

Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA May 18, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, May 18, 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 in the offices 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.

Resident Linda McAdams addressed the Board on behalf of the Villages of Mantua Homeowners Association. She expressed concern about the force main that carries sewage from the Villages of Mantua pump station into the Authority’s system. The force main is roughly half a mile in length, and it has no cleanouts or manholes. It runs south on Route 45, aka Bridgeton Pike, from the Villages to the Authority’s main on Santa Fe Drive. Almost half the length of the force main runs uphill. Ms. McAdams fears that a blockage will develop and leave her neighborhood without sewer service. The Authority’s former superintendent proposed some possible solutions to Ms. McAdams. One suggestion was to re-route the force main in order to connect to the private sewer infrastructure used by Planet Fitness. Planet Fitness is in the Toll House Plaza strip mall on the opposite side of Route 45, just north of the Villages of Mantua. The Villages would need permission from the property owner to connect to the sewer there. Ms. McAdams stated she has not been able to reach anyone with knowledge or authority over the sewer main, either at Planet Fitness or the company that owns Toll House Plaza. The Chairman

advised that the Authority will provide contact information for the property owner, and that Mr. Pheasant will look into the suggestions made by the prior Superintendent.

Resident George Mote inquired as to the status of the sewer extension currently under construction on Barnsboro Road, and the possibility that the sewer main will be extended further south. Mr. Palgutta advised that the contractor, Perna Finnigan, expects to finish construction in June. The electrician will then come on site to do his portion of the project. Therefore, the earliest possible date to finish the current project and start on another extension would be July of 2021.

In response to Mr. Mote’s questions, the engineer advised that a proposal for a further extension of the sewer main was provided to the Board for review. The proposal does not include the possibility that the sewer extension would be gravity fed. The projected “tie in” or connection fees are \$900 for the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority and approximately \$2200 for the Gloucester County Utilities Authority. Each homeowner would be responsible for maintaining his or her pump and any sewer piping on his or her property.

The Authority surveyed approximately 6 or 7 residents of Barnsboro Rd. to gauge interest in a further extension of the sewer main. Mr. Mote was one of the people surveyed who indicated he wanted to connect to public sewer. At the close of his remarks this evening, Mr. Mote stated that he might not want to connect to the sewer after all, due to the cost.

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 Board meeting held on April 20, 2021.

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 \$98,349.94. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$1,426.00.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of \$98,349.94 in bills from the Operations Account and the payment of \$1,426.00 in charges from the Escrow Account.

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

Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT:

A recent topic of discussion has been the possibility of extending water service into a section of Mantua on Woodbury-Glassboro Road, along the border with Pitman. Mr. Alice explained some of the history that lead to Pitman servicing this area. Although it has been a longstanding arrangement, it appears that Mantua and Pitman never finalized it with a formal agreement. Mr. Alice confirmed that new businesses are expected in the area. However, at this point he is not convinced that the potential profit would outweigh the cost of negotiating with Pitman for the right to service the area. Mr. Alice also prepared several resolutions for the consideration by the Board this evening.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Country Gardens – Mr. Palgutta expects a Form E application for acceptance will be submitted for consideration at the June or July Board meeting.

Fossil Park – The project is included in the Master Water Permit, which the Authority obtained recently. This will save time in the future, on approvals for capacity. However, despite numerous requests from the Engineer, the applicant has not provided any information or submitted any plans for the project.

The Factory at Total Turf Experience – the applicant has not been in contact. The ball is in the applicant's court.

Austin St. Pump Station – The plans and specs are still under review by DEP.

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

Barnsboro Sewer Extension – DEP sent a letter of warning about soil erosion at the site. The conditions DEP cited have been addressed. All the on-site piping is complete. The change in piping material and the use of piles seems to have resolved the water infiltration issue. The contractor, Perna Finnigan, applied for a partial payment, primarily for the piping. Mr. Palgutta recommended the Board approve the payment.

Centre City Improvements - the Engineer's proposal for a survey of the water and sewer infrastructure in the Centre City area of the Township was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. The survey is a necessary first step in any plans to renew the system.

Legends at Mantua – in a letter dated May 14, 2021, the Engineer advised against approving the applicant's request for release of the maintenance bond.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Krebs advised that during the day the Superintendent was working on site on the Barnsboro sewer construction and at the booster station in Mantua. At the moment, he is working on getting Well 8 back up and running. Next month, the Superintendent will have quotes for the materials needed to replace the water main on McCarthy Ave.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Krebs asked that the Board allow the waiver of penalties on unpaid bills to continue for another month, due to the pandemic. He advised that surveys were mailed to 23 residents of Creek Lane. Six people did not respond. Five people were in favor of having a water main installed on the street. Twelve people indicated they were opposed; they do not want access to public water on Creek Lane. In light of the comments made by residents at the meeting on April 20, and the new survey results, Mr. Krebs sees no reason to move forward with the project. Finally, Mr. Krebs reminded everyone on the Board and the professionals that financial disclosures must be filed with the State.

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 Resolution #2021-32, authorizing Partial Payment No.2 to Perna Finnigan, Inc., in the amount of \$261,880.01, for work to date on the Barnsboro Sanitary Sewer Extension.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks, to adopt Resolution #2021-33, denying the applicant's request for release of the maintenance bond posted for the Legends at Mantua residential development.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept Proposal No. 2021-57, prepared and submitted by Sickels & Associates, Inc., for a survey of the water and sewer infrastructure in the Center City section of Mantua, at a cost of \$18,700.00. This resolution will be Resolution #2021-35.

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

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to adopt a resolution confirming the termination of plans to install a water main on Creek Lane and directing the Executive Director to notify the residents of Creek Lane by letter that the project has been abandoned due to lack of support. This resolution will be Resolution \$2021-35.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Parks	Yes
	Hauss	Yes

Dilisciandro Yes
Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

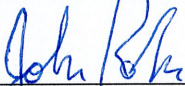
There was no old business raised.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary
Approved at the meeting held on June 15, 2021