

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

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – 7:00 AM**

**CHAMBER OF BUCHANAN CITY HALL - 302 N REDBUD TRAIL, BUCHANAN MI**

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**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gordon at 7:00 AM.

**II. *Pledge of Allegiance***

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Chairman/ Buchanan Twp Trustee Tomas Gordon, Buchanan Twp Supervisor Mindy Cole-Crocker, Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Swem, City Commissioner Larry Money

**ABSENT:** Brian Murphy

**CITY STAFF:** City Manager, Tony McGhee; City Clerk, Kalla Langston-Weiss; Director of Public Services, Mike Baker; Lead Water Operator, Craig Miller; Lead Wastewater Operator, Terry Burns; Wastewater Operator/Compliance, Zoey Martin

**IV. Approve Agenda**

Motion made by Cole-Crocker, seconded by Money, to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote carried unanimously.

**V. *Public Comment - Agenda Items Only***

None.

**VI. Approve Minutes**

**A. *Consider approving the minutes from August 11, 2025***

Motion made by Swem, seconded by Money to approve the minutes as presented. Voice vote carried unanimously.

**VII. *Unfinished Business***

**A. Jones and Henry Water and Sewer Feasibility Study Update**

Staff and consultants presented a feasibility study evaluating the extension of water and sewer service to the Bertrand Township Industrial Campus. The presentation included an overview of existing water and sewer infrastructure, projected current and future demand, and system capacity.

Key points discussed included:

- Current and projected water demand is based on partial and full development of the industrial campus.
- Confirmation that the City's water supply and storage capacity appear sufficient to serve anticipated demand, subject to additional modeling.

- Identification of infrastructure constraints, including booster pump limitations and sewer grade issues.
- Recommendations for installation of a new booster pump station, gravity sewer extensions, and pump station upgrades.
- Discussion of redirecting sanitary flow from the City of Niles to the City of Buchanan and associated benefits and considerations.
- Confirmation that the wastewater treatment plant has the capacity to accommodate projected additional flows.

Cost estimates, including contingency, were discussed. It was noted that improvements would be funded by the Townships, with the City potentially responsible for operation and maintenance, subject to agreement.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Water Department Report, Craig Miller**

Miller provided an update on water system operations. Staff reported that downtown activity remains high and that operational issues have been minimal. Meter reading issues continue to be addressed, with approximately 30 meters remaining under review. Recent work included the repair of small water leaks, the installation of a new fire hydrant, and the completion of fall hydrant flushing.

Miller reported progress related to lead service line inventory and compliance. Grant-funded potholing work is approximately 80 percent complete. Data collected from potholing and in-home inspections is being compiled for submission to EGLE. Staff noted discovery of copper service lines connected to lead goosenecks, which required additional verification and adjustment to prior assumptions. An updated lead and copper sampling plan is being prepared based on the refined inventory.

Staff indicated that annual lead service notification letters will be sent, and advance public communication will be provided to explain the required language included by EGLE.

### **B. Wastewater Report, Terry Burns & Zoey Martin**

Staff provided a detailed update regarding wastewater system operations. An electrical surge affected multiple facilities, including the Shirmer Parkway lift station and the wastewater treatment plant. The surge caused damage to pump drives, control boards, and components within the UV disinfection system. Emergency pumping was required to prevent overflow, and no discharges to the river occurred.

Staff reported that replacement parts for the UV system have been ordered and are pending installation. Corrosion within the UV system was identified as a contributing factor to ongoing issues. Claims have been filed related to the electrical surge.

Operational impacts from downtown sewer reconstruction were discussed. Staff reported that infiltration and inflow have been significantly reduced, resulting in plant flow being reduced by approximately half. While flow volumes have decreased, solids loading has remained consistent, requiring operational adjustments. Staff reported continued compliance with treatment standards.

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

## **X. Adjournment**

**Chairman Gordon adjourned the meeting at 8:08 AM.**