

Elkland Borough Authority Meeting Minutes

June Woodard – Chairperson – Present	Judith Farman – Present
Mike Arnold, Vice – Chairperson – Present	Austin Welch – Present
James Farman – Present	Jeremy Freeman – Present

Members of the Public in Attendance: Glenda Marzo – Burton, Donna Blend, Kera Hackett, Clayton Fuhrer, Pete VanGorden, Belinda Root

Austin Welch did not vote on any motions. Mr. Welch stated that the meetings were illegal.

1. **Call To Order:** 6:00 PM by Chairperson June Woodard

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was not listed on the agenda. The secretary will be more diligent in the future.

Austin Welch called a Point of Order immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance. It was the same Point of Order he has made in many previous meetings. He states that he is still the chairperson of the Authority and had Final Determination Letters from the Office of Open Records and emails from Amanda Fuhrer, that he claims proves that he is the chairperson. The argument went on and on, I had trouble following it. Austin Welch stated that he wanted the documents he had put in the meeting packet, because he stated his Point of Order on the record. Austin Welch also wanted to rule on his Point of Order, as he maintains that he is the chairperson.

3. **Executive Session – Personnel**

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Executive Session held from 6:05Pm – 6:31PM

4. Public Comments on the Agenda

Jacob Mack, a resident of Elkland, had his water shut off and was charged \$50.00, to have it turned back on. He filed a Right to Know Request for the current ordinance stating the rate to have your water turned back on and the one he got says \$20.00. He filed a different Right to Know Request for the current water and sewer rates and was given a paper that says the rates can be reset every January, no paper with the current rate listed. June Woodard, Chairperson, told him to come to the office Friday morning, and they could go over the rates and the other information.

Belinda Root, a resident of Elkland, stated that the proposed \$8.00 raise in the rates for the water and sewer bill was too high. She said the water was bad and it was never on the agenda. For the last six months the Authority has done nothing but fight and that, “the residents of Elkland don’t deserve this treatment. Why does the Council have to approve everything?” June Woodard, Chairperson, stated that is why the Authority is separating from the Council. Ms. Root then stated that she lives on Woodlawn Ave. and her water smells like rotten socks, after her treatment system. This led Austin Welch to state that there is a massive leak in the roof of the water tank and therefore a lot of stuff is getting into the water. Mike Arnold responded that there were a few small leaking in the roof of the water tank and he got caulk that was approved by DEP and fixed them. The cracks where only about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the roof should no longer be leaking. Pittsburg Tank and Cleaning ran a camera on the inside of the roof and once their invoice is paid, he will see the footage and know for sure what is going on with the roof. Austin Welch then asked how the tank was filled and Mike Arnold told him it was filled from the bottom, Austin Welch then proposed an idea on how to test the water, Mike Arnold told him the water is tested every month and the water is fine. Austin Welch then stated that there is an issue with the water at 706 Elphis St. and Mike Arnold said when there is a problem, the problem needs to be reported to the office and that house and four houses around it will be tested.

5. Approve Minutes

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Chairperson June Woodard asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from November 12, 2025.

A Motion was made by Judith Farman to approve the Minutes from the November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting. **Seconded**, by James Farman. **Motion carried.**

Chairperson June Woodard then asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting on November 19, 2025. Austin Welch then had comments on the Minutes. He stated the motion made by James Farman was worded incorrectly regarding the Three Minute Time Limit Per Person during the Public Comment time periods James Farman stated that the Motion was worded correctly. Austin Welch also stated that the Minutes incorrectly reported his answer to Mrs. Kera Hackett. A notation has been made on the Minutes to reflect his answer.

Voting on the Minutes of November 19, 2025, were tabled to the Special Meeting on December 18, 2025.

6. Old Business

1. Resolution to Pass Bylaws

Austin Welch had an issue with the Confidentiality Clauses in the Proposed Bylaws. Jeremy Freeman wants to see the documentation from the Authority's lawyer stating they are acceptable. Topic Tabled to December 18, 2025, Special Meeting.

2. Update on 2022 Consent Order Project

Report given updating on the project and the meetings that have been ongoing on ZOOM. Permanent power should be at the Sewer Plant in December between the 17th and the 19th as long as the electrical inspection is completed.

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The emergency generator is at the plant and is being filled by Williams Oil and Propane. At the time of the meeting Mike Arnold asked if someone was supposed to be filling the tank, and June Woodard, Chairperson, said someone should be, she thought that that issue had been handled. There was some miscommunication as to who was supposed to oversee scheduling the time the tank would be filled.

3. Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

James Farman took the Authority's proposal to the Elkland Volunteer Fire Department Meeting. The Fire Department accepted the Authority's proposal to do the hydrant testing in Spring 2026. There are 150 hydrants that need to be tested, the department estimates that it will take about eight months to complete the testing. The firefighters will donate their time to do the testing, and the Authority will pay \$3,200.00 to rent the Fire Department's equipment for them to do the testing. Jeremy Freeman asked why we are renting the Fire Department's equipment for the Fire Department to do the testing. June Woodard, Chairperson stated the Fire Department cannot be paid to do the testing, because they are a nonprofit organization, but the Authority cannot accept the services for free, so the Authority must rent the equipment. James Farman abstained from voting on this topic, because he is also a member of the Fire Department. Chairperson June Woodard asked for a motion to accept the proposal.

A Motion was made by Mike Arnold to accept the proposal with the Fire Department to do the fire hydrant testing. **Seconded** by Jeremy Freeman. **Motion Carried.**

4. Sludge Removal

Mike Arnold stated that he needed to check into it more and suggested it be tabled.

5. Special Meetings

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There will be a Special Meeting on December 18, 2025, to accept the bids for the Consent Order Project. Jeremy Freeman asked why we needed to have a meeting for that, June Woodard Chairperson, stated because the Bids need to be accepted publicly. June Woodard then went on to state that the Authority will be having a Special Meeting on December 29, 2025, to approve the 2026 Budget. On the Agenda the Special Meeting was listed as being on December 23, 2025, but the Farmans will be out of town on that date. To vote on a Budget a quorum of Members must be present in person. Jeremy Freeman then asked why the Budget could not be approved on December 18th, Amanda Fuhrer, Secretary, told him the Budget needed to be available to the public to view for 30 days, the Budget must be passed before December 31, 2025, so a meeting was needed. Amanda Fuhrer was mistaken about the amount of time the Budget needed to be available to view, the amount of time is ten days, not 30 days. The vote to approve the Budget will be held on December 18, 2025.

7. New Business

1. Rural Water Training Registration

A paper advertising a training available from Rural Water was placed in the packet and on the agenda by Amanda Fuhrer, Secretary, in case anyone wanted to attend the training. Mike Arnold stated that the Elkland system does not use a membrane filtration system, so this training is obsolete for Elkland purposes.

2. Financial Reports

For the period from November 3, 2025, to November 30, 2025, on the Statement of Activity the Authority had Total Expenses of \$28,451.91. On the Statement of Financial Position, the Total Assets are \$409,791.12, the total for Liabilities and Equity is \$409, 791.12. On the Bill Payment List the Authority paid a total of \$44,504.71.

Austin Welch stated that in his opinion the financial reports are useless. He was looking at the Budget vs. Actuals paper and wanted to know what the line items labeled, “Interfund Operating Transfer” and “Ask My Accountant” were for. An argument ensued; there was no resolution to it.

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3. Worker Hours

June Woodard, Chairperson, asked if the Authority wanted to adjust the worker hours or if the Authority wanted to table the discussion for the time being. Jeremy Freeman then asked if there had been a discussion about the hours before and if there was documentation of that discussion. Then there was an argument and the item was tabled.

8. Public Comments

Donna Blend asked if there has been a survey done to see who has bad water and who has good water. June Woodard, Chairperson, stated that the water flow testing the Authority wants to do should help to determine where the bad water is.

Clayton Fuhrer asked who got hurt? In reference to a statement made by Austion Welch at the November 19th meeting. Austin Welch said it was someone from years ago and Mike Arnold said that he didn't know of any issue as of today.

9. Adjournment

Chair June Woodard asked for a motion to adjourn.

A Motion to adjourn was made by James Farman, **Seconded** by Judith Farman. **AIF Motion Carried**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Amanda Fuhrer

Elkland Borough Authority

Secretary/Treasurer