

**WEIRTON AREA WATER BOARD
REGULAR SESSION- 2025 AGENDA**

November 13, 2025

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2025, in Room 201 of the City Building, by James Shockley, Chairman.

Members in attendance were Ron Jones (phone); Jim Shockley; George Ash; Joseph Paolo; Rocky Bragg; and Anthony Rocchio, ex-officio member.

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Lori Veltri; Jasen Havens; Brian Kuntz; Chuck Tenaglio; Brent Reckner; Jeff Bertha; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden of Thrasher Engineering; Ben Erste and Carlo Fabian of the BHJ; Charles Smith of the Weirton Sanitary Board; First Ward Councilman Tim Connell; and Craig Howell of the Weirton Daily Times.

MINUTES

Mr. Ash made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, Board meeting. Mr. Paolo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Administrative Report –Mr. Shockley asked if the backhoe was done yet. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that it was. Mr. Shockley also asked if the James White project was completed. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that it did not get done, but all the approvals have been received from the Department of Highways. They are just waiting for materials to come in and for James White to begin the work. With no further discussion from Board members regarding the Administrative Report, the report was approved as submitted.

Finance Report: Mr. Kuntz reviewed the finance report, which was included in the Board packet. Mr. Bragg made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for the shared expenses for the month of November 2025 in the amount of \$3,826.00 each. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paolo made a motion to reimburse the General Fund for the Smart Bill in the amount of \$3,230.07 for the month of October 2025. Mr. Ash seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut-off date for the September 2025 bill run was November 4, 2025. The 30-day cycle ends on December 5, 2025. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the November 4, 2025, shut-off date were 1,246. Of this number, 440 were more than one bill past due, 70 have paid in

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full, 6 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 36 have been shut off, 34 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay as agreed, 4 customers received pledges, and 5 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Eight hundred sixty-two single bills are past due. Mr. Shockley asked if Mr. Wells was able to keep up with everything. It is getting to be that time of the year. Mr. Reckner replied that he has gotten a couple of guys to help Mr. Wells, and they seem to be doing pretty good.

Citizens' Comments and Communications: There were no citizens' comments or communications.

Utility Director Communications: Mr. Mastrantoni stated that he had no communications to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the WTP Expansion Project – Jesse Alden reviewed a report from Thrasher Engineering that he passed out. There will be a construction progress meeting today at 1:30 p.m. with the contractor, staff, EPA, BHJ, and Thrasher. One of the big items completed this month but not listed on the handout was the change out of the filter media. It was a coordinated effort that took a fair amount of time and careful consideration to complete. At last month's meeting we talked about the extension of the contract schedule and the impact on the additional time for Thrasher's RPR to be onsite to continue to monitor construction activities. We discussed bringing an amendment for those additional services to present at this month's meeting. He does have that today to present to the Board. This is all in line with the discussion last month to increase the engineering during construction budget by \$25,000.00 to extend their contract time to July 20 and an increase on a time and materials basis for the Resident Project Representation budget of \$125,000.00 which puts their schedule out to July 20 as well. This would be Amendment #3 to the Engineering Services Agreement and will require a motion by the Board for approval. He wanted to call everyone's attention back to the contingency line item. That \$508,000.00 reflects this amendment. Mr. Ash made a motion to approve Amendment #3 to the Engineering Services Agreement. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Alden gave an update on the Distribution System Upgrade Project. They are pursuing an Army Corp grant for this project. They applied last year and were not successful, so they

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are reapplying this year. That application has been submitted to the Infrastructure Council. The deadline for submission of the grant application was November 7, and Mr. Erste said that it was submitted on November 7.

Mr. Alden also provided an update on the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project. A kickoff meeting was held in September, and they met with staff in October. There was a PSC response that was required to be submitted to the Public Service Commission by October 23. That deadline was met. Their next milestone is to hold a 30% review meeting with staff in December. They have not scheduled that yet. The plan is to have that meeting prior to the next Board meeting. The ultimate deadline is to have that submitted to the IJDC by June 10.

He also reported on the PFAS Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. They have a draft PER prepared for that. They need to start moving forward on this project. They haven't really done enough with this project yet.

Mr. Ash asked when we would have a number to give to Council for the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Project. Mr. Alden replied that it would probably be March or April before they had the numbers finalized. They are still trying to go through the inventory of what's what in the system, determine where all the cast iron is, and what the ages are of the lines. They have a lot of field work to do, and then they will start developing a cost estimate. Mr. Paolo asked if there was a back up plan if the grant application doesn't go through. Mr. Alden replied that the Distribution System Upgrade Project and the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project are two separate projects. The Distribution System Upgrade Project is a portion of existing transmission main. Some of it is cast iron and needs to be replaced. The Army Corp funding is \$1 million out of the \$4.3 million funding scenario. There are other avenues potentially to apply for. Mr. Mastrantoni added that there is also DSIC. We could go to Council and internalize the addressing of that. But that would require a rate increase for the customers. Mr. Paolo asked about contacting our representatives like Mr. McGeehan for help. Mr. Guida replied that he has already been helping us. Mr. Mastrantoni commented that the funding round is over in November so he suspects there should be an award decision sometime before the end of the year. Mr. Guida commented that before we go back to Council, they are going to want to make sure that we have exhausted all avenues to get grants; however, the other dynamic in play is the PSC doesn't want to wait. We can continue to apply for grants but at some point, the PSC is going to want us to move on this. The grants are highly competitive, and they are not being funded as much as they used to be. There's going to be a rate increase. There has to be. The only question is how much.

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Mr. Alden also reported that he and Mr. Mastrantoni had discussed some of the outside-of-project services that Chuck Kelly helps the staff with. They thought it would be prudent to put together a General Services Agreement that they could work those specific tasks under. That would give them a mechanism to track charges and be able to bill toward that agreement. Mr. Mastrantoni added that we have used Mr. Kelly's services on a myriad of occasions. To give us all the protection we need in this litigious society, they felt it was important to have a contract in place between Thrasher and the Weirton Area Water Board for these general services. Mr. Guida stated that the City Council has a general services contract. They budgeted \$50,000.00 just because they wanted to budget something. Sometimes it might go over. A lot of times it might be less. We haven't budgeted anything yet because we're not sure. That's to be decided in the future. Mr. Alden presented a similar agreement at Sanitary. All Mr. Guida is asking the Board to do is to generally approve Mr. Mastrantoni to sign the contract once Mr. Guida has had time to review it and offer any changes. Mr. Ash asked if there was a maximum and minimum amount on there. Mr. Alden replied that it is an open-ended general services per an hourly rate. There is a rate schedule. If there is a request that comes that is going to be a bigger deal, he would propose coming forward with a separate agreement for a larger task. Mr. Ash asked if Mr. Kelly had given his stamp to them when he has given opinions in the past. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that he has never had to do that so far. Mr. Guida stated that he does put it in writing. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that if it comes to some legal action and he has to use his engineering stamp or stamp a prospective design, we would have that available to us on a case-by-case basis rather than goodwill between the parties. Mr. Ash stated that he believes this is a good idea, he is just concerned with how high we are going to go. Mr. Guida asked if Mr. Kuntz could make a separate line item for engineering services that are outside what has already been contracted. Mr. Kuntz replied that he could, in the next budget. He said we can't do it now because all our money is already budgeted. He said we do have money budgeted for engineering costs. Mr. Ash asked how much. Mr. Kuntz said he would have to look back in the budget. Mr. Alden said that he believed that at one point the Board and Thrasher had a general services agreement in place. It was a long time ago, and it lasted for a period of time. At some point, the terms were so old, and they just never renewed it. Mr. Paolo made a motion to allow Mr. Mastrantoni to sign the agreement upon review and comment by legal counsel and any changes that are agreed to by the parties. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Guida added that the agreement is terminable at will.

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Mr. Erste presented Draw #17 for the project in the amount of \$2,300,307.86 consisting of payments to The Thrasher Group for \$61,098.78, Triton Construction for \$2,237,968.58, and BHJ-MPC for \$1,240.50. Mr. Ash made a motion to approve the payment of Draw #17. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

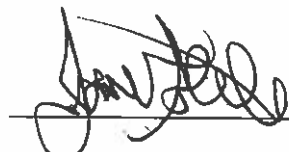
- 1. Next Meeting Date – January 15, 2026**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. Initial PFAS Settlement Check from Dupont** – Mr. Havens reported that we received a check in the amount of \$57,219.23. The first two checks from 3M totaled \$330,225.00. That is about 45.6% of the total, so out of 3M we are still due about half. He is not sure what the grand total on the Dupont settlement is. Mr. Kuntz stated that it is being deposited into Special Projects.
- 2. WV PSC Order Response Filed** – Mr. Mastrantoni commented that last month he reported that the yearly utility report had been filed and accepted and is now online at the PSC. It had our unaccounted for water at 14.28%.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the November 13, 2025, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ash and seconded by Mr. Bragg. The next Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board was set for December 11, 2025.



James Shockley, Chairman