

**Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA
March 19, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in the Township Building located at 401 Main Street, Mantua, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 by Chairman Mario Dilisciandro. 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 Mario Dilisciandro, Vice-Chair Tim Sheehan, Treasurer John Parks, Engineering Coordinator Vince Voltaggio, First Alternate Jason Snyder.
Also present: Solicitor John Alice, Engineer Dave Palgutta, Engineer Mark Brunermer, Executive Director William Krebs, Assistant Executive Director Charles Jones, and Recording Secretary Susan Novick.

The Chair designated Mr. Snyder to stand in for Treasurer Kevin Howarth.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no residents in attendance at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Secretary John Parks, second by Vice-Chair Tim Sheehan to approve the minutes of the reorganization meeting and regular meeting held on February 6, 2024.
Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

The only item of correspondence was a letter from the Engineer. There was no discussion of the letter.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Engineering Coordinator Vince Voltaggio 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. Operating expenses totaled \$393,137.71. Escrow charges totaled \$2,421.00.

MOTION by Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize the payment of \$393,137.71 in operating expenses and the payment of \$2,421.00 in escrow charges.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor John Alice remarked on the number of items to be covered this evening, including a proposal from Sickels and Associates, a closed session, the emergency at Crescent Hollow and a resolution authorizing payment to Pioneer Pipe, and a significant update to the employee manual. Mr. Alice reminded the Board the easement on the Flowers property [Block 172, Lots 7.01 and 7.02] and the easement near Grandview Ave. have been in limbo for a bit. The Solicitor and the Board expected to hear from Mr. Flowers and residents on Grandview Ave. At this point, it does not seem that is going to happen. The Solicitor requested guidance from the Board as to which easement he should pursue.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The **Royal Oaks Pump Station** project and the **Austin St. Pump Station and Force Main** project are still being closed out. Change Orders for both projects were submitted to DEP for review and approval. Engineer Dave Palgutta does not anticipate a quick turn-around of the Change Orders; DEP is reportedly backed up with work. A final “walk through” inspection of both pump stations will be scheduled with DEP. The new generator for the Austin St. station was delivered, installed, and tested. It is in working order, but there are a few ‘bits and pieces’ outstanding. Mr. Palgutta reiterated that the Authority should hold the final payment for B&H Contracting until further notice.

The Engineer, Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and Superintendent had a productive meeting about the planned **Center City Water & Sewer Improvements** project. The project has been broken down into 5 phases for construction. Mr. Palgutta is preparing the environmental planning documents required by DEP. To save time and money, the documents will cover all 5 phases, even though the phases will not be constructed at the same time. Video of the sewer infrastructure in Phase II was received but not yet reviewed. The design of Phase I water and sewer improvements were submitted to DEP.

The Center City improvements were initially envisioned as a project that could be completed by a single contractor under one contract. Based on recent experience, the project will be broken down into two separate projects, one for sewer improvements, one for water improvements. Finally, Mr. Palgutta provided a very broad overview of the steps leading up to the start of construction. He estimated the project will go out to bid in the Spring of 2025.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Executive Director Chuck Jones advised that Superintendent Paul Pheasant was out of town, attending an AWWA conference in Atlantic City. In addition, Mr. Pheasant suffered a reportable injury on March 19. He was lifting a manhole cover, lost control of it, and it smashed two of his fingers. There was no time lost because Mr. Pheasant was able to work through the injury. The water from Well 3 was retested and no detectable level of forever chemicals were found. The Authority will continue to closely monitor all the wells. On March 19, there was a sewer back up in Crescent Hollow. Initially it seemed the blockage was in a GCUA trunk line; later it was determined the blockage was in an MUA line leading up to the

manhole. The line was heavily impacted with roots and rocks. Pioneer Pipe was brought in to bypass the problem. The location has been added to the list of sites that are inspected daily; that should prevent a reoccurrence. Mr. Jones updated the employee manual and distributed it to all employees. Next week he will conduct the anti-harassment training required by the Authority's insurer. The crew completed cleaning and videotaping the sewer in Phase II of Center City. They will start Phase III next week.

It was hoped that Well 6A, 7, and 8 could be redeveloped to increase the volume of water produced from the aquifer. Unfortunately, the redevelopment of Well 8 was not successful. The performance of the well has not improved at all. There is no reason to go forward with redevelopment of Well 7 and Well 6A.

The meter reading and reporting software the Authority relies upon is now obsolete. The Authority has no choice but to upgrade. Quotes from Ferguson and RIO are being evaluated. A small asphalt melter was received and the crew was given some training. The melter will be used for sealing asphalt patches after repairs to water and sewer mains. The Fire District intends to sever the portion of the shared services agreement that calls for lawn maintenance of Authority-owned properties. Mr. Jones determined that hiring a local contractor to maintain the lawns could save the Authority as much as \$10,000 per year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director William Krebs reported the amount of water pumped by the Authority over the past month and year-to-date, the amount of sewage that flowed through the collection point near the hospital, and the amount billed, the revenue received, and outstanding balance.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Voltaggio to adopt Resolutions 2024-22 through 2024-28, by consent agenda. The resolutions under consideration:

Resolution 2024-22, Adopting the February 2024 Revision of the Employee policy/Manual.

Resolution 2024-23, Approving a Merit Pay Increase for Mike Craft.

Resolution 2024-24, Approving the Final Cost for Redevelopment of Well 8, and Authorizing Payment of \$32,527.00 to A.C. Schultes for same.

Resolution 2024-25, Authorizing the Emergency Installation of Sewer Bypass on Crescent Hollow Drive by Pioneer Pipe at a cost of \$38,070.

Resolution 2024-26, Authorizing the Purchase of Neptune360 Software, with Set Up and Training, for \$31,210.00.

Resolution 2024-27, Authorizing a Closed Session for discussion of negotiations.

Resolution 2024-28, Approving Sickels & Associates' Proposal No. 2024-27 for Water and Sewer Improvements in Center City, Area 1, at a cost of \$238,225.00.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

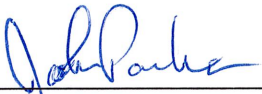
There was no discussion of old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no discussion of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on April 16, 2024