

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
May 17, 2022**

The monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 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”. The schedule of meetings is also posted on the Authority’s website and in the Township Clerk’s office.

The flag salute was followed by roll call.

Present:

Authority Members

Tim Sheehan
Dan Hauss
John Parks

Professionals

John A. Alice, Solicitor
David Palgutta, Sickels & Associates

Administrative & Managerial Personnel

William Krebs, Executive Director
Kevin Howarth, Assistant Executive Director
Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Hauss to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 19, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Parks Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

It was not necessary to open the meeting to public comment, as no one attended.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Hauss reported the current balance in each bank account. Bills to be approved for payment from the operations account totaled \$214,333.39. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$3,275.00.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Hauss to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of \$214,333.39 in bills from the Operations Account and approve the payment of \$3,275.00 in charges from the Escrow Account.

Roll Call Vote: Parks Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT:

Mr. Alice advised that Resident Barbara Ledden has expressed interest in acquiring a piece of property where she believes the Authority used to have a water tank. The tank was near her home on Grandview Drive. Mr. Krebs confirmed the Authority did have a tank in that area at one time. It was a relic of the Ledden Water Company and has been removed. The Solicitor indicated it’s not clear whether Ms. Ledden wants title to a lot that is adjacent to hers, or if she simply wants an easement on her property turned back over to her. If it’s an easement that the Authority acquired for nominal consideration, typically \$1.00, then it could be returned to her in the same manner. Brief, general discussion followed. The Board expressed a willingness to transfer an easement, but not an entire lot. The Solicitor will speak with Ms. Ledden, determine exactly what she needs, and report back.

Mr. Alice asked for clarification regarding an easement Mr. Palgutta has requested between Somerset Ave. and Main St., across property owned by Atlantic City Electric. Mr. Alice has a contact at Atlantic City Electric and will reach out to him regarding a title search if necessary. What he needs to know first is why the existing utility easement on the property is insufficient. Mr. Palgutta responded that the existing easement is 20’ wide and it is for sewer only. What the Authority needs there is an easement that is 40’ wide and that can be used for potable water.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

As of the last Board meeting, Mr. Palgutta was awaiting the arrival and testing of the generator for the Barnsboro Sewer pump station. Upon delivery, a new issue was discovered. The generator was not wired for a multi-voltage selector switch. As a result, it does not provide what is required by the site. Now he is awaiting delivery of a harness that will allow for rewiring of the generator.

The Engineer recently attended a pre-construction meeting for the Royal Oaks Pump Station project. The meeting was productive and included the contractor, the Authority and DEP. It is expected that it will take about 10 months to complete construction. Authority to award the contracts for the Austin St. Sewer Station project was received from DEP. Contract A and Contract B were sent to the contractors for processing. Mr. Palgutta also met with Mr. Krebs, Mr. Howarth and Mr. Pheasant and they had good conversation regarding the feasibility of extending sewer service in various parts of the Township. The engineers considered a couple different ways of extending sewer down Breakneck Rd. However, the Authority cannot move forward at this time because most

of Breakneck Rd. is outside the Authority’s designated service area. There has been discussion between Gloucester County and DEP regarding expansion of the service area, but nothing concrete has come of those discussions. Finally, Mr. Palgutta advised that he anticipates submitting a proposal to the Board next month for water and sewer improvements in Centre City.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

On behalf of Superintendent Pheasant, Mr. Howarth reported that installation of the water main that will serve the fossil park is progressing well. The crew is farther along than expected at this point; they are currently working on the section behind Lowes. Water meter replacements are on pace. The Superintendent is looking at re-doing the meter reading routes. The switch to more “radio read” meters should allow for streamlining the routes, thereby saving time. Mr. Howarth has been testing mini excavators, looking for the machine that is the best fit for the type of work the crew does.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Krebs noted that the only resolution on the agenda would authorize him to execute a contract with third-party electricity supplier Constellation Energy. Constellation was the low bidder in a recent online auction. The contract is a two-year agreement, beginning in 2023, and it will save the Authority about \$14,000 dollars. Sewer flow from the hospital was up again in March, to 1.3 million gallons. Revenue is down about \$15,000 from the same time last year. Many residents have complained that they did not receive bills. Nevertheless, the monthly sweep of funds from the Authority’s local bank to the Bank of NY Mellon was about \$350,0000, primarily because a reimbursement was received from DEP for funds expended on the Barnsboro Sewer project. Craig Gargano, Esquire, the attorney who has handled financing for the Authority’s capital projects, has moved on to another firm. Mr. Krebs met with Phil Norcross via Zoom to discuss Mr. Gargano’s replacement.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Hauss adopting Resolution 2022-21, authorizing the Executive Director to execute a two-year contract with Constellation for the third-party supply of electricity to the Authority.

Roll Call Vote:	Parks	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Parks raised the issue of requiring everyone on the crew to get a CDL (Commercial Driver’s License). He is of the opinion that every person working in the field should be able to drive every piece of equipment the Authority uses. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Parks, requiring current operations employees who don’t hold a CDL to obtain one within 6 months, and requiring new hires to obtain a CDL within one year of hiring. The Authority will pay for the first class and test. If an employee leaves the Authority within one year of obtaining a CDL he will be obligated to

repay the Authority for the cost of the class and any test fee. An employee who leaves within 2 years of obtaining a CDL will be required to repay the Authority for half the associated costs.

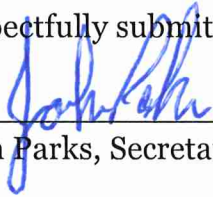
Roll Call Vote:	Parks	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

No other business was raised.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Hauss to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on June 21, 2022