

**Laurel Mountain Borough**

**Special Workshop Meeting**

**January 24, 2024**

A Special Workshop meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at the Shelter House and via Zoom.

Council members present were Mathew Henson, President; Sharon Detar, Vice President; Tanner Solich. Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon; Ben Faas, Engineer; Scott Lentz, Secretary/Treasurer.

Participating via Zoom were Gladys Light and Charles D'Angelo (representing Solicitor Demosky).

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

President Mathew Henson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM Eastern Standard Time. A quorum of Council members was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was deemed ready to proceed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Henson first provided the attendees with an overview of the Borough's need for a waterline replacement analysis. Questions from the public were asked, including remedies for the lack of water pressure experienced by several residents.

**Presentation by Borough Engineer Ben Faas**

Mr. Henson then introduced Mr. Ben Faas, Borough Engineer, to provide the Council and residents with an overview the Borough's waterline status.

Mr. Faas proceeded to discuss the Borough's potential need to upgrade / replace the current infrastructure. Mr. Faas provided the attendees with a written summary of the waterline status, attached as Exhibit 1.

**Public Comment**

Questions from Council and residents were asked regarding Mr. Faas' report.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council would schedule a follow-up workshop for January 31, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made and adopted, the Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

R. Scott Lentz, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

## Exhibit 1

### Special Workshop Meeting, January 24, 2024

#### Laurel Mountain Borough Water

##### Infrastructure Ownership:

- MAWC supplies the water
- LMB owns the distribution system between MAWC owned facilities and the curb stop
- Curb stop to the meter is privately owned by the individual property owner
- MAWC owns the meter

##### Infrastructure O&M:

- LMB is responsible for O&M of all facilities between the connection to MAWC and the curb stop consisting of approximately 12,700 LF of distribution and service lines.
- The Borough does not add to the bill paid to MAWC and therefore does not generate revenue for infrastructure O&M.
- The system is aging and has periodic issues with pressure, water quality, and failure (breaks).
- The 2022 estimate used in the H2O grant application estimated the replacement cost at over \$2,000,000.
- The Borough's system consists of 107 customers.
- The resulting replacement liability is approximately \$19,000/customer.

##### Funding received to date:

- CDBG - \$286,300 – Due 8/17/2024 – \$434,645 budget submitted – balance to be locally funded. Project is limited to White Oak, Dogwood, Red Oak.
- County ARPA Funds - \$220,000 contribution to total project. Requires a \$220,000 match.
- I believe we can modify some of the descriptions in these grants to match each other.

##### Other grant efforts to date:

- DCED H2O, Small Water and Sewer, LSA, LSA Cat 4. All were unsuccessful.

##### Other funding alternatives:

- USDA/RUS – Did not specifically investigate
- PENNVEST – Will not fund if not a Public Water Supply (PWS).

##### Possible avenue to qualify for PENNVEST:

- Obtain PWS ID Number
  - Apply to DEP for PWS Permit (\$15,000)

- Contract distribution operator (\$2000/mo)
- Comply with permit regulatory requirements (\$1000/mo est.)
- Dissolve PWS upon project completion.

Cost of pursuing a complete PENNVEST project:

- PENNVEST may subsidize costs which exceed an average residential rate of approximately \$75/mo. Approximately a \$40/mo surcharge for 20 years.
- Interim financing will be required to cover soft costs associated with implementation.