

JOINT WATER/SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN AND BUCHANAN TOWNSHIP

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025 – 7:00 AM

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 502 RIVER ST, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

THE JOINT WATER SEWER BOARD OF THE CITY OF BUCHANAN AND BUCHANAN TOWNSHIP, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, hereby gives notice of a regular meeting to be held in the Chamber of Buchanan City Hall.

** Comments may be submitted in writing at least 72 hours in advance to the City Clerk at clerk@cityofbuchanan.com*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 AM by Chairperson Gordon.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Roll Call

PRESNET: Chairperson/Buchanan Trustee Tom Gordon, City Commissioner Larry Money, City Commissioner Patrick Swem (arrived at 7:05 AM), Brian Murphy

STAFF: City Manager, Tony McGhee; City Clerk, Kalla Langston; Wastewater Operator in Charge, Terry Burns; Environmental Compliance Supervisor, Zoey Martin; Water Operator in Charge, Craig Miller

IV. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Murphy, seconded by Money to approve the agenda as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

None.

VI. Approve Minutes

A. Consider the Meeting Minutes from May 5th, 2025.

Motion made by Murphy, seconded by Money, to approve the minutes as presented. Voice votes carry unanimously.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Jones and Henry Update

The feasibility study evaluates how the City of Buchanan could extend water and sewer service to the Bertrand Township Industrial Campus and surrounding areas currently served by the City of Niles. The report reviews existing systems, identifies future water and sewer demands based on industrial and residential growth, and outlines recommended improvements needed for Buchanan to support full development of the area. Proposed upgrades include new water mains, bore-and-jack crossings, a booster pump station to maintain adequate pressure, and new gravity sewer segments, force mains, and pump stations to handle projected wastewater flows. The study also analyzes hydraulic performance, pump requirements, and long-term capacity needs. A detailed cost estimate is included, providing projected expenses for water and sewer extensions, crossings,

pump stations, and associated construction and engineering. Overall, the study concludes that extending Buchanan’s utilities to the Industrial Campus is feasible and offers a basis for planning, budgeting, and intergovernmental coordination.

VIII. New Business

A. Wastewater Operator Update

McGhee informed the Board of the hire of Tom Rogers, assisting until a full-time Class B operator is hired.

B. Water & Wastewater Department Reports

Wastewater Department Report: The wastewater treatment plant focused heavily on equipment maintenance, regulatory compliance, and lift-station reliability from April through July 2025. Staff repaired multiple system components, including pumps, valves, a transducer, SCADA controls, and electrical elements, while also addressing recurring rag-ball clogs and alarms at the Millpond and Glacier lift stations. Seasonal and storm-related cleanup was performed throughout the grounds, along fence lines, and around creek areas. Routine sampling for NPDES requirements continued each month, including monitoring for chlorides, sulfate, copper, mercury, PFOS, and E. coli at several creek sites, all of which returned acceptable or improved results. The plant also completed extensive preventive maintenance—157 tasks in June and 150 in July—and supported training efforts, certification preparation, and ordinance updates. Significant regulatory reporting was submitted, such as the Annual Asset Management Report and PFAS monitoring corrections. Additionally, staffing changes occurred with the superintendent’s departure and the hiring of an interim plant lead, ensuring operational continuity during the transition. *Full report on file.*

Water Department Report: The Water Department spent the spring and summer months focused on downtown construction work, locating and connecting water lines, valves, and meters, and managing boil orders related to the new water main tie-ins on Front Street. A high volume of Miss Dig locates requests continued each month, along with multiple home inspections—approximately 850 remaining early on, then 30 completed in June and 50 more in July as the project neared completion. The department repaired several water leaks, replaced failing service lines, fixed a water-main break, and handled numerous services calls for residents. Routine regulatory sampling was consistently submitted to EGLE, all passing except for one well in July, which was corrected with shocking and retesting. Annual well maintenance was completed, grant-funded potholing preparation began, and regular shutoffs and city work orders were carried out. Overall, operations remained in good order with no significant system issues reported. *Full report on file.*

IX. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only

None.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 AM by Chairperson Gordon.