

Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA August 17, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2021 in the Township Building located at 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey.

Chairman Tim Sheehan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He asked that everyone rise for the flag salute.

Mr. Sheehan delivered the Sunshine Notice, as required by New Jersey law regarding Open Public Meetings. The schedule of meetings for the year was advertised in the Courier Post and South Jersey Times. The meeting schedule is also posted on the Authority’s website, and in the offices of the Mantua Township Clerk and the Municipal Utilities Authority.

Roll call was taken.

PRESENT:

Authority Board Members

Tim Sheehan, Chairman
Dan Hauss, Treasurer
Victor Torino

Professionals

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

Authority Personnel

William Krebs, Executive Director
Kevin Howarth, Assistant 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. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino to open the meeting to public comment. Motion carried by voice vote, all in favor.

Seeing no one present, Mr. Sheehan asked for a motion to close.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino to close the meeting to public comment. Motion carried by voice vote, all in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 20, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Haus	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was not discussed at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Hauss provided the current balance in each bank account. Bills to be approved for payment from the operations account totaled \$649,102.08. Escrow charges to be approved for payment totaled \$3,810.00.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the payment of \$649,102.08 in bills from the Operations Account and the payment of \$3,810.00 in charges from the Escrow Account.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

LEGAL REPORT:

Mr. Alice advised that he has been working on some issues for the Authority that are not ripe for discussion at this time. He also reviewed two shared service agreements and prepared a number of resolutions for consideration this evening.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Mr. Palgutta provided updates for current projects.

Country Gardens – the developer submitted a Form D application. The application is on hold until additional information on the easements is provided, and until paving of the roads is complete.

Fossil Park – a meeting of the stakeholders is scheduled for next week.

Plans to rehabilitate the Austin Street Pump Station and Royal Oaks Pump Station are under review by DEP. The engineer was asked to resubmit some technical documents. The documents were submitted; DEP reviewed and approved them. The more recent comments from DEP are financial and legal in nature. Mr. Palgutta has been working with the Executive Director and Mr. Alice on the responses, and he will continue to do so.

Mr. Alice added that he prepared and hand-delivered to Mr. Palgutta two letters addressing issues raised by DEP, in particular, the Authority’s ownership of the properties and the right to develop and redevelop them.

Center City – the survey of the water and sewer infrastructure is complete except for 8 manholes, approximately. The surveyors were not able to pop the manholes open. The Superintendent recently opened them, and now the survey can be wrapped up. Mr. Palgutta anticipates meeting with the Authority to review the results

Barnsboro Sewer Extension – Testing of the sewer pump station has been completed and the engineer is satisfied with operation of the pump. A certification to that effect will be submitted to DEP. DEP should then issue a permit for operation of the pump station. Once the permit is issued, the residents may connect. Most of the remaining items on the punch-list are related to property restoration and paving areas that were damaged more heavily than expected during construction. The Superintendent recommended paving the pump station area and access road. Mr. Palgutta agrees that paving is advisable. He will try to include the paving of the pump station in the remainder of the restoration work, but the cost may exceed the amount of available funds. He estimates the paving could cost an additional \$5 to 7,000.

The Chairman indicated the paving seems advisable and the Board would consider authorizing additional money for that purpose. The issue will be re-visited if additional funds are needed.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Mr. Pheasant reported the crew repaired a large break in the 12” water main on Mount Royal Rd., as well as a smaller leak in the 2” water main on Cape May Ave. The water main on Cape May was included in the projects covered by the master permit. A couple different leaks in that main have been repaired. Replacing the main is a high priority. A couple of unmarked blow-offs were located and will be added to the maps. The new water main on McCarthy Ave. is complete. The crew will start installing the services next week, if the bacterial test is negative. Mr. Pheasant estimates it will take the crew about 10 days to put in new services to connect the homes on McCarthy Ave to the new water main.

The Chairman remarked that he saw a compliment on Facebook, for the crew’s very quick response and repair of the water main on Mt. Royal Rd.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Krebs requested the Board’s permission to waive penalties on unpaid bills for another month, due to the pandemic. He noted that the Correspondence List included the Engineer’s recommendation that the Board issue a fourth partial payment to the contractor on the Barnsboro Sewer project. The annual budget for the fiscal year starting in October has been delayed again because the State has not yet issued GASB standards for the year. Completion of the annual audit is delayed for the same reason.

The amount pumped from the wells is about 7,000,000 gallons ahead of last year. Sewage flow from the hospital is also up, to a new record of 2.5 million gallons in a month. This could be a reflection of an increase in hospital patients due to the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus. Billings are up, but revenue remains stable, indicating most people are paying their water and sewer bills. However, the Authority will be excluded from tax sale again in December.

The Authority needs to make two purchases. Quotes were obtained for both. Quotes for three A423 hydrants were requested from three vendors. Caterina’s price was \$3,140 each; \$9,420 total. Core and Main’s price was \$3,058 each; \$9,174 total. A third company declined to submit a quote. Mr. Krebs recommended approval of the low

quote. Quotes were also obtained for some for traffic cones and 4 traffic signs. The quotes were as follows: Atlas, \$2,261.00; USABB, \$3,080.80; and National Wholesale, \$3,255.00. Mr. Krebs recommended approval of the low quote, from Atlas.

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

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino authorizing the purchase of three A423 hydrants from Core and Main for the quoted price of \$9,174.00.

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino authorizing the purchase of the quoted traffic cones and signs from Atlas at a cost of \$2,261.

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

Mr. Alice indicated that resolution 2021-40 is premature at this time and has been tabled for now. He introduced the following resolutions.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss second by Mr. Torino, to adopt Resolution #2021-38, denying for a second time the release of maintenance bonds posted for the Legends at Mantua residential development.

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss second by Mr. Torino, to adopt Resolution #2021-39, authorizing a fourth partial payment to Perna Finnigan, Inc. in the amount of \$81,218.09, for additional work completed on the Barnsboro Sanitary Sewer Extension project

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss second by Mr. Torino, to adopt Resolution #2021-41, approving an agreement with Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority to share the services of a Qualified Purchasing Agent.

Roll Call Vote: Torino Yes
 Hauss Yes
 Sheehan Yes

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss second by Mr. Torino, to adopt Resolution #2021-42, adjusting compensation for the operations staff employed by the Authority.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Chairman suggested a motion, to be memorialized later in a resolution, expressing the Board’s desire to move ahead with installation of a forced sewer main extension on Barnsboro Road, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00.

MOTION by Mr. Hauss second by Mr. Torino, to authorize the installation of a forced sewer main extension on Barnsboro Road, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:	Torino	Yes
	Hauss	Yes
	Sheehan	Yes

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

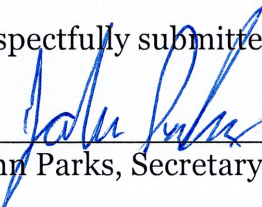
No old business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Hauss, second by Mr. Torino to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.


Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



 John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



 Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on September 21, 2021