

ELKLAND BOROUGH
AUTHORITY MEETING
MINUTES

09/04/2025

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: Clayton Fuhrer, Glenda Marzo – Burton, Trina Marzo, Bubba Marzo, Brad Upson from LaBella, Robert Neal, Gene and Pat Shaffer, Scott Tanner, Donna Blend

Austin Welch refused to fill out Conflict of Interest Abstention Memorandum papers for his abstentions during the Special Meeting on August 12, 2025. He maintains that the meeting was illegal and therefore the paperwork was not necessary because the votes taken during that meeting are invalid.

1. Call To Order: 6:00 PM by Vice – Chairperson Mike Arnold

Austin Welch had a Point of Order stating that he was still the Chairperson of the Borough Authority. He had a long statement he attempted to read. Argument ensued and Mike Arnold overruled his Point of Order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Arnold, Austin Welch refused to acknowledge that the meeting had started and did not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. He was admonished by Judith Farman for this action. Austin Welch continued to argue that he was the Chairperson and that the previous three meetings were invalid, because according to the by-laws, he did not gavel them in. Mike Arnold asked which by-laws he was referring to, Austin Welch said the 1979 by-laws. June Woodard stated that then according to those by – laws she was still the chair as the

reorganization had not been done in January as the by-laws state they should be. Austin Welch replied that no she had exceeded her term limit. Austin Welch called for an appeal to Mike Arnold's overrule of the Point of Order. Mike Arnold overruled the appeal. Austin Welch keep arguing that he wanted a vote taken on his point of order and an informal vote was made with all other present members saying, "No".

3. Resignation Letter from Lyndsey King

Mike Arnold then read Lyndsey King's resignation letter:

"September 2, 2025

Elkland Borough Council
105 Parkhurst Street
Elkland, PA 16920

To the Members of the Elkland Borough Council and Authority:

It is with deep disappointment that I submit my resignation as Chairperson and member of the Elkland Borough Authority, effective immediately.

When I joined the Authority in July, I did so out of a sincere commitment to public service, particularly concerning water/wastewater infrastructure, where I bring years of professional experience and a genuine passion to contribute to long-term, sustainable progress. I had high hopes of helping to modernize operations, address long-standing challenges, and move the Authority toward stability and effectiveness.

Since being elected Chairperson in August, however, the demands of the position have become overwhelming and unreasonable. Nearly 20 hours of my time each week, on top of my full-time career, have been spent responding to crises, researching decades-old documentation, and mitigating the fallout, misinformation and unauthorized actions. This is not sustainable, nor is it what I volunteered to do.

I have received calls, texts, and emails nearly *every single day*, including weekends and holidays, regarding Authority business. The vast majority of these matters are not urgent, yet I am expected to be available, as if I were a full-time paid employee. This is a volunteer position, and the expectation that I be on call around the clock is entirely inappropriate.

The majority of these issues stem directly from the repeated, unauthorized, disruptive, and unilateral actions of one board member, Mr. Austin Welch. His pattern of behavior—operating independently without board consent, interfering with staff responsibilities, spreading false information publicly, ignoring board decisions, and creating a general environment of chaos and distrust—has rendered it impossible for the Authority to function as a collaborative governing body. Furthermore, despite legal advice from our solicitor and the board’s clear reorganization vote naming myself as Chair and Mike Arnold as Vice Chair, Mr. Welch continues to falsely claim authority as Chair and act accordingly, further confusing the public and undermining the board’s legitimacy.

More seriously, Mr. Welch has accessed the municipal water system without authorization, an act that raises significant safety, liability, and public trust concerns. His disregard for proper procedures and chain of command has overwhelmed our newly hired secretary, who has been unable to fully train or settle into her role due to the volume of demands and disruptions he creates.

On a personal level, Mr. Welch’s behavior has crossed several serious boundaries. Just days after I was appointed Chair, he appeared at my home unannounced and uninvited, an alarming and deeply inappropriate act that left me feeling unsafe in my own residence. As a result, I was forced to install a home security system, an unexpected and burdensome expense, especially as a new homeowner. His ongoing requests for private meetings, aggressive behavior, and unpredictable conduct have created a toxic environment that has severely affected my health. The unrelenting stress of this role has exacerbated a medical condition, and I cannot continue to jeopardize my well-being in this way.

Despite my best efforts to stabilize the Authority, the current conditions are unsustainable. The level of dysfunction and toxicity introduced by one individual has made meaningful progress impossible and rendered my position untenable. Most of my energy has gone toward putting out fires, not moving the Authority forward.

I strongly urge the remaining members of the board, and the governing Council members, to thoroughly evaluate Mr. Welch's conduct and the damage it continues to cause. This board cannot fulfill its mission without restoring order, accountability, and professionalism.

Thank you to those who supported me and shared the vision of a functional, forward-thinking Authority. I remain hopeful that one day this body can operate in the way it was intended—to serve the people of Elkland with integrity, respect, and purpose.

Sincerely,
Lyndsey R. King”

After Mike Arnold got done reading Lyndsey King's Resignation letter Austin Welch stated to Amanda Fuhrer that she should make sure he received a copy of the letter.

A Motion was made by June Woodard to accept Lyndsey King's resignation as Authority Chairperson. June Woodard wanted it to be noted that “it was with deep regret, she [Lyndsey King] came as a volunteer. With great experience, and I want to thank her for service, and it is with deep regret they must accept” the resignation of Lyndsey King as Chairperson of the Borough Water Authority. **Seconded**, by James Farman. **All in Favor Motion Carried**, Austin Welch Abstained.

4. Reorganization of Chairperson

A Motion was made by James Farman to nominate June Woodard as Chairperson. **Seconded** by Judith Farman. June Woodard accepted the nomination.

Austin Welch resumed arguing, stating that the last reorganization was illegally done, with no legal opinion backing it up. It was stated that the Borough Authority's attorney J. Micheal Wiley has sent an email to the members of the board and to the Authority Secretary on August 7, 2025. Austin Welch said he had that email and the email said that he was not issuing a legal opinion, but rather a practical opinion. He then read out the email from Attorney Wiley:

"Attorney Client Privileged Communication

J. Michael Wiley
Aug 7, 2025, 4:28 PM

Greetings Board Members:

The purpose of this email is to provide a summary of what I believe I have been authorized to do and then to provide some guidance on the Board leadership issue.

First, I have talked with the Borough solicitor regarding two (2) issues: (1) resolution of the monetary issue (\$500K over 10 years as discussed); and, (2) resolution of the employee issue.

According to the Borough solicitor, the Borough is open to an agreement regarding having the employees stay Borough employees. In my opinion, this is a positive for the reasons discussed and with your approval, I will start the process of working out the terms of such an agreement.

In addition, the monetary agreement needs to be finalized, and I will work with the Borough solicitor to accomplish that task based upon our discussion at our last meeting.

Second, the agreement regarding employees in my opinion should also detail flow of information and handling of monetary accounts.

Third, I still think there is value to having the engineer make a presentation regarding the status of the system and pending or future projects.

Finally, on the issue of Board leadership, this is not a legal opinion, but a practical one. Given the tension that is on the Board presently, that I witnessed first hand during our meeting, there needs to be a resolution to the leadership issue. I would recommend a reorganizational meeting to accomplish this task. I would also comment that it might be in the Board's best interest to have the chairperson of the Authority be someone other than the last two chairs. This is not a reflection on either of them, but rather a suggestion that such a decision might help take the focus award from the conflict that has occurred to date and just have the chair position return to a more traditional role of administrating the meetings, etc. If you disagree with this suggestion, that is fine. However, I do not feel I am doing my job unless I share that recommendation.

You may contact me as needed to discuss further.

Thanks, Mike.

J. Michael Wiley | Partner”

The email was then discussed. Austin Welch was the only member of the board that took the meaning of the email to be that a reorganization was not needed and that there was no legal direction to do the reorganization, because it was just Mr. Wiley's opinion. All the other members of the board agreed that the message in that email was that the Borough Authority needed to reorganize. Austin Welch stated if they were listening to the opinion of the lawyer then James Farman would not have nominated June Woodard as the chair. James Farman replied that as of right now June Woodard was the only person capable of doing the job. Austin Welch repeated James Farman's statement and said that he only got to do one meeting. James Farman said that Austin Welch has been impersonating the chair since July. Austin

Welch then stated again that it was not a legal opinion, but a personal opinion and that was now on the record.

Mike Arnold asked if there were any other nominations for Chairperson. There were none.

Mike Arnold then asked for a motion to accept June Woodard as Chairperson.

A Motion was made by James Farman to accept June Woodard as Chairperson of the Borough Authority. **Seconded** by Judith Farman **A Roll Call Vote** was taken: Mike Arnold: Yes, Judith Farman: Yes, June Woodard: Yes, James Farman: Yes, Austin Welch: Abstained, **Motion Carried**

- 5. Executive Session** the Borough Authority members then went to the borough office and held an executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. The session was held from 6:25 Pm to 6:28 Pm. Chairperson Woodard stated the session was not for legal or personal reasons, Mr. Welch was trying to defame someone. After the session Austin Welch left the meeting in a disgruntled manor, stating the meeting was illegal

6. Public Comments

Trina Marzo asked what the lawyer has said about Austin Welch performing water sampling and if Austin Welch had repaid Elkland Borough for the PACE Water Sampling that he took, and if he has not yet paid it; then isn't that considered stealing? There will be an update on these questions at the next regular meeting. Pat Schaffier asked if a person could insure a water line to their home. You can with other utilities. June Woodard said that you could, but she believes, in her opinion that those insurances are dangerous and predatory because the water lines are old.

7. Transition Agreement

The transition Agreement between the Elkland Borough Council and the Elkland Water Authority was reaffirmed with a roll vote. James Farman asked if the

agreement would still say January 1, 2026? June Woodard replied that a motion could be made under article 18 to extend the lease to ensure a smoother transition, if additional time was needed.

A Motion was made by James Farman to reaffirm the lease. **Seconded** by Judith Farman . **A Roll Call Vote** was taken Mike Arnold: Yes, Judith Farman: Yes, June Woodard: Yes, James Farman: Yes. **Motion Carried**

June Woodard asked for a motion to name the authorized signer of the Transition Agreement.

A Motion was made by James Farman for the Chairperson, June Woodard to be the signer of the Transition Agreement. **Seconded** by Mike Arnold, **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

8. Wells

Austin Welch had prepared a report and graphs on the Borough's drinking water wells that falls under the responsibilities of the Borough Authority. Chairperson Woodard stated it will be forwarded to Brad Upson, the Authority's engineer, for him to go over and advise the rest of the Board on its validity.

9. Accept Previous Minutes

A Motion was made by James Farman to accept the minutes from the May 1, 2025 meeting. **Seconded** by, Mike Arnold **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

Before Mike Arnold seconded the motion; he asked whether there was a motion somewhere that stated that the May minutes would be updated? Secretary Amanda Fuhrer answered that Austin Welch was supposed to provide the recordings to be listened to and he had not provided them in the last 30 days; so, the minutes remain as written.

A Motion was made by James Farman to accept the June 5, 2025, meeting minutes. **Seconded** by Mike Arnold. **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

A Motion was made by Mike Arnold to accept the August 7, 2025, meeting minutes. **Seconded** by James Farman. **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

A Motion was made by Mike Arnold to accept the August 12, 2025, Special Meeting minutes, **Seconded** by James Farman, **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

10. Information Session

Chairperson Woodard announced that an information session was held on August 28, 2025, in the Council Chambers located at 105 Parkhurst St. The session was held with members of the Borough Authority and Brad Upson from LaBella, the Authority's engineer, topics discussed where the current water/sewer projects. No deliberations and/or decisions were made.

11. Old Business

- **Signers – Interim Loan:** Citizens and Northern Bank requires two signatures to execute the interim loan, one from a Borough Authority member as the borrower and one from a Borough Council Member to sign as a cosigner.

A Motion was made by James Farman for Mike Arnold to be the signer from the Borough Authority. **Seconded**, by Judith Farman. **A.I.F. Motion Carried.** The matter will be forwarded to the Borough Council.

- **Lead and Cooper Rule Compliance:** lead and cooper sampling has started and needs to be completed.

Mike Arnold stated that he has a different test (Lead and Cooper Rule First Draw Test Samples) that has to do with lead and copper that involves taking samples from ten random people to see if there is any lead in their water.

Mike will be conducting these tests next week and will be contacting the residents prior to the test. The samples are due by September 30, 2025.

12. New Business

Chairperson June Woodard had Secretary Amanda Fuhrer hand out the committee papers that Lyndsey King had drawn up. June stated that these committees were not her doing, but she liked them, so she kept them.

- **Correspondence**
 - Department of Environmental Protection
 - Water Supply Inspection Reports July 2025 and August 2025
 - Violation Update presented by Brad Upson, the violation was from the improper execution of the Teir One Notice in June. Lyndsey King sent in the report and is now cleared. Now the DEP has let Mr. Upson know that they have concerns about all the calls they receive from Austin Welch, and they are uncertain as to who is in charge of the Borough Authority, this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Glenda Marzo – Burton, V.P. of Borough Council stated the borough received a letter asking for that information and one will go out tomorrow listing the current officers.
 - 2026 Budget Planning needs to start
- Chair June Woodard asked for a motion stating that any and all issues need to be addressed to the specific committee set up to handle that issue. The committee will then bring the issue to the table to be handled. Not to make comments to the public.

- **A Motion** was made by James Farman for the committees to handle the issues within the committees and for the committees to take the issue to the Borough Authority Meetings for resolution, not to take the issue to the public. **Seconded** by Mike Arnold
A.I.F. - Motion Carried

- The Committees will be listed on the Elkland Borough website and will be listed on the Elkland Borough Authority website when it becomes available.

Chair June Woodard went out of Agenda order for some items of business.

- **General / Petty Funds Account**

The Borough Water Authority has a check for .75 cents, written by a resident to cover the cost of a Right to Know Request. Chair Woodard asked for a motion to open a general/petty funds account at Citizens and Northern Bank to deposit this check.

- **A Motion** was made by James Farman to have Secretary/Treasurer Amanda Fuhrer open the new account and to have the same account signers as the other accounts. **Seconded** by Mike Arnold, **A.I.F. Motion Carried**

- **Office Location**

Chair Woodard stated that the Authority needed to decide where the Borough Authority's office location was going to be located. Should it remain where it is, or should it be moved? Jim Farman said the office should be left where it is located for now and the issue could be revisited in the future if necessary.

- **Communications Committee Update**

Once the Borough Authority is functioning as an operational authority it will have its own website. The website will be administered using Course Vector through PSAB, the same company that administers the Elkland Borough website. The color scheme number 0208 brown, grey, orange and yellow will be utilized. The website is budgeted for 10 pages which currently are Home, Government, Agendas, Minutes, Ordinances, Calendar, Billing, Contact, DEP Water and DEP Sewer. The goal is to have the website functioning by January 2026.

- **Financial Management Report**

Chair Woodard went over “Management Report: Elkland Borough Water & Sewer for the Period Ended September 3, 2025” prepared by Hemlock Signature Services. The Total Revenues are \$82,657.89. Net Revenues are \$50,528.72 on water and wastewater. Cashflow Net is \$50,528.72, at the beginning of the period was \$514,546.37, at the end of the period was \$493,107.00

13. Public Comments on the agenda

Chair Woodard asked if there were any comments or questions on the agenda.

A resident asked if you would still be able to pay your water bill on the new website? Yes, the pay portal will be on there, just like on the Borough’s website.

A resident asked what the website would be called. There is some uncertainty there, should be elklandboroughauthority.org.

14. Adjournment

Chair June Woodard asked for a motion to adjourn.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Judtih Farman, **Seconded** by James Farman,
A.I.F. Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:02Pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Fuhrer
Elkland Borough Authority
Secretary/Treasurer