

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
October 17, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 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 Dan Hauss.

The Chairman asked everyone to rise for the flag salute. He delivered the Sunshine Notice as required by the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Daniel Hauss, Treasurer Victor Torino, Secretary John Parks, Engineering Coordinator Tim Sheehan, First Alternate Kevin Howarth, Second Alternate James Neely.

Mr. Howarth was designated to vote in place of Vice-Chairman Mario Dilisciandro.

Also present: Solicitor John Alice, Engineer Dave Palgutta, Executive Director William Krebs, Assistant Executive Director Charles Jones, and Recording Secretary Susan Novick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by John Parks to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 19, 2023. Second by Victor Torino. Motion approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Victor Torino reported the balance in each of the Authority's local bank accounts, as well as the bills to be paid from the operations and escrow accounts. The operating expenses totaled \$171,959.42. The escrow charges totaled \$1,722.50.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize the payment of \$171,959.42 from the operations account and authorize the payment of \$1,722.50 in escrow charges.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

LEGAL REPORT

Solicitor John Alice relayed that he and Assistant Executive Director Chuck Jones discussed a class action lawsuit for damages caused by fire-fighting foams. There has not been any contamination from the foam detected in Mantua, but it may be advisable to "get in line" by joining the class action. He spoke about the utility easement near Mantua Blvd. Mr. Alice also reported speaking with the Executive Director about T-Mobile's lease of space on the water tower.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to accept the Solicitor's report.

Motion carried by voice vote.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineer Dave Palgutta reported that B&H Contracting has been working in the wet and dry wells of the **Austin St. Pump Station**, making adjustments to the SCADA system. The contractor requested a partial payment of \$48,000; Mr. Palgutta recommended approving the request. Paving and fencing work is not expected to start until October. Arthur R. Henry, Inc., the second contractor on this project, requested partial payment for work on punch list items. The request is still under review by the engineer.

The **Royal Oaks Pump Station** rehabilitation project is on hold until the generator is delivered.

A video inspection of the sewer lines at **Rowan Fossil Park** is scheduled for this week. The inspection will allow the engineers to see the condition of the pipes and troubleshoot problems that might inhibit the sewer flow from the Fossil Park.

Mr. Palgutta did not have an opportunity this month to meet with the Superintendent about the **Center City** infrastructure project. They need to firm up the phasing and timeline.

Regarding the Solicitor's earlier comments, Mr. Palgutta confirmed that the developer for the owner of Block 172, Lots 7.01 and 7.02, inquired as to whether the Authority would be interested in extending the utility easement across the entire width of the property. An extension of that size would not only accommodate the water main that the Authority wants to install there, but it would also allow for future connections if there were further development in the area. Mr. Palgutta requested a revised sketch from the developer. There has not been time yet for discussion of the proposal with the Superintendent and Executive Director.

MOTION by Mr. Dilisciandro, second by Mr. Parks to accept the Engineer's report.

Motion carried by voice vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Executive Director Charles Jones reported on behalf of the Superintendent. Mr. Jones advised there would be a follow-up presentation about ESRI for the Authority staff. He provided a status update for the water main upgrade on Bergen Ave. and Somerset Ave. The semi-annual hydrant flushing began on September 25, and it was completed within one week, with no problems. The blowoffs were flushed as well. PFAS, PFOS – the “forever chemicals” – are still not detectable in Mantua's water. A.C. Schultes submitted a quote for retrofitting Well 8. The crew repaired the water main on Meadow Ct. They also repaired the intersection of two sewer lines on Somerset Ave. Finally, NJ DEP did an inspection on October 12. The Authority received a clean report from DEP, with no documented findings.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to accept the Superintendent's report.

Motion carried by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Krebs provided updated statistics regarding the amount of water pumped, and the total amounts billed and collected as revenue. To date, the Authority has pumped 224.7 million gallons. Last year at the same time the number was 209.8 million gallons. More notable is the fact that the Authority has used 81% of the amount it may draw from the PRM aquifer this year, but only 14% of the allocation for the Mt. Laurel aquifer. The difference is attributable to depletion of the aquifer and the failure of Well 8.

The number of accounts with balances that are eligible for tax sale is down to 200. The total amount eligible for tax sale is about \$472,000.

A meeting has been scheduled with Colliers Engineering regarding the repaving of Bridgeton Pike and Mount Royal Road. Everyone on the operations staff now has an MUA email. The software the Authority uses for reading meters and transferring the readings into the billing program is being “sunsetting” by the manufacturer. The Executive Director is working to find the best cost-effective solution. Mr. Krebs advised this would be the opportune time to move the meter reading functions off the server and into the cloud. Finally, the budget for fiscal year 2024 was approved by the State.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to accept the Executive Director’s report.

Motion carried by voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to adopt Resolution 2023-59, thereby approving Quote #33894, dated September 9, 2023, and awarding a contract for the redevelopment of Well 8 to A.C. Schultes, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$26,700.00.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to adopt Resolution 2023-60, authorizing a closed session for discussion of shared service agreements and rate structures.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to adopt Resolution 2023-61, adopting a budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to adopt Resolution 2023-62, granting conditional approval of the ‘Form F’ application submitted for the proposed car wash at Timberline Plaza.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:40 p.m. Mr. Parks made a motion to go into Closed Session. Mr. Torino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by voice vote.

At approximately 6:20 p.m. Mr. Parks moved to return to Open Session. Mr. Torino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by voice vote.

OPEN SESSION

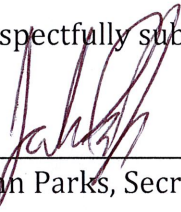
No new or old business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Torino to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on November 21, 2023