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MT. PENN BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
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Since 1941 the MP Borough Municipal Authority has been a steward of the water system and provided tremendous service to the ratepayers while maintaining low rates. Without the use of any taxpayer dollars the Authority expanded and maintained a water system that now serves over 3,500 homes within Mt. Penn, Lower Alsace, St. Lawrence and Exeter.

For the past 86 years the Authority has been a partner with the community and municipalities served by the water system. The public may not be aware that the Authority is responsible for preserving Carsonia Park which allows the residents of the municipalities to enjoy the Park. These efforts include being instrumental in the construction and operation of the Rec Center. The Antietam Pool might not be open today without the assistance provided by the Authority. The Authority works in cooperation with the Fire Department, and when Antietam High School was flooded, the Authority worked quickly to restore water service to the site.

The Authority has been a partner with Mt Penn Borough. The partnership includes providing internet and IT monitoring to Borough Hall, as well as, allowing Authority employees to staff the Borough Office as needed to keep the office open when Borough employees are not present.

The Authority never advertised its efforts or believed it was necessary to engage in public relations campaigns. Rather, the Authority did all these things because it is what is best for the community.

With this in mind, the Authority must correct some misstatements of fact published about the Authority. Throughout this process the Authority has advocated for a collaborative process with the intention of preventing (and now hopefully resolving) the litigation filed against the Authority. The Authority never stated, or took any actions, to indicate that the Authority would not cooperate with the Borough. With that stated, the Authority has at all times stated that the Authority retains an obligation to be a steward of the water system and to ensure that all actions are legal.

While the Borough may be facing financial struggles, decisions such as proposed transaction, must be carefully considered before action is taken. However, the Authority has not caused a delay. While the Authority received a PowerPoint presentation, June 29, 2026, was the first (and only) time that Borough representatives sat down with the Authority to discuss specific details. The Authority recognizes the efforts of Mayor Maurer for setting up the June 29th meeting. The Authority must also correct the misstatement that the meeting started off with the Authority's attorney "daring" the Borough to take any action. That statement is false. Many ideas were discussed during that meeting, one of which was the establishment of a joint authority. Again, the statement that the idea of a joint authority was not raised until after June 29th is false. In fact, the Borough's attorneys recognized that it is an idea that warranted investigation.

The June 29th meeting resulted in the framework of a path forward, and a second negotiation session was scheduled to take place on July 9th. Between June 29th and July 8th, the further exchange of ideas continued. In fact, some of the ideas identified by the Authority were more beneficial to the Borough than the framework set forth on June 29th. With that background the Authority Board was surprised when Borough representatives attended the July 8, 2026, Authority meeting and informed the Authority Board that they were cancelling the scheduled July 9th meeting. Further, the Authority Board was given a deadline to approve the transaction. It is noted that the Authority Board did not have a proposed agreement until July 10th. As a result, on July 8th the Authority Board could not approve an agreement which it had not yet received.

This is the background that brings us all here tonight. The Authority has considered itself to a partner with the Borough. Further, the Authority must make all efforts to ensure that the water system is not sold to a private company. The Authority has had the opportunity to review the proposed draft document delivered on July 10th. With the assurance from the Borough's attorneys that: 1. The conveyance / lease structure is legal; and 2. An agreement preventing the sale of the water system to a private company will survive review in the case of Act 47, the Authority is prepared move forward with the conveyance and lease transaction, effective January 1, 2027, provided that there is a "no sale" agreement and that the Authority's financing with PennVest is not put in jeopardy.

The Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority Board of Directors has concerns that using Authority funds to supplement the Borough budget is the equivalent of St. Lawrence and Lower Alsace residents funding its borough and township operations. The Authority hopes that this is a solution which will allow the Authority to continue to serve the ratepayers of St Lawrence, Mt Penn, Lower Alsace and Exeter as the Authority has done for the past 86 years.