

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
June 30, 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, Secretary John Parks, Treasurer Dan Hauss, Engineering Coordinator Vince Voltaggio
Also Present: John A. Alice, Authority Solicitor
David Palgutta, Engineer
William Krebs, Executive Director
Jeff Baker, Superintendent
Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC PORTION

No one from the public attended the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held May 19, 2020.
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There correspondence was not discussed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Dan Hauss:

Mr. Hauss stated the current balance in each bank account. Bills to be approved for payment from the operations account totaled \$102,299.31. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$5283.00.

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 \$102,299.31, and from the Escrow Account totaling \$528.00.

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

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT – John A. Alice, Esq.:

The lawsuit with Industrial Valley was scheduled for a hearing on June 4. Mr. Alice, the Executive Director and Superintendent were prepared to proceed. Industrial Valley was not ready and requested an adjournment. The judge granted the adjournment and suggested that Industrial Valley contact Mr. Alice to discuss a resolution. The case has been relisted for Thursday, July 9. Once the litigation with Industrial Valley is resolved, Mr. Alice plans to work on the easements with Mr. Baker.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Dave Palgutta:

Country Gardens – samples from the new section of water main have been tested. The engineers are working with the Superintendent to clarify the meaning of the test results and to develop a punch list for the project.

Royal Oaks Pump Station – the environmental planning documents were submitted to DEP. Construction plans are complete except for the electric plan, components and specifications. The engineer anticipates finalizing the technical specifications in July.

Fossil Park – In a letter dated June 19, Mr. Palgutta reviewed and commented upon the Form A application submitted for the proposed Fossil Park. The application is viable for approval, as the applicant demonstrated the feasibility of bringing portable water to the site. However, there are a number of technical issues that will have to be addressed in the future.

Barnsboro Sewer Extension – Despite extensive communication with the DEP to ensure that the bidding and contract negotiation were handled properly, the DEP required the Authority to re-advertise for bids on the project. The advertisement was published, bids were received and opened, and they all exceed the estimated cost of the project. Mr. Palgutta recommended that the Board reject the latest bids. He recently requested a phone conference with DEP. So far there has been no response, perhaps because DEP staff has been furloughed. In the meantime, the Authority has requested guidance from counsel at Parker McCay, and they responded with a detailed legal memo. Everyone is working diligently to ensure that the Authority complies with all legal requirements. If the Board chooses to reject the bids, the engineer must send a letter to the bidders notifying them of the Authority’s intent to negotiate a contract. The letter must also advise the bidders that there is deadline by which they must notify the Authority in writing if they want to participate in negotiations. Mr. Palgutta hopes to make the deadline July 10. He will check first with counsel to ensure that date meets the “standard of reasonableness”.

Mr. Diliscandro asked the Executive Director to elaborate on the proposed resolution.

Mr. Krebs explained that adopting the resolution would reject the latest set of bids for being too high. Then - this is the step DEP wants to see - a letter would go out to the bidders notifying them the bids were rejected and setting forth the negotiating process specified by Parker McCay. That process includes giving the bidder a deadline for informing the MUA they want to be included in contract negotiations. In addition, the negotiated contract must be lower than the lowest bid received.

Mr. Palgutta continued, advising the Board that the despite the latest setback, the project is not far off schedule; it is on track for substantial completion in or around January, 2021.

Mr. Voltaggio expressed complete dissatisfaction with the effort put into this project to date, as well as frustration that no one but the Board seems to care about getting the project finished.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - Jeff Baker:

A resident accidentally severed the water service at 935 Mantua Blvd. while he was working on the sewer lateral. The MUA responded, fixed the line, repaved the section of street that was dug up, and then billed the resident. Mr. Baker re-worked the bacteria sampling schedule to bring it into compliance with the new restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. George’s truck (a 2006 Dodge Dakota 4x4) is broken, again, despite recently having the transmission replaced. Mr. Baker also advised that he is working with the engineer on a master permit and transfer of the water allocation from Inversand. Residents of Creek Lane have inquired as to when they can expect to get public water on their street. Right now the residents of Creek Lane are on well water. Before the water main project is started, Mr. Baker would like to see the Authority’s Rules & Regulations revised to address the use of wells after connecting to public water. Mr. Baker expects the project will take about 4 months. It was approved by the Board some time ago, but a starting date was not determined. Mr. Dilisciandro asked Mr. Baker to have his proposed rule changes ready for the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – William Krebs:

In May, the last month for which complete records are available, the Authority pumped 3 million gallons more water than at the same time last year. Revenues have kept pace. It is a testament to the residents of Mantua that they have, to a large extent, kept current on their bills even though many are unemployed or under-employed as a result of the pandemic. The Authority starting waiving late fees in April. Mr. Krebs would like to waive late fees for at least another month.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Sheehan authorizing the Authority to waive late fees in July for non-payment and late payment of bills.

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

Motion carried.

Also in May, the sewer flow from Inspira Hospital dropped from 2 million gallons to 1 million gallons. The annual Water Quality Report is complete and available on the Authority’s website [www.mantuamua.com]. The revised application for a senior citizen/disabled person discount is also complete and available on the website. The application will be mailed out to customers who currently receive the discount, for annual recertification of their eligibility. Bowman & Co. is

working on the annual audit. Mr. Krebs anticipates it will be completed in August.

Last month the Board considered quotes for the parts needed to replace the water main on Mercer Ave. Water Works Supply Co. was the low bidder. The Board approved a portion of the quote, to cover the section of Mercer Ave. that has an 8” water main. The crew is ready to move on to Phase Two of the project, which is the portion that has a 6” water main. That part of the quote totals \$12,968.27. MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks approving the quote from Water Works Supply Co. and authorizing the purchase of quoted items for replacement of the 6” water main on Mercer Ave., at a cost of \$12,968.27

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Voltaggio, to adopt Resolution #2020-23, approving the ‘Form A’ application for conceptual feasibility review of the proposed Fossil Park

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

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Voltaggio, to adopt Resolution #2020-24, rejecting bids on the Barnsboro Sanitary Sewer Extension and authorizing the Authority to negotiate with the rejected bidders.

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

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was raised.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no discussion of old business.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 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 July 21, 2020