award. Want to try to do the work this year.
5. **Robesonia Fish & Game:** Have been working with Mark Spotts. Concern regarding right to terminate every 3 years. Offered to move to 5 years and reduce term to 25 years. Waiting for answer. Mark talked about another issue – we are going through all this effort even though we wanted to keep simple. They want this contract, but they will be violating contract right away by going on Reservoir Rd to stock creek. Solicitor is asked to add this item to contract and bring it to their attorneys' attention. Would like to finish this up. As a reminder, Fish & Game is to pay all costs incurred.
6. **John Sagner – Shared Driveway:** Easement Agreement is completely resolved and recorded on Monday. Jen McConnel, Witman and Sagner have been notified. Mr. Sagner is responsible for fees.
7. **Berks Nature Potential Conservation Easement:** Multitude of emails started by volunteer, Tracy Rice. Gave Solicitor occasion to talk with Andy Fetterman and Brooke Leister. They are not ready yet but will advise when they are ready. Berks Nature has received the grants. Mark talked about the involvement of PA Bureau of Forestry. Need to see what their response is regarding our concerns. Part of our motivation was funding, but we now have another source. Also, Mark recalled that at a public meeting we were given a verbal offer from Heidelberg Township for them to rewrite zoning to a stricter zoning for water authority property regarding conservation. Solicitor said we should be pleased with that but to remember subsequent boards could do the same thing, and zoning is not forever.
8. **Harold Alleman – Trespass Letter:** Motion by Ralph Honigmann, seconded by Rod Lebo to Authorize Solicitor to Issue Trespass Letter. Motion carried.

## Operator's Report:

1. Fixing frozen meters due to cold snap.
2. Doing ongoing leak detection. Small leak on Sheridan line.
3. Wagner starting to log.
4. Fixed Chlorine Regulator at Well #9. Another bill should be coming from Neal Systems.

## Other Board Member Comments:

**Rod Lebo:** Tree stand project to start on March 21 at 9:00. Will meet at Well 8. May also do some this weekend, next weekend at Eagles Peak. Will send out email too.

### Mark Spotts:

We received a check from Alex Burkholder for value of trees on WRJA property.

Went into Executive Session at 8:02 PM regarding personal issues.

Came out of Executive Session at 8:14 PM.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15 PM. by Steve Bright, seconded by Barbara Orth. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: *Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7PM at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Orth*

Barbara Orth  
Secretary

# Womelsdorf - Robesonia Joint Authority

A WATER AUTHORITY — SUPPLYING WOMELSDORF, ROBESONIA AND SHERIDAN, PA.

P.O. Box 94 Womelsdorf, PA 19567 • Phone: 610-589-2740 • Fax: 610-589-1340

## Treasurer's Report JANUARY 2026

Balance December 31: \$287,935.69

Water revenue	\$72,372.21
Certs	\$330.00
Wagner Hardwood	\$136,898.40
Shutoffs	\$400.00
Other Income	<u>+\$140.94</u>
	\$210,181.55

### Total Income

+\$210,181.55

\$498,117.24

### January Disbursements

\$36,227.43

-\$36,227.43

\$461,889.81

### Treasury Notes

Expires 02.15.27	2.250%	\$100,000.00
Expires 08.15.28	2.875%	\$140,000.00
Expires 05.15.29	2.375%	<u>+\$105,000.00</u>
		\$345,000.00

+\$345,000.00

\$806,889.81

PLGIT \$425,912.30

Interest 3.81% +\$1,378.15

\$427,290.45

+\$427,290.45

\$1,234,180.26

Edward Jones account value as of Jan. 1-Jan. 30

+\$826,884.83

\$2,061,065.09