

Regular Meeting of the Mantua Township MUA June 18, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Mantua Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, June 18, 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, Secretary 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 participate in place of 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 regular meeting held on May 21, 2024.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence this month is comprised of two proposals from the engineer, Sickels & Associates. Proposal No. 2024-65 concerns the sanitary sewer system in Center City. Proposal No. 2024-66 calls for a hydrogeological study of Wells 6, 7, 8, and the surrounding area. The Chairman held discussion and questions about the proposals until after the Engineer's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

First Alternate Jay Snyder gave 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 \$75,901.74. Charges to Escrow accounts totaled \$8,438.75.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize the payment of \$75,901.74 in operating expenses and the payment of \$8,438.75 in escrow charges.

Roll call vote. Motion approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor John Alice confirmed that the utility easement in the Bellemeade neighborhood is complete, except for recording it with the County. All parties concerned with the “Ledden” utility easement near Grandview Dr. and the “Flowers” easement Mantua Blvd. [Block 172, Lots 7.01 and 7.02] have been quiescent. The neighbors who own property abutting the Ledden easement have not reached an agreement amongst themselves regarding disposition of the easement, nor has anyone indicated a willingness to relinquish an interest in the property. Mr. Alice advised that under the circumstances the Authority may keep the easement or sell it. Those are the only options. He will facilitate the sale if that is the Board’s wish. The status of the Flowers easement is in a similar state. There were discussions with Mr. Flowers about expansion of the existing easement and its location on his property. However, nothing has been heard from him in quite some time. Most likely, litigation will be necessary if the Authority wishes to move forward with plans for that easement. Mr. Alice will not initiate litigation without explicit instructions to do so. He requested guidance from the Board as to which easement he should pursue.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Engineer David Palgutta addressed Proposal No. 2024-65, for the ‘Phase I’ area of the **Center City Water and Sewer System Improvement Project**. Phase I includes portions of Route 45, Phoenix Ave, Capital Dr., Columbus Dr., and State Rd. The proposal consists of a topographical survey of the roads, cleaning and filming the sewer mains in the same area, and evaluation of the sanitary system. It calls for the use of a subcontractor to clean and film sections of sewer main that cannot be videotaped with common methods. Until the sewer system in Center City has been thoroughly surveyed and evaluated the engineers won’t know which sewer mains can be re-lined, and which mains need to be repaired. Surveys and recent videos indicate the main on Capital Dr. serves only one side of the street, which suggests there may be a parallel main for the other side of the street. The existence of a second main will be verified before the plans and method of approach for replacement are completed.

Proposal No.2024-66 was prepared in response to recent discussions about the best use of funds and the best solution for the dwindling water production from the Mt. Laurel-Wenonah aquifer. The proposed hydrogeological survey would evaluate the likelihood that a new well at any of the existing well sites would significantly increase the yield.

Mr. Palgutta reported that letters of satisfaction from DEP were received for the **Austin St. Pump Station and Force Main** project and the **Royal Oaks Pump Station** project. The Engineer will have to verify, sign, and file various documents with DEP to officially close out the projects.

Finally, Mr. Palgutta confirmed that he spoke with the applicant's engineer about the Veterinary School. There were no questions for Mr. Palgutta.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT

Charles Jones reported a full underground inspection was conducted at the intersection of Mantua Blvd. and Center St. There were no signs of a water or sewer leak. Well 3 was inspected by A.C. Schultes, and the results are not good. The screen is full of holes; the pump is sucking up sand. Schultes is preparing an estimate to drill a new well. A Summer work schedule was adopted; the Authority's office staff will be on the same schedule as the Township staff. For the Fossil Park, boring under Woodbury Glassboro Rd. was completed. The sewer tie in was also finished. Mr. Jones filed an insurance claim for water damage to the building at 397 Main St. The damage was caused by two heavy rainstorms and is unrelated to the recent flooding from an overflowing toilet. Fortunately, only one office in the building was affected. He also met with the Villages of Mantua HOA regarding the separation of the electric service for the sewer pump from the rest of the development, and similar issues. He plans to speak with the Solicitor about a general plan for the transition of responsibility for the sewer station. Two applications were received for the open Mechanic's job. One applicant was not qualified. The other was a good candidate, but the Authority can't meet his pay requirements. Hiring a younger person with mechanical ability who can develop his skills while working for the Authority is under consideration. Finally, in addition to their usual duties, the crew made two asphalt repairs, assisted the police department with a plumbing repair, and backfilled a sinkhole in the employee parking lot at the Tomlin School.

Executive Director Bill Krebs advised that the Authority pumped one million more gallons of water this year, compared to the same time last year. Most of the water came from the PRM aquifer due to the current difficulties getting water from the MLW aquifer. Only 181 million gallons remains of the Authority's allocation for the PRM aquifer. Getting through the summer months without exceeding the allocation could be difficult. Billings and Revenue Receipts for this year to date, compared to last year at this time, are not significantly different. Billings are only \$200,000 higher this year; Revenue Receipts are \$100,000 higher. The conversion to Neptune360 software is ramping up; technical support from Harris Computers and Neptune are pushing forward with the data mapping that will make the switch possible. Surprisingly, nothing has been heard from Manor Water. Cyber security tests continued this month. The Authority's file service is now cloud based.

RESOLUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Voltaggio, second by Mr. Parks to adopt Resolution 2024-37, authorizing a summer work schedule consistent with the Township's schedule.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adopt Resolution 2024-38, authorizing emergency repairs to Well 3.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adopt Resolution 2024-39, approving Sickels & Associates' Proposal No. 2024-65, including a topographical survey, cleaning and video inspection, and evaluation of the sanitary sewer main in Phase I of Center City Water and Sewer project.

Roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Parks, second by Mr. Sheehan to adopt Resolution 2024-40, approving Sickels & Associates' Proposal No. 2024-66 for a hydrogeological study of the Mt. Laurel - Wenonah Aquifer and Wells 6, 7, and 8.

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. Sheehan to adjourn the meetings at 5:25 p.m.


Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:



John Parks, Secretary

ATTEST:



Susan Novick, Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held on July 16, 2024