

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
December 19, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, December 19, 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 Vice Chairman Mario Dilisciandro.

The Vice 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: Vice-Chairman Mario Dilisciandro, Secretary John Parks, Engineering Coordinator Tim Sheehan, Second Alternate James Neely.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by John Parks to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 21, 2023. Second by Tim Sheehan. Motion approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public attended the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of the Treasurer, Mr. Sheehan reported the balance in each of the Authority's local bank accounts, and the total amount to be paid from the operations fund. The operating expenses totaled \$250,062.63. There were no new escrow charges.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize the payment of \$250,062.63 in operating expenses.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor John Alice advised that he attended a meeting with the Executive Director, Superintendent, representatives from the State DEP, and operators of a local water company. Mr. Alice will provide a full report if anything comes of the meeting; it would be premature to discuss the details now. There has been no response from the owners of the Mantua Blvd. property with the utility easement the Authority hopes to expand. The attorney the

Authority tried to retain for the “forever chemicals” class-action suit has a conflict of interest. Mr. Alice contacted another law firm and is awaiting a response.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Dave Palgutta reported that the **Austin St. Pump Station and Force Main** and the **Royal Oaks Pump Station** projects are close to completion. Upon delivery of the generator for the Austin St. station, B&H Contracting will install it and finish the site work at the same time. Mr. Palgutta met with the Executive Director and Superintendent regarding Phase I of the Center City improvement project. They will be meeting again before the next Board meeting to discuss the scope of work. Finally, Mr. Palgutta recommended approving the Form F application submitted by Mt. Royal Partners for a proposed WaWa Store.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Paul Pheasant advised that he reassessed the initial schedule for completion of the video-inspection of the sewer mains in Center City. The crew needs the month of February to finish all the camera work. The JIF Safety Auditor made a couple of suggestions, which Mr. Pheasant is putting into practice. He is also helping Manor Water assess the condition of their laterals. The crew did an excellent job of preparing all the stations and the plant for the storm that blew through last week. A.C. Schultes will start work on Well 8 in January.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Executive Director Chuck Jones reported that on December 15, RIO Supply presented a demonstration of its new software program, including new capabilities surrounding meter readings. The demonstration also covered new methods of collecting/transmitting meter reads. The Superintendent is talking to the Ferguson company for a comparison. Mr. Jones spoke with a resident who is concerned about the quality of the road repairs that will follow completion of the water main upgrade near Bergen Ave. The EPA is proposing a more protective level for forever chemicals in water. The Authority has and will continue to proactively monitor the water supply. No one has found forever chemicals in Mantua's water.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Bill Krebs reported that none of the Authority employees suffered a work-related injury or illness this year. They have had a perfect safety record for many years. He requested the Board's permission to issue safety awards to the employees, which has been the practice for well over 15 years.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan authorizing safety awards for Authority employees.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Krebs continued his report, referring to some of the resolutions before the Board this evening. The update to the SCADA system is long overdue. When the update is complete, it

will be possible to remotely manage the wells, plant, and towers. Membership in the JIF is important, in part because it helps keep down insurance costs. He recommended adoption of the resolution to renew the JIF membership. The new fee accountant is on top of her job; she requested the budget amendment resolution. Mr. Krebs provided updated statistics on the sewer flow from the Hospital area, the amount of water pumped over the last month, and the amount billed and collected. All but four of the account balances listed for Tax Sale were sold. The accounts that did not sell totaled less than \$2,000. This year to date, the Authority's customers paid about \$1.2 million through Invoice Cloud. About 1,500 of the Authority's customers are on autopay, and more than 25% have elected paperless billing. The contractors building the Rowan Vet School want to connect their trailers to sewer. That should be feasible. When construction is complete, the sewer units can be transferred from the trailers to the school. The office will be sending Request for Proposals (RFP's) to the current professionals by the end of the month. The RFP's will also be available on the Authority's website. The reorganization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to accept all the reports presented.

Motion carried by voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adopt the following resolutions by consent agenda:

Resolution 2023-68, approving the proposal submitted by Complete Control Services, Inc, for upgrading the SCADA control systems at a cost not to exceed \$120,000.00.

Resolution 2023-69, Authorizing renewal of the Authority's membership in the New Jersey Utilities Authority Joint Insurance Fund.

Resolution 2023-70, granting conditional approval of the Form F application submitted by Mt. Royal Partners for a proposed WaWa store.

Resolution 2023-71, approving a merit pay raise for Matthew Dalton on the anniversary of his employment.

Resolution 2023-72, authorizing a closed session for discussion of rates.

Resolution 2023-73, an amendment to the budget for fiscal year 2022.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to move into Executive Session.

Motion carried by voice vote.

The Board was in closed session from approximately 5:22 until 5:50 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to return to open session.

Motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was raised.

NEW BUSINESS

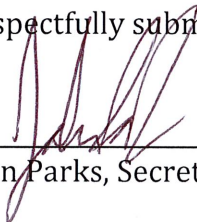
No new business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m.


Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on January 16, 2024