

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025 – 7:00 AM

CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, 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

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:01 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

III. Roll Call

Present: Chairman/Buchanan Township Trustee Thomas Gordon, Buchanan Charter Township Supervisor Mindy Cole- Crocker, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, Commissioner Larry Money, Member Brian Murphy

City Staff: Tony McGhee, City Manager; Kalla Langston, City Clerk; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker, Lead Water Operator, Craig Miller; Wastewater Compliance Officer, Zoey Martin

IV. Approve Agenda

Motion made by Swem, supported by Money to amend and approve the amended agenda to add VIII. D Discussion of Feasibility Study for expansion. Voice votes carry unanimously.

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

None.

VI. Approve Minutes

A. Minutes from November 18th, 2024

Motion made by Cole-Crocker, supported by Swem to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call votes carries unanimously.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

A. Update- Downtown Projects/ New Influent line to WWTP

Baker and McGhee have been meeting with contractors over the past few weeks. Work will begin in the coming weeks, starting with tree removal and the establishment of detour routes. A community kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 3rd. The project will commence at the wastewater treatment plant and progress downtown. As the project advances, weekly updates will be sent out to the community.

B. TMF Grant Update- Inside Verifications

Miller has begun the initial interior inspections, and the work is progressing very well. The second letter will be sent out soon to those who missed the initial sign-up for appointments. Additionally, the water department has been working hard to educate residents as much as possible about the situation.

C. Water & Wastewater Reports

WATER

Improvements to the Drinking Water Supply System's Chemical Feed System were performed at the Water Plant by Solberg Knowles Associates. This work included maintenance and calibration of chlorine application equipment, installation of two new vacuum regulators, a new remote meter, a rebuilt remote meter, and a new gas sensor for the City's water distribution system. The system is now fully functional.

Gasvoda completed extensive SCADA System improvements, including programming, telemetry, and firewall updates, as well as installing new electrical equipment and control panels. The project was finished in October, and the City has requested warranty and documentation from Gasvoda.

Peerless Midwest overhauled the pumping equipment for Water Well 1A, which is now expected to operate effectively for another 10 to 15 years after being cleaned and repaired.

Last year, EGLE conducted a full inspection of the water plant, and we passed with notable commendations for being particularly well-prepared.

There was a spike in water loss during November and December. Baker questioned whether this might be related to a well issue, and Miller stated he would investigate further.

Since Miller took Well 1 offline, there have been no power issues, and he plans to bring it back online soon. Baker may encounter a similar issue at the new Department of Public Works (DPW) building.

The City dealt with two water main breaks recently, and they were able to fix them quickly

WASTEWATER

In September, the Wastewater Treatment Plant acquired 48 new lamps for the Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system, replacing one complete bank. The system faced electrical faults in November, resolved by installing a new ballast. Additional ballasts were purchased as backups.

The Mixed Liquor Mixer failed in December due to moisture in the motor. After being sent for repairs, it is expected to be back in service the week of January 27th.

On December 3rd, an underground natural gas leak was discovered near the SEMCO gas meter at the old Buchanan Wastewater Plant. SEMCO repaired the leak, and future gas needs for the plant are being assessed.

A meeting on January 14th with Jones & Henry Engineers focused on the PFAS Local Limits and Pollutant Minimization Plan, discussing sources, analytical data, and future improvements. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to finalize strategies.

Feasibility Study for Expansion

The board had previously asked for estimates from Jones & Henry regarding a potential southern expansion. There was discussion of other areas of potential expansion and future sources of water. McGhee will look into getting estimates.

IX. *Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only*

None.

X. *Adjournment*

Chairman Gordon adjourned the meeting at 8:01 A.M.