

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
October 20, 2020**

In accordance with New Jersey law regarding “Open Public Meetings”, notice of the meetings for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was published in the Courier Post and The South Jersey Times.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Tim Sheehan in the meeting room of Mantua Township Municipal Building, 401 Main Street, Mantua, NJ.
The Chairman asked everyone to rise for the flag salute.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairman Tim Sheehan, Vice-Chairman Mario Dilisciandro, Treasurer Dan Hauss,
Absent: Secretary John Parks, Engineering Coordinator Vince Voltaggio, Alternate Howard Bruner
Also Present: Mike Welding, Bowman & Company LLP
John A. Alice, Solicitor
David Palgutta, Engineer
William Krebs, Executive Director
Jeff Baker, Superintendent
Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

AUDIT REPORT

Mike Welding, from Bowman & Company LLP, provided an overview of the audit report for fiscal year 2019. Financially, the Authority did slightly better in 2019 than in the prior fiscal year. There were no [negative] findings for the prior year or for 2019. The auditors concluded the Authority is well managed.

OATH OF OFFICE

During a short break in Mr. Weldman’s report, Victor Torino was sworn into office as the Second Alternate Board Commissioner by Mr. Alice.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to open the meeting to the public.
Motion carried.

PUBLIC PORTION

Evan Poelker, resident of 3 Kristen Lane, submitted a letter about his bill to the Board last month. At the Board’s direction, the Solicitor responded & advised Mr. Poelker that the bill stands. He attended tonight to further contest the water bill dated August 1, 2020, on the grounds that the initial water meter reading was inaccurate and/or written down incorrectly. He also stated it was not possible for him to have used the amount of water for which he was charged. There was discussion concerning how bills are calculated for new owners, subsequent readings and follow-up done by the MUA staff in response

to Mr. Poelker’s initial call about his bill, and potential causes of excessive water usage. The Board decided to table the issue until Mr. Poelker’s next water bill is issued, which will be in November. The Board asked that Mr. Poelker bring to the next meeting any documentation he has regarding a repair made to his swimming pool and damage to his sprinkler system caused by a fence installer, or that would otherwise support his position.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to close the meeting to public comment.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 15, 2020.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no discussion concerning the items on the correspondence list.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Dan Hauss:

Mr. Hauss provided the current balance in each bank account. Bills to be approved for payment from the operations account totaled \$203,810.87. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$1,009.75.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of bills from the Operations Account totaling \$203,810.87, and from the Escrow Account totaling \$1,009.75.

Roll Call Vote:	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT – John A. Alice, Esq.:

In addition to preparing the letter referred to earlier by Mr. Poelker, Mr. Alice drafted a perpetual private sewer deed restriction for 14 Old Landing Road. This was sent to the Superintendent for review and comment. Mr. Alice advised that a resident of Mercer Ave. contends that the Authority crew allowed water run-off to cause \$15,000 worth of damage to his landscaping and to re-seeding of his lawn. The resident initially submitted a bill from a company in Vineland for “weed-wacking”. Later he submitted what appeared to be the same bill, except that “weed-wacking” had been changed to “seeding”. Mr. Alice found the invoice less than convincing, but will follow up and attempt to resolve the claim. At a previous meeting, the Board asked whether there is a cap on the payment for unused sick time made to retiring employees. Mr. Alice advised, briefly, that N.J.S.A. 48:9-10.4 does cap compensation for unused sick time at \$15,000, for employees hired after May 21, 2010. Employees hired before that date are not subject to the cap.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Dave Palgutta:

There have been no new developments on the Auto Zone, Country Gardens, and Factory at Total Turf projects.

Rowan Fossil Park – Mr. Palgutta contacted the applicant’s engineer because information on the water demand for the proposed project has still not been submitted. He was told the requested information will be mailed to the Authority shortly and the hydrant flow test will be scheduled. He also contacted Rowan about the pending transfer of the water allocation permit; Rowan will meet with counsel to sign the agreement.

Barnsboro Sewer Extension –

The contractor prepared and submitted the SE utilization plan to DEP ahead of the October 15 deadline. He is working with the County and will apply for a road opening permit shortly. He is looking to mobilize the week of October 26.

The engineers contacted the residents of the area. Four or five called in response to the engineer’s letter. Residents have been provided with a site plan sketch indicating where the contractor expects to put each sewer connection. The locations will also be physically marked with stakes to make it easier to visualize. The contractor is working on administrative items with the engineers.

Now that Barnsboro is underway, the engineers will start to focus more on the projects on Austin St. and in Royal Oaks.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Jeff Baker:

This month the crew did 168 mark-outs, replaced 5 meters and they are now doing the semi-annual flushing of the fire hydrants in town. Meter reading will start in a day or so. The backhoe needs new tires; they will be replaced Tuesday. The hydrant flow test at the Fossil Park is scheduled for Wednesday. The Superintendent advised that he will oversee the test. The applicant needs the flow test results in order to design a fire suppression system for the planned building. The Center City sewer pump was rebuilt. The sewer main on Schaub Road, where the road partially collapsed, has been fixed. The contractor managed to lift and straighten the main without breaking it. DEP had to investigate because of the potential risk from a broken sewer main. However, DEP agreed with the Superintendent that the sewer main was not breached. The case has been closed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – William Krebs:

Mr. Krebs asked for Board approval of his decision to waive late fees again in November, due to the pandemic and the resulting financial hardship to many residents.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss authorizing the waiver of late fees on unpaid bills in November, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Krebs reported that the sewer inflow from Inspira hospital over the last 3 months was 1.6 million gallons, 1.6 million gallons, and 1.4 million gallons. He was very pleased with the results of the audit report. The Authority’s revenue for this year is currently \$150,000 ahead of the projection, so next year’s audit should also be very good. In September of this year the Authority pumped 3 million gallons of water less than in September of 2019. Despite the drop in demand for water Mr. Krebs expects the cash flow to be sufficient, as payments are still coming in.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to adopt Resolution 2020-37, adopting the water and sewer budgets for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 20, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to adopt Resolution 2020-38, thereby certifying they have reviewed the annual report of audit for the year ended September 30, 2019, and specifically, they reviewed the “Schedule of Findings and Recommendations”.

Roll Call Vote:	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Dilisciandro to adopt Resolution 2020-39, appointing Paul Pheasant to the position of Safety Coordinator for the Authority.

Roll Call Vote:	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was raised.

OLD BUSINESS:

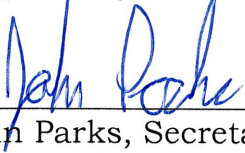
Mr. Krebs advised that he will waive late fees on unpaid bills in September.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Hauss to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

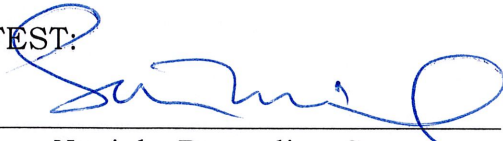
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Recorded by Susan Novick

Approved at the meeting held on November 17, 2020