

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
February 6, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was called to order at 5:05 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, in the Township Municipal Building located at 401 Main St., in Mantua.

The flag salute, Sunshine Notice, and roll call were done during the reorganization meeting, which immediately preceded this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by John Parks, second by Tim Sheehan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 16, 2024. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one from the public attended the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kevin Howarth presented the Treasurer's report, including the balance in each local bank account and the total amount to be paid from the operations fund and escrow fund. The operating expenses totaled \$41,336.94. The escrow charges totaled \$4,350.75.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize the payment of \$41,336.94 in operating expenses and the payment of \$4,350.75 in escrow charges.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor John Alice thanked the Board for reappointing him. The last time the Solicitor spoke with Mike Flowers, Mr. Flowers indicated he was not opposed to the Authority expanding the size and purpose of the utility easement on his property, but he wanted a slightly different configuration than what the Authority proposed. Despite requests that he do so, Mr. Flowers has not provided a detailed plan or measurements the Engineer needs to evaluate his proposal. Mr. Alice reviewed the leases held by T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T. Each is 20 or 25 years in length, and they end around the same time. T-Mobile wants to re-negotiate the terms of the lease to lease to trim expenses and obtain permission for installation of enhancements to its antenna array. Mr. Alice foresees the other wireless carriers wanting to do the same. He recommended the Authority renegotiate all three leases.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Dave Palgutta thanked the Board for reappointing Sickels & Associates as the Authority's Engineer. He advised that the Royal Oaks Sewer Station project and the Austin St. Sewer Station project are both in 'close out mode'. Change Orders were prepared for both projects; they are strictly administrative in nature. For Royal Oaks, the Change Order will adjust 'as built' quantities and extend the time for completion of the project. Mr. Palgutta recommended approval of A. R. Henry's request for final payment for Royal Oaks. He also recommended approval of B&H Contracting's requests for final payment on both projects, however, he recommended holding the checks until the generator at Royal Oaks is installed, tested, and the final site inspections are complete. Just before the last meeting, Mr. Palgutta received video footage of Phase II of Center City from the Superintendent. Since then, he has reviewed the video and developed a list of questions for the Superintendent. They haven't had an opportunity yet to discuss the videos due to the short meeting cycle. In response to a question from the Chairman, the Engineer said the video shows what he expected due to the age of the mains: there are circular cracks, intrusions, etc. He is assessing whether to line the mains or replace them.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Paul Pheasant reported the upgrade of the Carriage Hill lift station is now complete. The first round of samples was taken for UCMR testing. At the request of the Assistant Executive Director, Well 3 was re-tested. Results of the tests are not available yet. There were two water leaks in the last month. Unfortunately, one resulted in water and dirt damage to a home. An insurance claim has been made. Everyone on the crew with a license attended the Vendors Day on February 2. The hydra hammer has been received and installed. An account was set up with the vendor of the asphalt melter, and equipment was ordered.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chuck Jones advised that Ray Ledrich is now the working foreman of the crew. For several weeks, the crew monitored a water leak at a residence. The owner was not responsive to requests that he repair the leak. During the past 3 weeks the Authority set a deadline for the repair; if it was not met the water would have been turned off. The night before the deadline the leak was fixed. Mr. Jones received the updated draft of the employee manual from Brown & Connery, with minor comments. He will address the comments and have the attorneys review the manual again. Financing of the Royal Oaks and Austin St. projects through the NJIB has been moved to the Fall. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled with the contractor for the Vet School. Mr. Jones asked for Well 3 to be tested again because the fourth quarter sample showed the tiniest bit of PFOS and/or PFNA, well under the maximum allowable amount. He believes that test was an anomaly because chemicals have not been detected anywhere else in Mantua's system. GCUA has requested assistance moving debris from the stream at Chestnut Branch Park and the GCUA easement. The crew will assist the Public Works department on that project, beginning on February 12. Finally, Mr. Jones

attended a meeting with two members of the Township Committee, the Executive Director and Superintendent. The subject was the sewer station at the Villages of Mantua.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Krebs reported the receipts for the fiscal year to date are slightly ahead of last year. Thirty percent of the Authority’s customers have chosen paperless billing; 561 are on auto pay. The summary of the RFP’s is available to anyone who wishes to review it. He is waiting for a proposal for meter reading software from Ferguson, for comparison to the proposal from RIO. There has been no news from DEP about Manor Water, the small water company behind Home Depot. Manor Water had been looking for grants and other funding for repairs. The Authority office closed at 11:30 on January 19 due to the snowstorm. As usual, the Superintendent and crew ensured that the water and sewer systems continued to operate through the storm. The pump at Well 8 was pulled last week and there does not appear to be any damage to the screen. New Jersey American Water applied to BPU for a rate increase. Mr. Krebs expects the increase to take effect in September.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan accept all the reports offered by the professionals and administration this evening.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adopt Resolution 2024-17, approving Change Order No.1, for B&H Contracting and the Austin St. Sewer Station project.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Howarth, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2024-18, approving Change Order No.1, for B&H Contracting and the Royal Oaks Sewer Station project.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Howarth, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2024-19, authorizing final payment to A.R. Henry, Inc. for Contract A of the Austin St. Sewer Station project.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Howarth, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2024-20, authorizing final payment to B&H Contracting, Inc. for Contract B of the Austin St. Sewer Station project.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Howarth, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2024-21, authorizing final payment to B&H Contracting, Inc. for the Royal Oaks Sewer Station project, on condition of project completion and approval of the Engineer.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion of old business.

NEW BUSINESS

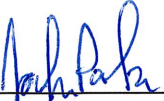
There was no discussion of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Voltaggio to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on March 19, 2024