



HIGHRIDGE WATER AUTHORITY
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January 20, 2023

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 Harold Hixson, Secretary James Mitchell, and Treasurer John McMullen.

Authority Executive Director George E. Sulkosky was appointed as the assistant secretary/treasurer for 2023.

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. Retained to conduct the annual audit was Rennie and Associates from Ligonier.

Adopted during its regular monthly meeting was a \$3.8 million dollar spending plan for 2023, a 3.5% increase over 2022. Personnel costs at \$1,345,000 and debt service obligations of \$1,100,000 comprise the bulk of expenses. Water rates were maintained at \$8.60 per thousand gallons while operation and maintenance fees per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) were increased one dollar to \$8.00 per month. Tap fees for new homes at \$1,850 and the customer facilities fee of \$250 per unit represented a slight increase.

Scheduled projects for 2023 include replacement of 500 new water meters and start up of a new pump station in Seward. Funding applications for federal infrastructure grants were filed for rehabilitating the 2.5 million gallon Torrance water tank (\$883,000), expanding water service to Route 217 in Burrell Township (\$827,000), minor water treatment plant upgrades (\$497,000), and replacing 4,000 feet of aging 8 inch water main along Route 56 (\$836,000).

Board member Thomas Whitcomb was reappointed to a new five-year term by the Indiana County Commissioners.