

Oldmans Township Committee
Auburn Water Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2025

A special meeting of the Oldmans Township Committee was held on May 7, 2025 in regard to Auburn Water. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ferrell at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

Members Present: William Ferrell III, Jeff Newman, Brian Porch, John Pomponi and Dean Sparks. Also present: Bob Mulford, Engineer for Fralinger Engineering

Public Presentation Regarding Lead Pipe Replacement and Water Meter Installation

Oldmans Township has until 2030 to replace any lead pipes in the Auburn Water system, including the laterals (water pipe coming from water main to resident's house). Mr. Ferrell reviewed the Auburn Water billing history beginning in 2011. Also reviewed was the history of capital improvements made to Auburn Water. Some of the improvements were funded by grants from the DCA and some through the taxpayers of Oldmans Township. Beginning in 2016 through 2021 approximately \$1,000,000 has been spent on maintaining Auburn Water.

Letters were sent in October to all Auburn Water users detailing the lead pipe remediation requirements. The water system was installed in 1968. The material used is "unknown."

In conjunction with the lead pipe replacement, the municipality will also be installing water meters, including shut offs for each house, along the curb line.

It was noted that the water shutoff located at 32 Main Street is wrapped around a dead tree.

Due to increased testing and repairs/upgrades to the water system, Auburn Water runs at a deficit and is not self-sufficient. Oldmans Township will pay for the purchase and installation of the water meters. The price for water usage has not been determined. The municipality has been unable to find any grants to help fund the project. All users of Auburn Water will have their later lines replaced and water meter installed.

Auburn Water runs on one well with an alternate pump. The Township Solicitor is checking to see if a resident wishes to go back to a well system would be allowed to convert. There is the possibility that since there is municipal water available, a property owner would not be allowed to revert to a personal well.

New Jersey American Water is also in the process of replacing lead pipes. All municipalities in New Jersey are required to complete the lead pipe replacement.

In order to replace the laterals, a trench will be dug approximately 4' down. The pipes will be replaced with copper piping. The old pipe will be disconnected but left in the ground. Should be able to mole under the road and curb in some spots. Contractor will have to hand dig with shovels close to the house in order not to damage the structure. The yard will have to backfilled and seeded. Additionally, any sidewalks disturbed will have to be fixed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Taylor
Municipal Clerk