

Manheim Authority will run operations

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Manheim Borough Authority voted to self-operate its water and wastewater treatment systems on June 16, and it expects to reduce costs and increase revenues.

The authority serves about 2,300 homes and businesses in Manheim Borough and parts of Penn and Rapho townships.

Dave Fenicle, authority administrator/operations manager, said the authority had been contracting services from Miller Environmental Inc., Reading, for the past 12 years. The contract with the firm expires at the end of the year.

Fenicle said, "We'll now be

self-sufficient like a number of other operating authorities in the county including Mount Joy Borough Authority. This is something we've been considering for a few years."

The move will create 11 new jobs. Fenicle hopes to have most of the staff in place by December.

"This transition will not be any different than if we were going to another contractor," he said.

Being self-sufficient will allow the authority to realize some efficiencies that will help to contain costs, he said.

Also, the authority expects to raise revenues by treating hauled waste. In the past, the contractor operating the plant paid the authority a small portion of the fee for treating 19

million gallons of septage per year from outside sources.

Fenicle said the contractor negotiated a rate with the septage haulers. When the authority is self-operating, it will negotiate and receive all of the fee.

Fenicle, a borough resident, has worked for the authority for three years to review the operations and determine how to make them more efficient.

More accurate water meters were installed recently and, this month, an \$11 million project was completed to meet nutrient discharge limits of the Chesapeake Bay Strategy.

For information, visit the website www.manheimboroughauthority.org.