

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

February 12, 2026

A regular session of the Weirton Area Water Board was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in Room 201 of the City Building, by James Shockley, Chairman.

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

WAWB Staff present were Butch Mastrantoni; Charles Smith; Lori Veltri; Brian Kuntz; Chuck Tenaglio; Brent Reckner; and Dan Guida.

Also attending were Jesse Alden and Chuck Kelly of Thrasher Engineering; Ben Erste and Carlo Fabian of the BHJ; Craig Howell of the Weirton Daily Times; and Annalise Murphy of WTRF 7 News.

MINUTES

Mr. Paolo stated that he had asked Mr. Alden from Thrasher to provide him with a reason for the completion to slip from July to August, and that request wasn't in the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Shockley stated that he didn't attend the last meeting. He clarified that it wasn't part of the minutes that had been recorded and handed out. Mr. Paolo said yes, and he wanted it in there. Mr. Shockley asked Ms. Veltri if she could put that down. After Ms. Veltri clarified exactly what Mr. Paolo wanted added to the record, Mr. Paolo made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026, Board meeting with the change added. Mr. Bragg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Administrative Report – Mr. Bragg asked how we did with the deep freeze? Were we ok? Did we have more breaks than normal? Mr. Mastrantoni replied that he does not have a definitive count of the number of breaks yet, but they weren't as drastic as they were last year. He thinks the reason for that was the heavy snow cover. It created a slow cooling of the ground, and it helped us with a slow thawing of the ground. Everybody in our industry realizes that quickly changing temperatures and ground movement break lines. We experienced less of that this year than last year. He thinks the result is because of the insulating effect of the heavy snow blanket. Mr. Bragg said it was such a deep freeze, he was worried about our crews and making sure they were ok so that was good to know. Mr. Mastrantoni stated that he can't express how thankful we are for the efforts of the crews

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

February 12, 2026

that keep showing up in arctic-like weather and getting the job done and keeping water in the community. 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 February 2026 in the amount of \$3,826.00. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. We did not receive a Smart Bill invoice this month.

Delinquent Report: Mr. Reckner gave the delinquent report. The shut-off date for the December 2025 bill run was February 4, 2026. The 30-day cycle ends on March 5, 2026. Total accounts to be collected or terminated on or after the February 4, 2026, shut-off date were 1,723. Of this number, 517 were more than one bill past due, 0 have paid in full, 0 made partial payments and still have an outstanding past due balance, 9 have been shut off, 43 received time extensions and will be collected in regular procedure should they fail to pay as agreed, 5 customers received pledges, and 5 customers are under multi-payment contracts. Eight hundred ninety-five single bills are past due. Mr. Shockley asked if they were keeping up. Mr. Reckner stated it's been hard with the snow. He figures that by April that number should be back down around 1,000.

Citizens' Comments and Communications: Ms. Veltri reviewed the rules governing public comments at WAWB meetings since they hadn't been read at the past few meetings. Karen Mentzer was in attendance again and signed up to speak. She presented some pictures to the Board from Pleasantview and Putnam Lane showing discolored water from January 27 and commented that this is what people are trying to live with. And yes there are boil orders that come out, but it's taking a very long time for the water to get what is considered by the Board normal. She announced at the Council meeting the other night it's been month after month after month after month, and there are no updates. There's not even a conversation about the water. No state of the water. We're up against the weather again, and people are suffering. It's not fair. There's health issues as far as skin rashes, itching, there's stomach issues because of this water. And now we're up against a water rate increase. It was a few months back last year, and it was stated give me the money and I can fix anything. So the money's gonna be coming in, when's it gonna get fixed? How's it gonna get fixed? That's generally what everybody wants to know. The other thing is, as far as this noon meeting, it is real convenient for all of you. It's not convenient for the public. And she has asked a couple of the Council and the Board members after the meeting last month why it can't be videoed and broadcasted so the general public, if they want to see it, they see it. If they don't, they don't. If they have questions, then they can contact one of you or come to the next meeting. They're just not informed. And it's very difficult even to see if you want to find the minutes from these meetings. Go on to the Weirton government

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

February 12, 2026

website. Agendas. Minutes. Go in and look at the Water Board's minutes. They're not there. It should be a one shop stop just to be able to get everything. You shouldn't have to go from here to there, Google, blah, blah, blah, blah, Facebook, no. That's transparency. That's what the PSC wants to see what you're doing. Yeah the alerts are good. Used to get the alerts as far as where and what was happening. Now it just alerts as far as boil order issued, boil order is cancelled. Dry lines. Is that any different from a break? Don't know. At that time, the timer ending her three-minute comment period sounded. Ms. Veltri made a comment regarding the minutes. She stated that the Water Board has its own website, www.weirtonutilities.com and the minutes are posted on that website as well as the agendas. Ms. Mentzer commented that she thought Ms. Veltri was missing the point. Ms. Veltri replied that she thought Ms. Mentzer was missing the point. Ms. Mentzer replied that the point is you have to search everywhere. She said Ms. Veltri was defending herself, and she understood.

Mr. Rocchio announced that at the next Council meeting, March 9, there's gonna be a workshop between the Water, Thrasher, and Council. It's open to the public. It will be over at the Community Center. Mr. Paolo asked what time. Mr. Rocchio replied the Council meeting is at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Harris said it should be quick. Probably 7:30 p.m. he would imagine.

Utility Director Communications: Mr. Mastrantoni had nothing 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. He stated that Mr. Kelly continues to hold his weekly coordination meetings with staff and the contractor to ensure communication and coordination as the project continues along. Those will continue for the duration of the project. Triton did request five abnormal weather days this month. Those will be tallied up and included in a change order. Just to follow up on Mr. Paolo's comments from earlier, they did check with the contractor about those changes to the construction schedule. They will continue to have further discussion, but with their pay application they did provide an updated Gant chart with their schedule which does show it beyond those dates listed on the progress report. Mr. Kelly will help to elaborate on exactly

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

February 12, 2026

what activities are pushing that schedule out a little bit and where they look on the project as a whole. Mr. Kelly stated that when the schedule was first submitted, the critical path was to get the new clear well and filters up and running. Once they get that up and running, the whole treatment train is up and running. They are still looking at June 16 to get those filters up and running. That has not changed. Still looking to get increased capacity to the plant upgraded by the original June 20 date. Clarifier #2 now is pushed later in the schedule. They are hoping to get the new clarifier package put together and grouted, sealed by winter. They had that on the schedule for January 5, January 12. Cold weather moved in, and they had to delay that. That's pushed now to the first week of March. They have to get that tank up and running before they can upgrade Clarifier #2. They expect multiple partial substantial completions in April, May, June. It shouldn't affect the way they have it right now. They are working with the contractor to try to get it back on schedule. The schedule that is shown in the pay application, there is room for improvement. There's multiple activities that they can probably cut down. But that's what they're looking at right now. No official change order request for time extension has been requested by the contractor. They're still working toward the original dates that Mr. Alden just discussed. As it's looking right now it's possible to push out. Critical path to get the plant with the new filters and new clarifiers up and running is still looking like June. Mr. Paolo said he did notice on the new one that was in their packet that it's now September. Mr. Kelly replied that was correct for final. Mr. Paolo asked if that delay was due to the weather and #1 clarifier. Mr. Kelly confirmed that it was. They have had five weather days this month so they pushed a week for that. He said if you look in the Gant chart, clarifier #2 upgrade activity is pushed out. Mr. Guida commented the current completion date is showing July 20. Mr. Kelly replied the schedule submitted by the contractor on the payment application wanted that pushed out. The date that Mr. Alden submitted is the contract completion date. Mr. Alden stated that's where the question came up last month. The contractor submitted their pay application and a requirement of the submission of the pay application is that they provide an updated schedule every month and that schedule showed them beyond what they currently have on their contract. So that's why Mr. Paolo asked the question, and they're following up on that. But they haven't officially requested a time extension for that yet. Mr. Guida commented in all likelihood it's September though, right? Mr. Kelly said he thinks they can do better than that depending on weather and some things that happen from now until then. He thinks they can do a little bit better. That's worst-case scenario. Mr. Paolo stated his question will be, later on, who will be responsible for the pay requirements for time and material due to the extension. They will have to talk about that. Secondly, next month, next meeting, he would like the same kind of update and see how we are doing. He can't make the construction meeting for personal

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

February 12, 2026

reasons, but he would have been there. Mr. Paolo said he did notice all the pieces were moved this time. Mr. Alden reviewed the remainder of the progress report.

Mr. Alden gave an update on the Distribution System Upgrade Project. It was recently submitted to the Infrastructure Council, and that process is complete. It was on the agenda last month. They did receive the funding recommendation from IJDC so essentially the IJDC process is complete at this point. They are in a holding period waiting on the US Army Corp grant that's pending.

Mr. Alden also provided an update on the Cast Iron and Galvanized Line Replacement Project. They are continuing to coordinate with Water Board staff on preparation of the PER and overall project progress. They had a project team call earlier this week with the project accountant and bond counsel to discuss initial potential funding scenario for the project. They have a secondary call scheduled next month. In order to submit the PER to the Infrastructure Council, they have to have the project accountant develop a Rule 42. They have a 60% PER review meeting scheduled with staff on February 18. He has the initial project mapping prepared and pulled out a couple for discussion purposes. They have broken the overall project into several different areas. They finalized the inventory of what they believe is the cast iron and galvanized line within the city. The red lines on that map are indicated as either cast iron or galvanized or steel lines that are required to be replaced. It's pretty extensive across the whole distribution system. All told, it's well over 500,000 linear feet of pipe. They broke these areas up at points where they thought would be good breaks and potential contracts and phases. They also developed an initial total project cost estimate. They are looking at approximately \$190,000,000.00 to replace all the lines. They have not done any field work to refine this estimate yet. It is all based on utilizing the mapping they have and street view on Google Earth. That number is subject to change. Mr. Shockley commented it's not going to go lower. Mr. Alden replied probably not. Mr. Shockley confirmed with Mr. Alden that all the red lines are required to be replaced. Mr. Alden replied that all of the red lines are indicated as either cast iron or galvanized, which as part of the order are required to be replaced by the PSC. He stated that we always had a program for years on line replacement, and we spent a lot of money doing that. What we've done, where the piping isn't that old, does that still all have to be replaced? Mr. Alden replied that if it had previously been replaced, it is not on that map to be replaced. Mr. Mastrantoni replied that most of the work we have done from 2015 - 2025, the replacement of line has been with PVC based C900 based line. Mr. Rocchio asked how much the water rates are going up. He said it's not funny. It's thrown on the residents.

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

February 12, 2026

Mr. Mastrantoni replied it's hard to say at this particular point in time because you don't know what assistance you are getting from anybody. He doesn't want to say that there's grants available for this. There's no programs definitely available for this. But it's our hope that given the level of involvement at the state, there would be some assistance that we could get. So it's difficult to say at this juncture what the true rate impact is going to be. Mr. Guida commented that he, Mr. Alden, and Mr. Mastrantoni had discussed this. Even if we get lucky, very competitive field, everybody else is trying to get money too, if we're real lucky it's about half. Mr. Alden said it's very hard to speculate exactly what type of grant you could get. You have to apply for those. Through the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund and the Infrastructure Council, which are typical funding mechanisms for projects for utilities within the State of WV, the Water Board is not eligible for a grant through their programs due to the median household income compared to the water rate because the water rate is relatively low in comparison to the MHI. There are other programs out there. They have applied for a Corp grant on the other job, there's Congressionally Directed Spending grants. Mr. Alden stated they have put some inflation factors in there knowing that we are not bidding the job until January 2028. They are looking down the road with this estimate to some extent. Mr. Paolo commented that from the start to the completion is pretty tight. This is one big project but they have broken the areas up such that it would be sizeable contracts for different contractors. If you bid it out as one \$190,000,000.00 contract, you might only get a few contractors that have the ability to bond a project that big. Mr. Paolo asked during this year if there would be disruptions in service due to the work being done. Mr. Alden replied that is inevitable, but it will be localized and temporary. The intent is that they would put new line in and then transition over. Mr. Guida asked Mr. Alden if he was aware of any other city or public service district in the state that is replacing cast iron or galvanized line - he believes it's 95 miles. Mr. Alden thinks there's lots of utilities that have replacement programs but to do it all in one swoop no. This is not a typical type of project. Mr. Paolo asked if we should get our elected state and federal officials brought up to date now so that we would know - at least get a discussion started with them to try to find money for this. Mr. Guida stated they discussed this after the Sanitary Board meeting, and he doesn't feel we are there yet. Mr. Alden stated that at this point we do not have an exact ask. Mr. Mastrantoni commented that due to the winter, field verification has not yet taken place. Mr. Alden added that BHJ will be instrumental through this whole process to help find funding and get the project submitted to Infrastructure Council. Mr. Shockley asked if the Water and Sewer projects we are working on now would have an effect on funding requests. Mr. Erste added that before you talk to elected officials, you need to have the PER and the draft Rule 42 completed. He said probably in June of this year we should be in good shape to start talking to the legislators.

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

February 12, 2026

Mr. Alden then provided an update on the PFAS Treatment Plant Upgrade Project. They have a draft preliminary engineering report. They had a discussion with the accountant and bond counsel last week about getting that submitted to the Infrastructure Council. They don't have an exact date yet, but they will be submitting it in the upcoming months. The good thing about this project is because PFAS is an emerging contaminant, the EPA has designated a fund for emerging contaminants which is a grant program. The intent would be to submit that application to the Infrastructure Council and be funded solely by the emerging contaminant fund through the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund. He thinks the overall project cost for that is \$13,000,000.00 or \$14,000,000.00. Mr. Mastrantoni asked Mr. Erste if they had released any emerging contaminant program guidelines yet. Mr. Erste replied that the last time he asked them, they didn't know.

Mr. Erste presented Draw #20 for the project in the amount of \$551,572.90 consisting of payments to The Thrasher Group for \$54,975.46, Triton Construction for \$494,441.69, and BHJ-MPC in the amount of \$2,155.75. Mr. Paolo made a motion to approve the payment of Draw #20. Mr. Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Next Meeting Date - March 12, 2026**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Mastrantoni acknowledged that former Councilman and current Board member George Ash was listening from the hospital. While he couldn't speak, he still wanted to be a part of the meeting. We will acknowledge that he attended a major part of the meeting before he shut down.

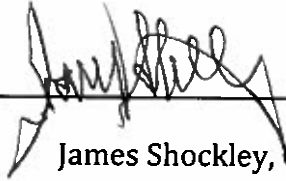
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the February 12, 2026, Regular Session of the Weirton Area Water Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bragg and seconded by Mr. Jones. The next Regular Session of the Weirton

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

February 12, 2026

Area Water Board was set for March 12, 2026.



James Shockley, Chairman