Red Lion Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 23rd, 2026

Members Present

Dennis Klinedinst - Chairman
Gary LaTulippe-Vice Chairman
Kelly Henshaw-Secretary
Nevin (Butch) Horne – Treasurer
Chris Minnich- Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

Others Present

John Krantz- Superintendent
Rebecca Mason - Entech
Cory Dillinger - Solicitor

Meeting Agenda/Minutes:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge was recited and roll call was taken.
- Mr. LaTulippe made a motion to approve the agenda for the RLMA Meeting on September 23rd, 2026, and Mr. Henshaw seconded.
- Mr. LaTulippe made a motion to approve the minutes of the RLMA Meeting on August 26th, 2026, and Mr. Henshaw seconded.

Water Usage Report: The report was distributed to the Board, Mr. Krantz stated that all ran well during the month of August 2026.

Connections Report: There were no new connections

Overtime Report: The report was distributed to the Board

Visitors: None

Key Outcomes

The board conducted a productive monthly meeting covering insurance recovery efforts from a prior storm (~$100,000 in estimated damages), approval of LSA grant resolutions, adoption of the 2025 audit, and significant infrastructure updates including new pumps at Country Club Hills and Beaver Creek. Several policies and operational matters were addressed, including water system security, fire hydrant metering, service line material compliance, and billing rate corrections. Multiple action items were assigned to staff for follow-up before the next meeting and upcoming budget cycle.

Meeting Details

- **Date:** September 23, 2026
- **Body:** Red Lion Municipality Authority (RLMA)
- **Attendees:** Board members including Kelly Henshaw, Dennis Kleindienst, Gary LaTulippe, Chris Minnich; Nevin Horne; Superintendent John; Engineer Rebecca Mason; Solicitor Corey Dillinger

Decisions Made

- **LSA Statewide Grant Application (Resolution 2026-4):** Board passed Resolution 2026-4 to apply for the LSA statewide grant for filter media replacement; additionally approved re-submitting the Country Club Hills application (previously denied) as a low-cost "copy-paste" reapplication per Natalie's guidance.
- **2025 Audit Adoption:** Motion carried to formally adopt the 2025 audit.
- **August 26, 2026, Minutes:** Approved without discussion.
- **September 23 Agenda:** Approved.
- **Pumping Station B Elimination Design:** Engineering work order signed; scope covers survey, preliminary design, final design, permits, and bidding.
- **Edgewood Tank Warranty Inspection Timing:** Agreed to delay the first anniversary inspection until closer to the end of the 2-year warranty period (expiring October 2027) to maximize coverage if defects emerge.
- **Village Walk Engineering Review:** Authorized a new work order for Envirep to review plans submitted by Gordon Brown; escrow is in place to fund the review.
- **Debt Service Reserve Account:** Agreed to open a new dedicated account to accumulate funds toward PennVest loan payoff; final contribution amount to be decided at the next budget meeting.
- **Billing Rate Correction Process:** Going forward, rate resolutions will be reviewed by the superintendent, office manager (Heather), accountants, and entered/verified in Koozie before board adoption — to prevent recurrence of the overbilling/underbilling issue.

Completed

- **2nd Street Windsor Township 2-inch Galvanized Water Main Replacement:** Project complete; final payment processed 9/18/26. No board action required.
- **New Pump at Beaver Creek (Hines Electric):** Installed and operational as of Monday; outputting 1,400 gallons per minute as specified; mechanical seal eliminates prior floor water issue.
- **Four New Pumps at Country Club Hills Pumping Station:** Averaging ~125 GPM vs. prior GPM; scouring velocity now achieved, expected to gradually clear pipe buildup over time.
- **Fine Screen / Trash Rake at Beaver Creek:** Installed, working well; stainless steel construction for longevity.
- **Point Repairs — Pumping Station B:** Complete; design phase now proceeding.
- **Village Walk Escrow Replenishment:** Confirmed replenished; agreement recorded.

Infrastructure & Operational Updates

Storm Damage Insurance Recovery

- Estimated storm damages: **~$100,000**, with PLCs alone accounting for ~$40,000.

- Insurance transferred from **Selective Insurance** to **Hartford Steam and Boiler**; adjuster toured the treatment plant ~2 weeks prior.
- Invoices submitted: overtime, HIMES invoice, control systems/instrumentation.
- Still awaiting makeup unit on roof quote (from Bill) and battery backup pricing (from Haim) for SCADA data preservation.
- Additional recovery expected on the **Bascule Gate / hydraulic actuator gate**: ~$40,000–$50,000 more anticipated beyond the initial $50,000 already received; Hartford Steam and Boiler will pay the lower of full hydraulic replacement cost vs. electric actuator installation.

Hydraulic Gate / Electric Actuator Replacement

- **40-week lead time** on the electric actuator; temporary solution (20-ton come-along) being priced by SWF Contractor.
- Schnabel Engineering pricing the permanent electric actuator installation.
- Temporary solution submitted to PADEP to protect the dam during nor'easters.

Country Club Hills — SSO / Corrective Action Plan

- With new pumps achieving proper scouring velocity, the authority intends to petition DEP to **remove the corrective action plan** after demonstrating one year of data with no SSOs (Sanitary Sewer Overflows).
- **SSO = Sanitary Sewer Overflow** (clarified during meeting).
- Exceptional weather events (hurricanes) are generally treated as exempt by DEP.

Pumping Station B — Prospect Street Issue

- Bad contactor and relay caused a failure; repaired.
- During downtime, **pump-and-haul** used; waste pumped back to intermunicipal to avoid disposal costs, but hauling cost ~$1,500 for ~half a day.
- Old pump being rebuilt at Heim Electric; parts pricing pending. Two pumps are needed until Station B is eliminated.

White Oak Service Line Material Compliance

- Inspection revealed **plastic service lines** in the White Oak area (CMV system taken over by the authority); not compliant with current rules and regs, which require copper.
- Plastic is an acceptable modern material but was never incorporated into RLMA's rules and regulations.
- Board consensus: **grandfather existing plastic lines** — repair with appropriate plastic fittings when breaks occur; do not allow any new plastic installations going forward; do not set a precedent.
- Authority to stock plastic repair fittings proactively.

Fairmount Tank Sediment Removal

- Still in progress; superintendent acknowledged it is now ~4 months delayed and committed to action.

Water Mystery / Possible Spring Head (Church Lane / Franklin Street Area)

- Standing water spotted behind Lucas's garage; sewer televised and cleaned — **no sewer issue found**, no mapped water lines in that area.
- Board member noted historical spring head in the area dating to the 1940s–50s; superintendent suspects stormwater/spring interaction under concrete/asphalt.
- Currently a **borough issue**; RLMA will investigate further if evidence points to their infrastructure.

Fire Hydrant & Water Security

Fire Company Water Usage Metering

- Proposal to install a **6-inch meter pit** at the hydrant being replaced by the borough; estimated cost ~$6,000–$7,000; drivable/traffic-rated design.
- Purpose: track water drawn for training, truck filling, and export to other municipalities — not emergency fire use (companies will use nearest hydrant in emergencies).
- A **QR code–linked Google document** was created for fire companies to self-report date, time, gallons, and company name; QR code issue resolved; Scott Gingrich has access but has not yet completed a submission.
- Plan: compare self-reported data against meter readings once installed to verify accuracy of reporting.
- Dennis to bring the metering proposal before borough council; proposed arrangement — borough pays for hydrant replacement, RLMA handles meter installation.

Unauthorized Tapping / Water Theft Policy

- Rules and regs **Section 2.7 / 2.9 (sewer)** and **Section 6.3(a) (water)** explicitly prohibit any uncovering, connecting, or disturbing of lines without a written permit from the authority.
- Precedent: Mr. Randazzo was previously caught and fined.
- A **public bulletin** drafted by Solicitor Corey (quoting rules and regs) will be included in the October bill, posted to the website, and shared on Facebook.
- Bulletin also includes a community reporting mechanism; email address preferred over phone line to manage volume of reports.
- Board noted a township was observed drawing water from hydrants to run a road roller — flagged as an ongoing concern.
- Contractors must post **escrow** before performing any work on the system.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance Agreement (Chanceford Township / Borough)

- Solicitor drafted a **hydrant maintenance agreement** (based on Gary's initial draft, beefed up) to clarify maintenance obligations and cost responsibility without taking a definitive ownership position — intentionally left open to facilitate execution.
- Emailed to Chanceford solicitor; no response yet.
- Chanceford Township is **~4 months past due** on an outstanding invoice; board directed solicitor and superintendent to send a formal letter warning that **interest will begin accruing** if not resolved.
- Solicitor noted the dispute originated when Chanceford's solicitor raised a question about who owns the hydrants — the authority has ~7 hydrants in that area, possibly untouched for decades.

Financial & Administrative

Billing Rate Correction

- Auditors used incorrect numbers, creating an apparent overbilling/underbilling discrepancy; after a deep dive, the corrected figures show the variance is **not substantial** — largely attributable to rounding and a first month-of-FY26 issue.
- All subsequent months of FY26 have been correctly billed.

Rate Increase — FY2027 Budget

- Board chair indicated intent to **raise water rates** to account for water losses (estimated ~1 million gallons from unauthorized hydrant use), infrastructure investment needs, and personnel costs.
- Neighboring boroughs and townships need rate information before their own budget deadlines; board directed staff to have a **clear rate picture by next month's meeting**.
- Formal rate resolution typically passed in November or December.

Tax Assessment Appeals

- **Two appeals filed** by solicitor ahead of deadline: (1) the RLMA building (second floor) — confident it will be restored to exempt status; (2) cell tower lease property — likely taxable, hearing will determine the amount.
- Solicitor plans to coordinate with Peter Ruth (tax assessment office) to potentially resolve without a formal hearing.
- No update on Kensington matter.

Dish Wireless Bankruptcy & Other Litigation

- To be discussed in **executive session**.

Engineering Updates (Rebecca / Envirep)

LSA Grant Applications

- **Filter media replacement** — new full grant application.
- **Country Club Hills CIPP lining** — re-application; low cost since prior work already done.
- Both applications proceeding simultaneously; multiple LSA applications are permissible and used by other Enviro clients.

Village Walk Development

- Plans received from Gordon Brown; Enviro to conduct a formal review under a new work order. *9*
- Developer is requesting an **express package through Gorman Rupp** (pumps), which changes some specifications (e.g., soft start vs. VFDs). Enviro reviewing the differences and will advise John before any orders are placed.
- Developer is impatient; however, orders placed before plan approval are **at developer's own risk**.
- Site is ~6–7 acres; townhomes are densely packed.

Edgewood Tank — First Anniversary Inspection

- Warranty period: **2 years from October 2025 final completion** (expires ~October 2027).
- Enviro identified a more affordable inspection company (alternative to MBA or Pittsburgh firms) that could be used for both a mid-warranty check and a pre-expiry inspection if desired.

Pumping Station B Elimination — Budget Planning

- Superintendent and Rebecca to meet offline to confirm a solid construction cost estimate for the FY2027 budget; prior cost opinion may need updating.
- Tank will be **filled (not removed)** and graded to a sloping grass bank; fill material is available on-site.
- River ties and lumber on site are hazardous and must be removed before work begins.

Pending Confirmation

- **Insurance settlement amounts:** Awaiting quotes from SWF (temporary gate solution) and Schnabel Engineering (electric actuator) before Hartford Steam and Boiler issues final payment determination.
- **Makeup unit roof quote** (Bill) and **SCADA battery backup pricing** (Heim) needed to complete storm damage claim submission.
- **Pump rebuilding pricing** at Heim Electric — parts pricing pending.
- **Chanceford hydrant agreement** — awaiting response from Chanceford solicitor; letter to be sent if no response.
- **Fire hydrant metering** — borough council approval and cost finalization pending.
- **Fairmount tank sediment removal** — contractor (dry break) waiting for weather to improve; RLMA is top of list.
- **CCR Certifications** — due **October 1st**; superintendent to complete immediately.
- **Village Walk express package review** — Enviro to compare express vs. non-express plan specifications before accepting submitted plans.
- **Culvert Green Branch repair** — contractor has materials invested; waiting for dry weather.
- **Appreciation dinner** — date set for December; invitations to go out closer to the holiday.

Open Questions

- Whether the water anomaly near Church Lane is a **spring head or infrastructure leak** — requires further detection work.
- Whether the drainage ditch flooding near the Country Club Hills pumping station (reported by elderly neighbor) poses a long-term risk to the wet well — currently assessed as a **York Township / Red Lion borough issue**, not RLMA's.
- Final **FY2027 water and sewer rate increase** amounts — to be determined at next meeting in coordination with accountants and Koozie.
- Whether plastic service lines in the White Oak/CMV area will require a **rules and regs amendment** to formally address the material standard going forward.

Action Items

- **John (Superintendent):** Submit SCADA battery backup pricing (Heim) and makeup unit roof quote (Bill) to Hartford Steam and Boiler to complete storm damage claim.
- **John:** Obtain quotes from SWF (temporary come along) and Schnabel Engineering (electric actuator) and forward to Hartford Steam and Boiler for final gate insurance settlement.
- **John:** Complete **CCR certifications by October 1st.**
- **John:** Set up dedicated **debt service reserve account**; bring recommended contribution amount to next budget meeting.
- **John:** Revise the public bulletin (water theft/unauthorized tapping notice) with Solicitor Corey and Dennis before October bill mailing; post to website and Facebook immediately.
- **John:** Send QR code / Google form reminder to Scott Ginrich for fire company water usage reporting.
- **John & Rebecca:** Meet to confirm updated **Pumping Station B construction cost estimate** for FY2027 budget.
- **John & Solicitor Corey:** Draft and send formal letter to **Chanceford Township** warning of pending interest accrual on overdue invoice.
- **John:** Stock plastic repair fittings for White Oak/CMV service line repairs.

- **John:** Investigate water anomaly near Church Lane / Lucas's garage — arrange detection work to rule out RLMA infrastructure.
- **John:** Arrange **Fairmount tank sediment removal** — move from discussion to action. *12*
- **Solicitor Corey:** Follow up with Chanceford solicitor on hydrant maintenance agreement; circulate draft to board for comments.
- **Solicitor Corey:** Touch base with Peter Ruth on tax assessment appeals (building exemption and cell tower lease valuation).
- **Rebecca (Enviro):** Finalize and submit **LSA grant applications** — filter media (new) and Country Club Hills CIPP lining (re-application).
- **Rebecca:** Issue work order for Village Walk plan review; resolve express vs. standard package discrepancy before approving plans.
- **Rebecca:** Confirm Edgewood Tank warranty expiry date and identify preferred inspection vendor for pre-expiry inspection.
- **Dennis:** Bring fire hydrant metering proposal to borough council; negotiate cost-sharing arrangement (borough pays hydrant, RLMA installs meter).
- **Board (all):** Review hydrant maintenance agreement draft in packet; provide edits to Solicitor Corey.

Executive Session:

- The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:30pm.
  The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:16 pm.
  No decisions were made in Executive Session, No Action Taken.

Adjournment:

- Mr. Klinedinst adjourned the meeting at 9:17 pm

Respectfully submitted by: John M. Krantz