

Questions & Answers – Waterline Extension Project
UPDATED 1/29/2024

Q: Why is the Authority extending public water service to my area?

A: Because of poor water quality, concerns over a subsequent hydro-fracturing site along Ekastown Road and the impact the site may have to the well water in the area, a group of residents approached the Authority about extending water service. At the request of the residents, the Authority conducted a survey during October 2021. The results of the survey indicated that the majority of residents would be willing to pay debt service for the public water to be extended. Over the past two years, the Authority applied for grants and a PENNVEST loan to fund this project. Because costs of this project have increased, a group of volunteers offered to conduct another survey. Once again, the majority of residents indicated they are willing to pay a debt service for the extension of public water service.

Q: When will the project take place?

A: The project will most likely begin Spring 2024. The project was awarded to Mortimer Excavating. Materials have been ordered. The notice to proceed with the work will be given when all materials are received.

Q: What are the initial costs for each resident?

A: The initial costs are a tap fee of \$2,400 and the cost to run a service line to the house from the curb, which will vary depending on the length of the run and the contractor you use. Please note that the Authority's water tapping fee is \$4,400, but the Authority is waiving the cost to connect portion and applying the \$2,400 back into this project.

Q: When should I pay my tap fee of \$2,400?

A: The tap fee will be due upon the date given in the notice to connect, which will be mailed to each resident.

Q: What if a homeowner cannot afford the initial upfront costs?

A: The Authority will contact local agencies to explore assistance options for homeowners who are struggling with the upfront costs of this project. The Authority may also secure the tap fee through a Municipal Lien on the property, in which the homeowner can make payments.

Q: Why should I have to pay for this project when I pay taxes to the Township?

A: The Municipal Authority operates separately from the Township and does not receive any tax money. The Authority is fully funded by our ratepayers.

Q: Who will install the water service line from the curb to the house?

A: The water service line can be installed by whomever the homeowner chooses to do the work. The Authority will have a list of contractors and can provide this information upon request.

Q: What is the debt service?

A: As of November 2023, MABT was awarded an additional \$600,000 in grant money from CFA (PA Commonwealth Financing Authority). Combined with the \$500,000 grant from

Butler County, there will be no debt service for this project.

Q: What are the current rates for water consumption?

A: Current rates for water consumption are \$20.00 per month minimum monthly fee for the first 2,000 gallons and \$5.25 for each additional 1,000 gallons.

Q: What if I do not want to connect?

A: Buffalo Township has a mandatory tap ordinance. You may choose not to connect; however, you will still be required to pay the tap fee, debt service and monthly minimum fee.

Q: Can I keep my well for outside use?

A: Yes, wells can be kept for outside use only.

Q: How will we be notified with information regarding this project?

A: Project updates will be provided during our regular monthly board meetings, which are the third Thursday of each month. The meetings are held at 707 South Pike Road and begin at 7:00 p.m. Information will be made available on our website at www.buffaloauthority.org. We also have a phone alert system, which we may use. In addition, letters will be sent when the project begins and a notice to connect.