

Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA April 20, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Township Building located at 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Sheehan. The meeting was advertised in the Courier Post and South Jersey Times as required by New Jersey law regarding “Open Public Meetings”. Public notice of the meeting was also posted on the bulletin boards in the office of the Mantua Township Clerk and the Municipal Utilities Authority.

The flag salute was followed by Roll Call.

PRESENT:

Authority Members

Tim Sheehan, Chairman
Mario Dilisciandro, Vice Chairman
Dan Hauss, Treasurer
John Parks, Secretary
Victor Torino

Professionals

John A. Alice, Esquire
Mark Brunermer, Sickels & Associates
David Palgutta, Sickels & Associates

Administrative & Managerial Personnel

William Krebs, Executive Director
Paul Pheasant, Superintendent
Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Sheehan called for a motion to open the meeting to the public.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to open the meeting to public comment.

Motion carried by voice vote.

The first topic was the Authority’s proposal to install a water main on Creek Lane. The project was proposed in 2019, and a letter was sent to residents asking if they were interested in connecting to public water. At that time there was a positive response. Last month, the Authority sent out another letter regarding the project.

There are three main reasons Creek Lane was selected. First, there are no fire hydrants directly on Creek Lane. The closest hydrant is near the intersection of Creek Lane and Harrison Ave. Second, the burdens and risks of owning a private well are expected to increase, in part because the contaminants PFNA and PFOA have been found in wells in neighboring townships. The State is currently reviewing legislation pertaining to private wells. New regulations requiring homeowners with well water to test for PFNA and PFOA are expected. These tests can become expensive; current costs are \$300 to \$700 per contaminant. If a nearby well tests positive, every other well within a designated area will be required to test on a more frequent basis. The maximum allowable threshold for PFNA and PFOA is one part per trillion, which is extremely stringent. Filtration for

contaminants is also very expensive, particularly for individuals. Due to economies of scale, the Authority is in a much better position to test, screen out and treat contaminants. Finally, the Authority considers the public water supply to be safer and more reliable than the wells of individual homeowners. The Authority's wells are much deeper than private wells, and for that reason they are less likely to become contaminated. The public water supply is tested more frequently and for a wider array of contaminants than private well water. Also, the public water supply does not stop even if there is a power outage. Over the past few years, the Township has experienced bigger storms that knocked out the electric supply. Residents who were connected to public water never had to go without water.

Residents of the following addresses expressed their opinions and concerns about the Authority's plan to install a water main on Creek Lane: 11 Creek Lane, 15 Creek Lane, 18 Creek Lane, 20 Creek Lane, 21 Creek Lane, 24 Creek Lane, 28 Creek Lane, 31 Creek Lane, 32 Creek Lane and 223 Hunterdon Ave. Several other residents attended the meeting but did not address the Board.

Charles Corso, of 24 Creek Lane, was the only resident who was completely in favor of the project. All the other residents who addressed the Board were opposed, either partially or completely. Some people conceded they would like to have fire hydrants on the street, but they objected to the costs and connection requirements. Some people expressed a preference for well water. Some would like to have the option of connecting to the water main later. One mentioned the financial hardships people are experiencing due to the pandemic. Overall, the residents objected to the requirement that they connect to the water main if it is installed, and they objected to bearing the costs of connecting to public water.

The discussion was concluded when the Board agreed to send the residents a new letter with additional information. The letter will allow everyone to reconsider their positions and to respond with to the Authority with their preferences and comments.

The second topic of public discussion was the possibility of extending the sewer main further down Barnsboro Rd. The Authority sent Mr. Mote, resident of 174 Barnsboro Rd., along with several other residents, a letter asking if they would be interested in having the sewer main extended to serve their homes. Mr. Mote addressed the Board, stating that he is interested in connecting to public sewer. He also had questions about what the costs and responsibilities would be for the affected homeowners. Mr. Palgutta provided the available information and indicated that an application form was being developed for residents that may be tying in with their own pumping stations. If the Authority went ahead with the project, homeowners would be required to submit an application for connection to the sewer, along with the supporting information indicated on the application form. Mr. Palgutta anticipates the Authority would provide the pump performance criteria along with information about alarm requirements. More specific information about costs is not available yet. In response to Mr. Mote's comments about the sewer main extension that is currently under construction, the engineer explained that the length of the extension, and the number of houses served, could not be increased without also increasing the depth of the sewer pump. There was not enough funding available to make the pumping station any deeper at the time the contract was awarded.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to approve the minutes of the reorganization meeting held on February 2, 2021, as well as the minutes of the regular meetings on held on February 2 and March 16, 20201.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Parks	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no discussion of correspondence.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Hauss provided the current balance in each bank account. Bills to be approved for payment from the operations account totaled \$186,467.90. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$835.75.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of \$186,467.90 in bills from the Operations Account and the payment of \$835.75 in charges from the Escrow Account.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Parks	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT:

Mr. Alice kept his remarks brief because the meeting was running long. He reported that the deed restriction for 14 Old Landing Rd. was completed and filed with the County. Mr. Alice also prepared and submitted an OPRA request for information from Pitman about the water and sewer infrastructure in a portion of Mantua that is currently being served by Pitman. He plans to hold a meeting about that area next Friday.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Country Gardens – Mr. Palgutta advised that the contractor finished paving the final section of the development.

Fossil Park – Mr. Palgutta is waiting for information from the applicant’s engineer.

Austin St. Pump Station – The plans and specs are done; the project has been submitted to DEP for review.

Royal Oaks Pump Station – This project is still under review by DEP.

Barnsboro Sewer Extension – All the gravity fed pipes were installed and tested. While working on the piping near manhole #3, the contactor ran into unusual subsurface

pressure. Some test wells were drilled, video was taken, and water infiltration confirmed. The contractor proposed switching to PVC for about 400’ in this area and using helical pikes to weigh down the pipes. The additional cost to resolve the infiltration problem is estimated at \$100,000. The contractor understands and agreed that no payment will be issued until the additional work is inspected and approved. Mr. Alice prepared a resolution to authorize the change order.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2021-31, approving Change Order No. 2 for the Barnsboro Sewer Extension project, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for completion of additional work described in the resolution.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Parks	Yes
	Haus	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Pheasant reported that replacement of the water main on Elm Ave. is complete except for paving. The semi-annual flushing is also done. That went well, with no water main leaks. He is working on a comprehensive list of hydrant maintenance tasks, such as greasing and painting. The Fire District has been cutting the grass at the well sites and lift stations, as per the shared services agreement.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Krebs asked for Board approval to continue waiving penalties and interest on unpaid bills, due to the pandemic. Revenue has improved over last month. Sewer flow from the hospital is stable, at 2.1 million gallons per month. Sewer flow to the GCUA is much higher than usual, due to the rain. There has been an average of 4” of rain per month, over the last couple months.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks authorizing the Executive Director to waive late fees and penalties on unpaid bills until the next Board meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks, to adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution #2021-29, authorizing emergency repairs to Well #8 by A.C. Schultes;

Resolution #2021-30, authorizing a payment of \$959.96 for remediation of unintended damage.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Parks	Yes
	Haus	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

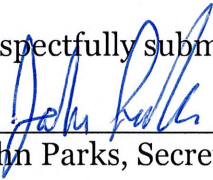
OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business raised.

ADJOURNMENT:

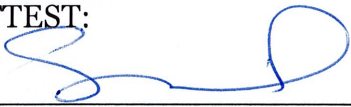
MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary
Approved at the meeting held on May 18, 2021