

**MACUNGIE BOROUGH AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

Organization & General Business Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The Macungie Borough Authority meeting was called to order on May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA 18062. In attendance were Jeffrey Stauffer, Chairman; Robert Bogert, Jr., Vice-Chairman; Todd Ritter, Member; Lorraine Walters, Member; Douglas McNair, Water Operator; and Kalman Sostarecz, Jr., Authority Secretary.

Chairman Stauffer opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None

III. Approval of Minutes

A. May 14, 2026

Vice-Chairman Bogert made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2026 meeting, seconded by Ms. Walters. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Reports

A. Approval of Paid Bills Detail in the amount of \$10,425.93

Chairman Stauffer made a motion to approve the Paid Bills Detail in the amount of \$10,425.93, seconded by Mr. Ritter. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports

A. Authority

None

B. Water Operator

Mr. McNair reviewed the Water Operator's written report.

C. Borough Manager

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the utility billing for the first quarter went well and there were fewer delinquent accounts than there were previously which is headed in the right direction. He also met with Andrea Martin and Christine Mildner from BIA about the Borough's water and MS4 programs; they reviewed a lot of maps that BIA has and discussed moving everything into GIS. Chairman Stauffer asked Mr. Sostarecz to prepare potential rate increases, both to the base rate and usage rate, to present with the budget in October as the Authority has not raised rates in ten years.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion on Water Use for Macungie Fire Department

Tim Romig, President of Macungie Volunteer Fire Department, provided four handouts and explained what each were: 1) MVFD Certificate of Insurance which was issued to Upper Milford Township and valid from 4/7/25 to 4/7/26; 2) MVFD Certificate of Insurance with a policy period from 4/7/26 to 4/7/27; 3) Woodlawn Fire Department letter explaining they will provide mutual aid to the MVFD. Mr. Romig stated that they were requested to reach out to surrounding departments, but several did not see the urgency in providing them. Ms. Walters stated that her request at the last meeting was to be provided letters from other agencies that want MVFD to support them. Mr. Romig stated that is what mutual aid is – when a department is put on a call box they are notified to provide support if needed. Upper Milford Township had previously requested their COI as that is a step to be put on a call box. Greg Hutchison previously had told them that MVFD did not have insurance, which was false. Another reason they haven't gotten

additional letters is many departments only have one administrative person and hold one meeting a month, so that delayed them. 4) Calculations for what potential flow rates would be for attack lines, deck gun, fire engine, and quint. Not all four would be used on the same night of training – each evening would be dialed in on a specific piece of equipment. He stated that ideally using a water flow gauge on the hydrant would provide exact figures on how many gallons per minute are needed, but that the Borough does not have a meter that can be placed on a hydrant. Mr. McNair stated that it's possible that meters could be rented or borrowed. Purchasing a meter would be very expensive. Mr. Romig stated that utilizing water is important for training as it's necessary for firefighters to have to handle hoses full of water, and not just empty, as well as aiming the water that is flowing.

Mr. Romig stated that Borough Council usurped the Water Authority's authority to control their hydrant use. The hydrant access was removed by Council because of the past issues with the MVFD which the current members are trying to address.

Mr. Romig stated that they are not criticizing the Lower Macungie Fire Department; however, the majority of the Borough is on the opposite side of the railroad tracks and there have been times when the LMFD has been stopped by a train that was on the tracks. It is ideal for the Borough to have a fire department that is within the borough. The MVFD is still listed with the Commonwealth of PA as a registered fire department, and it is the MVFD's goal to first get listed as mutual aid to other departments, and eventually earn the right to service the Borough.

Chairman Stauffer asked how many training sessions they hold per month. Mr. Romig stated that they hold multiple training sessions but only one would be with water. Dennis Fritz, Vice President of MVFD, stated that they would utilize the water for a maximum of one hour, once per month. They could alternate what equipment is used at each training session.

Janet Sell, resident, stated that the Water Authority should reject the MVFD's request for free water for two reasons: first, that the Macungie Memorial Park has been rejected to fill their pool for free, and second, that the decision must be based on sound business decisions and not political pressure. Providing water would be investing in a disorganized and dysfunctional department that is far from operational readiness.

Ronald Conrad, resident, stated it is not an argument between MVFD and LMFD. If MVFD is recognized, LMFD would still respond as mutual aid. MVFD has been in operation since 1907 and has done a great job throughout the years.

Chairman Stauffer stated that the Authority has the ability to approve the use of water, but the Borough Council must also approve the use.

Ms. Walters stated that she is a fighter for the underdog; however, she asked for multiple letters and only one was received, she also asked for a training schedule in writing but it hasn't been submitted. She's not prepared to say yes granting use of the hydrants. Mr. Romig stated that he will reapproach the other departments and ask for the letters, letting them know how urgent it is.

Chairman Stauffer stated that regarding the Macungie Memorial Park's pool, after COVID they lost a lot of resources and asked if the Authority would fill the pool for them free of charge. They approved it and told them they wanted Mr. McNair to be present so they could track how many gallons were being used. They did fill it, but did not notify anyone beforehand, so it's unknown how many gallons were used. They came back the following year with the same request but it was denied because they didn't abide by their previous decision.

Chairman Stauffer stated that he is also not ready to make a decision, and the MVFD needs to come back with all of the information that is being requested.

Mr. Fritz stated that last year LMFD used Authority hydrants for training and the Authority didn't know about it. Mr. McNair stated that they were aware and he was present to track how much water they were using. Mr. Fritz stated that as a taxpayer it is getting out of hand, the MVFD just wants to be able to protect the town. Ms. Walters stated that she asked for a few simple things which were not provided.

Bob Sell, Mayor, asked about the requirement for Borough Council to also approve. Chairman Stauffer stated that the Solicitor provided guidance to that effect. Mr. Sostarecz stated that Solicitor Armstrong indicated that it is in the Borough's Ordinances, as well as from the Management Agreement between the Authority and the Borough, in which the Authority delegated the management of the system to the Borough. The Authority owns the system, and the Borough, through the agreement, manages the system.

Vice-President Bogert would vote yes to it; he remembers when the MVFD was vibrant with community events and operating well, and then one period of time when those running it did a terrible job, and now they are trying to get it back to the way it was, and there should not be stumbling blocks for them to get there. To have a department they need volunteers, and to get volunteers they need to be able to train with water.

Ms. Walters stated that when a request ultimately gets to the Council, the MVFD should come with a full presentation, and she will attend in support of them.

Vice-Chairman Bogert stated that four residents came to him to let him know that their insurance rates when up 10 – 20% because there is not a fire department near them.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Stauffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Ritter. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.
Authority Secretary