

**Municipal Authority of the Borough of Belle Vernon
Water Division Meeting Minutes**

July 15, 2026

1. Call to Order

The Water Division was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3 Recording of Attendance

Board Members in Attendance: Joseph Minniti, Frank Monack, Clifford Gorski, Brian Anderson, Ray Iacoboni

Municipal Authority Staff: Gerald Jackson- Manager, Kelly Ellin- Administrative Assistant, Merilee Melvin-Office Manager

Board Members Absent: None

Solicitor: Peter Halsey, Solicitor

Employees present: Antonio Rhome, Jonathan Kravets, Rich Saxberg

Engineer: Rob Horvath, KLH Engineers, Inc.

General Public present: Borough Residents

4. Public Comment

A statement was given by the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Belle Vernon's Chairman Cliff Gorski regarding the recent water boil advisory that occurred on May 30th & 31st, 2026, and lifted on June 3, 2026. The authority conducted an investigation into the circumstances, surrounding the PA Department of Environmental Protection Violation Notice related to the potential contamination at the reservoir. The investigation was led by board members, Mr. Iacoboni and Mr. Anderson, along with legal counsel providing guidance through the process. After interviewing all of the individuals involved in the project, the board determined that the incident occurred during a specific reservoir project that has been completed and was not part of an ongoing operation at that site. We recognize that the incident should not have occurred, and that the authority is responsible for ensuring all work affecting the water system complies with applicable regulations and industry standards. Subsequent testing found no evidence of contamination. The authority is grateful that the incident did not result in any impact on public health. Once the

authority became aware of the issue, boil water procedures were implemented. The system was flushed, and testing was conducted in accordance with the DEP protocols. Your concerns were heard regarding the timeliness and the effectiveness of the boiled water notifications. The authority recognizes that not all of our customers received timely information as quickly or as reliably as they should have. As a result, we are reviewing and improving our communications procedures, including updating customer contact information, and evaluating additional notification methods to ensure residents receive critical information promptly in the future. In addition, residents and council from North Belle Vernon raised concerns about whether waterline flushing affected fire protection capabilities within the borough. Our engineer confirmed that, even with the flushing operations conducted earlier in May, there was sufficient water protection remaining available for firefighting purposes. During the investigation we learned that the primary cause of the violation was a contractor's misunderstanding of the sanitation requirements for the equipment used in and around drinking water infrastructure. This incident could have been prevented through stronger project oversight, clearer communication, of regulatory requirements, and the early involvement of qualified professionals in the project planning and review. While the investigation found no evidence of intentional misconduct, it did identify some shortcomings on the authorities' oversight process who accepts the responsibility for that and for addressing those weaknesses.

Moving forward, the authority will evaluate procedures to ensure that professional consultants, including the authorities' engineer are involved during the earliest stages of projects that might affect the water system operations or any DEP compliance regulations and requirements. Protocols will be established to improve project management, compliances and making sure regulations are met. We are committed to restoring the public's confidence, and we want to do that through transparency, accountability, and continued improvements.

Also, let it be put on record that regarding the boil water alert involving the reservoir issue, that the drone footage that was used to report to the news which in turn, has been reported to the FAA and the Department of Homeland Security. Our board is investigating where the drone footage came from regarding this reservoir issue. For the record, it is a Department of Homeland Security violation to fly a drone over a reservoir which is considered a protected space. An investigation is underway on this very serious issue.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting

Mr. Iacoboni motioned to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting and the June 17, 2026, meeting and Mr. Monack seconded the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

6. Communications

Correspondence is in your packet.

7. Report of the Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Anderson presented the Secretary/Treasurer Reports ending June 30, 2026, to the board for informational purposes. The balance sheet reported total assets and liabilities in the amount of \$4,010.805.74. The net income was \$211,844.33. Mr. Minniti motioned to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report and Mr. Monack seconded the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Minniti motioned to approve checks #203698 - #23732 issued prior to this meeting with the abstention for check #23717 in the amount of \$65.93, and Mr. Iacoboni seconds the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

8. Manager Reports

Engineer's Report

- Rob Horvath reported that KLH Engineers has received confirmation that the CCR has been distributed to MABV customers and the required Department Certification is being prepared for submission.
- To date there is no formal approval regarding the Pilot Study
- Annual inspection on the water side will be done next month
- The issues from the power outage from a recent severe storm at the sewage plant have still not been resolved
- A meeting will be coordinated between KLH, the Authority, Fire Company and the Borough to discuss a possible roof grant

Solicitor's Report

- The Executive Session will be delayed until the sewage meeting .

9. New/Old Business

No Report.

Mr. Iacoboni motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM and Mr. Monack seconded the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**