

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MOUNT LAUREL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

April 15, 2021

Chairwoman Coco-Capri called the regular meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority to order at 7:00 p.m. via videoconference. A sign with the call-in information was posted at the Elbo Lane Water Treatment Plant Facility Meeting Room and posted on the Authority's official website.

Those in attendance were:

Cheryl Coco-Capri	Chair
Christopher Smith	Vice Chair
Elwood Knight	Secretary
John Francescone	Member
Carol Murphy	Member

Also in attendance were:

William Long	Consulting Engineer
Richard Alaimo	Consulting Engineer
George Morris	Solicitor
Pamela Carolan	Executive Director
Russell Trice	Operations Engineer
Jonathan Sears	Finance Director
Diane Ordille	Administrative Assistant
Theresa Trumbetti	Stenographer

Chairwoman Capri announced that the notice requirements of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act" have been satisfied. Annual notice has been transmitted to two newspapers; it has been prominently posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Mount Laurel Township Clerk.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Ed Cohen of 15 Winterberry Ct. attended the meeting. Mr. Cohen had no comment.

**Minutes**

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board approved the minutes for the March 18, 2021 regular meeting, with affirmative votes from Mr. Francescone, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

**Developments/New Connections**

No Developments/New Connections.

**Operations**

**COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Carolan noted that the workforce remains in teams working at either regular locations or at satellite locations. There are two employees in quarantine at this time.

Mr. Sears noted that an Executive Order by Governor Murphy on 3/3/21 extended the late fees and shut off moratorium to 6/30/21 for residential water accounts.

Mr. Sears also noted we have forgiven \$235,928.00 in interest charges.

### Water System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that there were no water system leaks since the last meeting.

Ms. Carolan noted that the ASR is in re-charge mode until April 30<sup>th</sup> and on May 1<sup>st</sup> we will shut off the interconnection with NJAWC and will only be using our own water and Willingboro MUA's for the summer.

### Sewer System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that we had no force main breaks since the last meeting.

Ms. Carolan noted that there are 4 pumping stations operating out of normal parameters.

Ms. Carolan added that there were some storms over the weekend and PSEG power interruptions, but all our emergency generators worked properly to keep our pump stations functional.

### **Presentation of Engineer's Status Report**

Mr. Long presented the report.

### Active Projects in Construction

#### Replacement of Briggs Force Main and Connection and Library Force Main Connection, M-180-322-001

No change in status. This project included replacement of Briggs Road force main from the pump station to the connection to the primary force main on Union Mill Road, and replacement of the Library force main connection to the primary. Financing is via the NJ Infrastructure Bank (NJIB). A contract was awarded to Pioneer Pipe Contractors, in the amount of \$780,050.00 on May 21, 2020. Construction is now complete. Final close-out remains.

#### Devonshire Pump Station Upgrade, M-180-353

This project includes a major rehabilitation of the Devonshire Pump Station. It is sized to accommodate future connections from existing commercial and residential properties currently on septic systems located on or near Creek Road in Rancocas Woods. A contract in the amount of \$759,000 was awarded to B & H Contracting, Inc. at the December 2020 meeting. Construction started on April 6, 2021. Shop drawings were reviewed and approved.

#### Hartford Road WPCF Tank Repairs, M-180-355-1

This project includes rehabilitation of the 2 primary clarifiers, secondary clarifier No. 2 and the sludge thickener tank at the sewage treatment plant. New clarifier drives, sludge and scum collection equipment, bar screens, electrical equipment, valves and other associated equipment or devices will be rehabilitated or replaced. Financing is via the NJIB. A contract in the amount of \$1,882,000 was awarded to BR Welding, Incorporated, on August 15, 2019. Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$12,232.66 was approved by the Authority during the April 2020 meeting. New contract total is \$1,894,232.66. Change Order No. 2 for \$0 was approved by the Authority in June 2020 and extends the completion date by 125 days to October 31, 2020, following supply chain issues related to the State of Emergency.

Construction is ongoing on the secondary clarifier. The thickener tank, Primary Clarifier No. 1 and Primary Clarifier No. 2 punch list items to be completed. The project is 90% complete overall.

#### Hartford Road WPCF Roof Replacement and Lightning Protection, M-180-363-1

No change in status. This project included the replacement of roofs on five (5) buildings and lightning protection at the WPCF. Financing is via the NJIB 1. The Authority awarded Contract No. 2018-17 to JH Williams Enterprises in the amount of \$360,500.00. Construction is now complete. Final closeout documentation and as-builts submitted.

Harford Road WPCF Lighting Replacement, M-180-364

This project is for the replacement of site lighting throughout the plant. A contract in the amount of \$102,040.00 was awarded to ABS Electric, Inc. on September 17, 2020. Construction is 10% complete. Lighting heads replaced on three fixtures. Delivery of new poles is delayed again and is scheduled for the end of April.

Piping, Heat Tracing and Insulation Replacement at the Hartford Rd WPCF, M-180-378

This project is for the replacement of various heat tracing and insulation that was originally installed on exposed piping at the Hartford Road WPCF when the plant was expanded in 1996. This project will be funded via a loan from the NJIB. A contract was awarded to Whitfield Schneider Enterprises in the amount of \$263,000 at the January 21, 2021 meeting. Shop drawings were reviewed and approval. Demolition has started.

Door and Window Replacement – Various Locations, M-180-382

This project includes the replacements of doors and windows at various locations including Hartford Road WPCF, two (2) pump stations, 1201 South Church Street, and the Ark Road Booster Station. Contract 2020-05 was awarded to WJ Gross, Inc. in the amount of \$222,870.00 in November 2020. Construction was scheduled to begin in April 2021 however this may not happen as there is a delay in material delivery. The doors and windows are scheduled to be delivered in May 2021.

Redevelopment of Well #6, M-180-384

This project included removal of the existing pump and internal piping, redeveloping the well (cleaning the casing/screen) and installing the pump and internal piping. The replacement material came from Authority stock. The existing equipment was rehabilitated and returned to the Authority for use in future projects. Contract 2020-04 in the amount of \$87,130 to A.C. Schultes, Incorporated on September 17, 2020. Construction started on November 5, 2020 with a work around of the failed VFD. Construction is complete and close out documentation submitted. The contractor is addressing field conditions.

Active Projects in Design

Replacement of Part of Library Force Main and Millstream Force Main Connection, M-180-322

No change in status. The project includes replacing a section of the Library force main, beginning at the pump station, through the adjacent wooded area to Route 295. The project includes cleaning and televising the force main crossing under Tour 295/NJTP. The project also includes replacement of the connection of the Millstream force main to the force main in Union Mill Rd. Engineer's estimates were submitted to the Authority for consideration of routing of the Library force main.

Atrium & Hooten Pump Station Upgrades, M-180-347

No change in status. Waiting on NJDEP permit. This project includes electrical and control system replacement and upgrades at both the Atrium and the Hooten Road stations. The Atrium station work will also include pump replacement and replacement of the emergency generator with which also connects to the adjacent Horizon Way Water Booster Station. This project was included in the first loan application for NJIB financing. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in FY20. The TWA application for Atrium was sent to NJDEP.

Hartford Road WPCF Orbal Aerator Repairs, M-180-360

This project is for the repair of broken discs and hoods on some of the aerators located on the orbal tank. When the aerators are repaired, the Orbal cell channels will also be cleaned. Design is about 90% complete. This project was included in the first loan application for NJIB financing, construction was originally scheduled for FY 2020, bidding in March 2021.

Pump Station Monitoring System, M-180-365

This project includes updating of the alarm system at 30 of the Authority's 41 sewage pumping stations. In addition, condition monitoring will be included with the system. The Authority authorized start of design work with a completion of March 5, 2021 which will not be met. Design is ongoing with all 30 pump stations visited. Initial photographs were submitted to Flygt for review however they are not being responsive.

Pump Station Site Work, M-180-371

This project includes improvements at three pumping stations: Timbercrest, East Gate and Ethel Lawrence. The work includes replacement of gates, fencing, relocation of driveways and asphalt paving. Contract No. 2020-08 was awarded to RE Pierson Construction in the amount of \$125,792.50 the March 2021 meeting. The preconstruction meeting occurred on April 14, 2021.

Union Mill Farms Force Main Replacement, M-180-376

No change in status. Waiting on NJDEP permit. This project will include installation of a new force main that will redirect the pump station discharge out of the primary force main in Union Mill road and into the gravity sewer collection system that discharges to the Holiday Village East Pump station. The Authority recently decided not to replace the adjacent blow off manhole. A buried plug valve will be installed in the new main at the approximate location of the existing manhole. Financing will be via the NJIB. The TWA application was submitted to NJDEP.

Hydro Power Feasibility Study, M-180-381

No change in status. The study is ongoing. The Authority has requested the 2009 Hydro Power Feasibility Study be updated. A review of the available hydro turbine technologies is being conducted and the construction, O&M and subsidy costs are being updated.

Church Street Water Tank Painting, M-180-385

This project will include blasting and painting of all interior surfaces and power wash, power tool clean and overcoat all exterior surfaces. In addition, an improved safety system will be installed including a handrail system, cable safety system and secure ladder gate. A contract in the amount of \$360,000 is recommended for award tonight to Dynamic Sandblasting & Painting.

Future Projects

Nottingham Way Water Main Replacement, M-180-366

No change in status. This project includes the replacement of approximately 500 LF of 6" water main. Survey work has been completed. Project schedule is dependent on the frequency of future water main breaks.

Completed Projects on Maintenance Bond

Hartford Road WPCF, Warehouse to Vehicle Storage Conversion, M-180-354

Contract 2017-10 was deemed substantially complete on December 17, 2020. The maintenance bond will expire on November 19, 2021.

Saint David Drive Water Main Replacement – Phase 2, M-180-367

Contract 2019-13 to the Pioneer Pipe Contractors in the amount of \$523,526.00 was deemed complete effective December 17, 2020 and on maintenance bond that expires on December 31, 2022.

Hartford Road WPCF Plant Laboratory, M-180-370

Contract 2018-07 was deemed substantially complete on December 17, 2020. The maintenance bond will expire on November 19, 2021.

Emergency Shower and Eyewash Facility Installation, M-180-372-1

Contract 2018-18 to Whitfield Schneider Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$193,100.00 was deemed complete effective February 28, 2021 and on maintenance bond until February 28, 2023.

Hartford Road WPCF Filter Press Control Panel Replacements, M-180-374

Construction completed March 19, 2020 and on maintenance bond until March 19, 2022.

Hartford Road WPCF Door Replacement, M-180-375

Construction completed January 7, 2020 and maintenance bond expires January 7, 2022.

Repainting of Elbo Lane Clarifiers, M-180-383

Contract 2020-03 in the amount of \$189,700.00 to Brave Industrial Painting, LLC was deemed complete on January 21, 2021. Maintenance bond expires January 27, 2023.

Mr. Trice reported on the following projects as they are being designed by firms other than Alaimo Associates:

Indigo Drive Water Main Replacement Phase 3 (Engineer: ERI, Inc.)

The scope of the project included replacement of the existing water main and house services from Hydrangea to the end of the cul-de-sac. The roadway will be milled and paved from curb to curb. A contract in the amount of \$187,809.00 was awarded to RTW Construction, Inc at the August 2020 meeting. Installation of the water main, hydrants and services are complete. Paving will occur in May 2021.

Force Main Air Release Valves (Engineer: ERI, Inc.)

The scope of the project includes rehabilitation of air relief valves on the high-pressure sanitary sewer force main and addition of air release valve vaults at other locations on the high-pressure force main. Project should be advertised for bid in the spring and awarded in the summer. We are still waiting for the approval for traffic control from Burlington County.

East Saint Andrews Drive Water Main Replacement (Engineer: ERI, Inc.)

No change in status. This project includes the replacement of approximately 900 LF of 10" water main on E. St. Andrews Dr. and an upgrade of approximately 400 LF of 4" water main to 6" on Pebblebrook Lane. The project is currently in design and is scheduled for construction in July 2021.

Sanitary Sewer System Modelling, Capacity Assessment and Master Planning (Engineer: Mott MacDonald)

Plans were to install 22 flow meters at Authority PS in February and record flow for 2 months. Installation of the flows meters was delayed by the metering company and are now scheduled to begin tomorrow. The primary force main hydraulic model will be developed after the data is gathered.

Hartford Road WFCF-Dewatered Sludge Conveyance Equipment and Belt Press Evaluation (Engineer: Colliers Engineering & Design-formerly Maser Consulting)

The draft report is expected next week.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Francescone, voted on and unanimously approved to pass Resolution 2021-04-54 to close the meeting to discuss Litigation and Potential Litigation, Personnel and Collective Bargaining Agreement which are exempt from open meetings under the Sunshine Law, at 7:13 p.m.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

Mr. Cohen left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Litigation and Potential Litigation, Personnel and Collective Bargaining Agreement – SEE CLOSED PORTION OF MEETING

The meeting was re-opened at 7:53 p.m., following a motion made by Mr. Knight, and seconded by Mr. Smith and with unanimous agreement from Ms. Capri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Francescone.

**Contracts**

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-55, Resolution Approving Award of Contract to Dynamic Sandblasting & Painting, following Receipt of Competitive Bids for the Painting of South Church Street Water Tank Project in the amount of \$360,000.00, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-56, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 1, with an Increase of \$15,295.00, Devonshire Pump Station Upgrade, Contract No. 2017-13, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-57, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 3, for a Decrease of \$66,263.00, St. David Drive Water Main Replacement, Phase 2, Contract No. 2019-13, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-58, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 5, for a Decrease of \$15,503.98, Hartford Road WPCF Tank Repairs, Contract No. 2017-09 Rebid, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-59, Resolution Approving Acceptance of the St. David Drive Water Main Replacement, Phase 2 Project, and Initiating the Two-Year Maintenance Period, Contract No. 2019-13, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-60, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2, with an Increase of \$23,551.54, Replacement of Briggs Road and Library Pump Station Force Main Connections, Contract No. 2019-11, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

**Accounting and Financial**

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-61, Resolution Approving Sale of Authority Surplus Equipment Through Internet Based Vendor for Online Auction, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Riley, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-62, Resolution Endorsing Modification of Renewal and Replacement Reserve Fund, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Riley, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

**Discussion Regarding 2021 Appropriation to Mount Laurel Township**

Ms. Carolan explained that 5% of the sewer operating budget has been designated for the appropriation amount to the Township. The water operating budget does not support an appropriation.

Mr. Sears noted that last year's appropriation amount was \$384,918.00 and this year it is \$397,724.00 which is the 5% maximum from the sewer utility. The Township included \$375,000 from the Authority in their draft 2021 budget.

The Board approved the appropriation of \$397,724.00.

**Discussion of Authority Water and Sewer Budgets**

Mr. Sears noted that the largest decrease in the budget is connection fees and interest income. There is a 2.2% increase in expenditures mostly for salaries, pension expense, computer expense, communications, and medical insurance.

Mr. Sears also noted that the 5-year capital projects are mapped out.

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-04-63, Resolution Approving Authority Budget for Water and Sewer Service and Facilities for Fiscal Year from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with affirmative roll call votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Riley, and Mr. Smith.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report for February 2021 and Payment Plan Status Report for March 2021, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Smith, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #618 in the amount of \$478,983.40 for the accounts payable vouchers, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Smith, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

There are no bills from the Acquisition and Construction List.

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #5303 through #5321, in the amount of \$189,409.65 from the Renewal and Replacement list with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Smith, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Knight and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 0 absent

**Comments:**

Ms. Carolan noted that we met with vendors regarding obtaining our own reverse 911 system, and to procure it ourselves would cost approximately \$8K per year. In a last-ditch effort with the County and causing a stir, we will have access to the new County system. We will try this approach at the present time.

Ms. Carolan said that the tour of both plants on March 23 for the Assembly Infrastructure Committee went very well.

Mr. Sears noted that 253 SRECs were just sold for \$58,190.00, which equates to \$230/SREC. Our last sale was in October 2020 for \$224/SREC.

Ms. Murphy indicated that the cyber security webinar by the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) was informative. Ms. Coco Capri added that it was eye opening, but she's confident that we are on the best path.

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight seconded by Ms. Murphy, and with unanimous agreement from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.