

DTMA MINUTES

Dickinson Township Municipal Authority Board

March 24, 2026, *Dickinson Township Meeting Room*
5:00 pm

Attendance

Board Members:

Chairman Tom Smith, Vice Chair Robert "Bob" Line, Secretary Doug Campbell, Treasurer Harold Cooney Jr., Vice Secretary/Treasurer Nate Merkel

DT Staff:

Jill Lovett – Township Manager, Glenn Kelso Jr. – Public Works Director, Grace Hogue – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent:

Solicitor – Susan Smith, Engineer - Max Stoner

Visitors:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda for March 24, 2026 was made by Doug Campbell and seconded by Nate Merkel. It passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Doug Campbell motioned to approve the consent agenda items that consist of January 27, 2026 Regular meeting minutes, January 27, 2026 Organizational meeting minutes, ratification of bills paid for February 13, 2026, and ratification of bills paid for March 13, 2026. Harold Cooney seconded the Motion, and the Motion was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – None

TREASURER REPORT

Harold Cooney stated the Treasurer's Report activity reflects the normal activity of the payment of the invoices approved earlier in the meeting. He also reported he received draft documents from Hamilton & Musser about the 2025 Authority audit. Manager Lovett responded that all Board members will receive final letters from the auditors. In the auditor's letter, there was an observation during 2025 where the manager had access to the banking as well as processing payments. She stated this was due to the Township Treasurer position being vacant and duties were completed by herself until the position was filled. This observation will not be present for 2026. Grace Hogue updated the Board with the most recent aging receivable report. She reported the charging of late fees encouraged customers to get payment in a timely manner.

ENGINEER REPORT – None

SOLICITOR REPORT - None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Emergency Response Plan

Manager Lovett presented the updated Emergency Response Plan. The only changes made from prior year was the updated contact information and organizational tables. Glenn Kelso mentioned it is something that should be reviewed yearly. This plan is kept internal. Doug Campbell explained that Department of Environmental Protection requires to see it when there is an inspection but they don't receive the plan.

A motion was made by Nate Merkel to approve the Emergency Response Plan. The motion was seconded by Doug Campbell and passed unanimously.

b. Data Center Ordinance Discussion

Manager Lovett reported the draft ordinance provided to the Board was drafted by the Planning Commission and because of the public infrastructure concerns, the Planning Commission is requesting the Municipal Authority Board review and add input if necessary. Nate Merkel added that during the Planning Commission discussion, the thought was discussed to allow the use in the Business Industrial zone where the public utilities are available. The supply of water would have a large impact to the Township, essentially through the Authority. Nate Merkel said the Intermunicipal Agreement with South Middleton Authority needs to be reviewed for capacity, sizing, peak usages and what potential capacity is available in the event there would be a data center added. Nate Merkel stated current usage of these centers range around 24-hour peak of 328,000 gallons per day. He recommended the Board review the draft ordinance and provide their input on the ordinance, so the capacity and infrastructure are considered. The Authority Board agreed to do their own research and review the draft before the next meeting.

Doug Campbell noted that water resources are one of the dominant factors of these data centers. Staff will bring the information on capacity and what could be available at the next meeting. Chairman Smith asked if after the ordinance is finalized, it would essentially be an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Nate Merkel confirmed that it would likely be the case. Bob Line stated with how much funds these data centers have, those companies could go to South Middleton Authority directly and request beyond the capacity if needed or set up their own treatment plant.

Chairman Smith referenced the example ordinances from other Townships such as Silver Spring and Monroe Township. Harold Cooney asked what the next steps for this process are. Nate Merkel explained that the Planning Commission is continuing the discussion on this ordinance and has presented questions to the Township solicitor. Tom Smith asked if the memo and examples provided are to request the Authority Board to provide their insight into this process or is it the intent to provide feedback to remove or add items to the ordinance. Nate Merkel confirmed that is the intent. There was a review of what the process would be once the ordinance is authorized by the Board of Supervisors, about ensuring advertisement and public hearing.

Glenn Kelso suggested having Max Stoner, the Authority engineer, present at the next meeting. Max Stoner may be able to provide suggestions for the discussion for the last 4 pages of the draft ordinance pertaining to water, wastewater and utilities. Nate Merkel reviewed the plan to research and review the draft through the next month and to request the engineer at the next meeting, then to finalize and provide it back to the Planning Commission in May.

Bob Line questioned whether the Authority should allow a data center to install their own well. There was further review by Doug Campbell referencing the establishment of a water processing system within the Township would provide the satisfaction of the capabilities of the requirements. Doug Campbell reiterated what does the efforts sustain with that. Chairman Smith mentioned the resource studies within the draft.

Chairman Smith asked how many personnel would be working at these data centers. Nate Merkel answered they do not create many jobs. Nate Merkel reported Cumberland County Planning is holding a data center forum available on April 29, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. virtually. He mentioned the Authority Board should come back in April with questions and ideas for discussion as a Board with the engineer present.

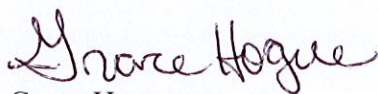
Manager Lovett provided an update on any rate increase from South Middleton Authority. She reported they are still behind on their audits, so they are unable to provide data from their rate study yet.

OLD BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Harold Cooney to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 P.M. The motion was seconded by Nate Merkel and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace Hogue
Secretary/Treasurer

