

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
May 19, 2020**

In accordance with New Jersey law regarding “Open Public Meetings”, notice of the meeting 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. Due to “social distance” requirements necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via conference call. Three of the commissioners were present in the meeting room of the Authority’s office, and were available to admit anyone from the public who wished to attend.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Tim Sheehan, Mario Dilisciandro, Daniel Hauss,
Vince Voltaggio, Alternate Butch Bruner
Also Present: John A. Alice, Solicitor
David Palgutta, Engineer
William Krebs, Executive Director
Jeff Baker, Superintendent
Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Mr. Bruner was designated a voting member in the absence of Mr. Parks.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public attended the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Voltaggio, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held April 29, 2020.

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was single item of correspondence, which was not discussed.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Report and bill list was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. There were no questions.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Voltaggio to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of bills from the Operations Account totaling \$230,713.44, and from the Escrow Account totaling \$3,202.25.

Roll Call Vote: Bruner Yes
Voltaggio Yes
Hauss Yes
Dilisciandro Yes
Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT – John A. Alice, Esq.:

Mr. Alice reminded the Board that Industrial Valley filed a claim against the Authority and the Authority responded with a counter-claim. That matter has been listed for trial on June 4. He anticipates meeting with the Executive Director and Superintendent beforehand to address the claim and counterclaim. There has been some back and forth about the bids on the Barnsboro sewer project, Mr. Palgutta will address that shortly. The Executive Director has been working on revising the application for discount fees. Due to the pandemic they have not had a chance yet to work together on finalizing the new application.

The Chairman noted that Mr. Palgutta emailed the Board a detailed overview of all ongoing projects and he indicated the Barnsboro sewer extension project is the one that most warranted discussion.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Dave Palgutta:

Since the last meeting, the engineers have been following the required process of negotiating a contract for construction of the Barnsboro sewer extension. Three contractors expressed interest in negotiating. They were given a deadline of March 11 for providing revised bid numbers and any additional comments for the Authority to consider. Only one response was received. Perna Finnigan submitted comments and revised numbers for contract A and contract B. The revised bid came in just under \$1.5 million total for the whole project. That is significantly less than the second bid, or re-bid, of \$1.8 million. Last week the engineer met with Perna Finnigan in an effort to fine tune some of the numbers. Mr. Alice advised that in a rejected bid situation, NJSA 40A:11-5 provides that if there are negotiations with the bidders, “the governing body shall not award the contract unless the negotiated price is lower than the lowest rejected bid submitted on the second occasion by a responsible bidder.”

Mr. Palgutta thanked Mr. Alice for the clarification and then continued, noting that Perna Finnigan’s revised bid appears to meet the statutory criteria. However, the \$1.5 million negotiated cost still exceeds the funds available from the Trust [NJEIT]. He and Mr. Krebs are consulting with bond counsel regarding the proper process for obtaining additional funds. At this time, it is Mr. Palgutta’s understanding that a reallocation of funds would be required. The NJIB will not consider a reallocation until August. Construction work could begin before then and continue as long as the currently available funds hold out; a reallocation request could then be submitted in August. So there is a path forward, and it would begin with the Authority directing the engineer to submit to the DEP the documentation needed to obtain authorization to award the contract. If the Authority were to take this path, the engineers would start on the paperwork for the DEP immediately. The hope would be for DEP to review the documentation and issue the authorization to award in time for the June Board meeting. Assuming the Authority awarded the contract in June and the contracts were finalized soon thereafter, the contractor should be in a position to mobilize and start the piping work right after the 4th of July. The reason the Authority will be requesting \$2.2 million for a project with a negotiated cost of \$1.5 million is to cover all the associated contingencies and soft costs. The Trust uses standard

percentages to estimate the additional costs of a project. Currently, they estimate an additional 5% for contingency costs, 3% for administrative fees, 12% for construction, and a 20 – 25 % design allowance. That money may not be needed; the idea is to have it available in the event something unexpected comes up. Mr. Voltaggio urged Mr. Palgutta to get the necessary paperwork to DEP as soon as possible, and to keep pushing the project forward.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Voltaggio directing Sickels & Associates, Inc. to work in cooperation with the Executive Director and Bond Counsel to obtain authorization from the DEP to award the contract, and to otherwise work towards completion of the Barnsboro Sewer Extension project.

Roll Call Vote:	Bruner	Abstained
	Voltaggio	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - Jeff Baker:

There was a water leak on Hickory Ave.; the leak was located and repaired. The road will be paved again in the near future. The force main [sleeve] under Breakneck Road has been completed, in advance, for the Barnsboro project. The crew is painting hydrants, and installing new concrete pads for hydrants where needed. The access road and parking area at the Royal Oaks pump station has been resurfaced, and the crew is preparing Well 4 and Well 5 for painting. The water main replacement on Norris Ave. is now complete and the road has been paved, bringing that 5 year project to an end. The access road at Susies Hollow is being covered with fabric and millings to restore access for the Authority’s bigger trucks. The crew is prepping for the replacement of the water main on Mercer Ave. On a side note, Mr. Baker advised that he had been invited to be a stakeholder for a regulatory board working on lead and copper rules for the DEP.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – William Krebs:

The Authority’s 2006 Dodge Dakota 4x4 needs 0a new transmission. The following quotes were submitted: Spirit Dodge, \$5,500; Performance Dodge, \$5,950; Goodeal Transmission, \$4,000. Mr. Krebs recommended approval of the lowest quote, from Goodeal transmission.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Sheehan authorizing a transmission replacement by Goodeal Transmission at the quoted cost of \$4,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:	Bruner	Yes
	Voltaggio	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

Three vendors were asked to quote the cost of parts for the water main replacement on Mercer Ave. The low bidder was Water Works Supply Co. For the 8” section of the main, the quote from Water Works was \$15,459.70. The quote from Core & Main was \$16,058.26. Caterina declined to submit a quote. MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Sheehan approving the quote from Water Works Supply Co. and authorizing the purchase of the quoted items at a cost of \$15,459.70

Roll Call Vote:	Bruner	Yes
	Voltaggio	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Voltaggio, second by Mr. Dilisciandro, to adopt Resolution #2020-22, authorizing the Authority to issue subordinate project notes identified as Series 2020, for an amount up to \$2,200,000.00, for the purpose of financing the Barnsboro Sanitary Sewer Extension project.

Roll Call Vote:	Bruner	Abstained
	Voltaggio	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Dilisciandro	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

Interest charges on customer accounts were waived in April and May. Mr. Krebs plans to continue waiving late fees through June. He will reevaluate at the end of the month. Customer payments are down slightly from the same time last year. The number of customers registered to use the online payment system is now over 250. Once again, there has been a substantial increase in the sewer flow from the new Inspira Hospital. The flow increased from 1.5 million gallons in March to over 2 million gallons in April.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Voltaggio strongly suggested that the engineer start working with the contractor on the review process for the long-lead items prior to the awarding of the contract. Mr. Palgutta agreed to discuss this with the contractor. The Chairman recommended that arrangements be made for the Board to meet at the Township next month, so they can meet in person while still maintaining social distance.

OLD BUSINESS:


There was no discussion of old business.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Voltaggio, second by Mr. Parks to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 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 June 30, 2020