

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

June 17, 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
Elwood Knight	Secretary
John Francescone	Member
Carol Murphy	Member

Also in attendance were:

William Long	Consulting Engineer
William Kaufman	Solicitor
Pamela Carolan	Executive Director
Russell Trice	Operations Engineer
Jonathan Sears	Finance Director
Brian Scott	Human Resource 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 Ms. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board approved the minutes for the May 20, 2021, regular meeting, with affirmative votes from Mr. Francescone, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

**Developments/New Connections**

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-06-80, Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Performance Bond Posted by the Falls Group, LLC, for Water Distribution Improvements for the Funplex, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

**Operations**

**COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Carolan said the office is still closed to the public but we are fully staffed.

Mr. Sears noted we have a 95.5% collection rate and have forgiven \$270,218.18 in interest charges since March of 2020.

Mr. Sears also noted that the Governor signed a bill ending the public emergency and EO229 extends the date to 1/1/2022 for interest forgiveness and water shut offs.

Mr. Sears said EO246 clarifies how to handle the interest grace period from now until 1/1/2022 – we have to wait until 1/1/2022 to send a shut off notice and must offer a 12 month payment plan on residential water accounts. This doesn't pertain to sewer or commercial accounts.

Ms. Murphy said they can be shut off if they don't apply for the payment plan or state assistance plans which are income driven.

#### Water System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that there were no water system leaks since the last meeting and the water department is still working on fire hydrant repairs. They have repaired 114 of the 220 hydrants needing repairs.

Ms. Carolan noted that the Authority's updated Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report for 2021 is now on the website and a specialized area of the website was developed for drinking water quality information. Ms. Carolan also reviewed the Frequently Asked Questions section and some of the information sheets for detected contaminants.

Ms. Carolan noted that we had our peak day so far in 2021 on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 MGD.

Regarding PFAS, Ms. Carolan said we are doing voluntary testing at the Willingboro interconnect and DEP will allow us to use those results to document that the water coming through to us is below the action level.

#### Sewer System Summary

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

Ms. Carolan reported that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a problem with the disinfection system at the treatment plant. We switched to the backup system from 4/22 thru 5/18 to investigate and repair the problem. While on the back up system we had a fecal coliform sample taken which fell outside acceptable parameters for fecal coliform for our discharge permit. We switched back on the primary disinfection system with employees adjusting the process 24/7 until the replacement part came in. The new system was repaired on 6/1 and on 6/11 the actuator failed again and it was repaired on 6/15. No violations from DEP have been issued.

#### Underdrains

Ms. Carolan noted that we suspended doing verifications – the GIS staff member is on maternity leave.

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

Mr. Long presented the report.

#### Active Projects in Construction

##### Devonshire Pump Station Upgrade, M-180-353-00, SPS-RR-(E)

This project includes a major rehabilitation of the Devonshire Pump Station. 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. Demolition complete, building and emergency generator set, construction is 65% complete. The station is still running on the bypass pump. Change order #2 is recommended for approval this evening, with an adjusted contract amount of \$785,369.

##### Hartford Road WPCF Tank Repairs, M-180-355-00, HR-TK-(A)

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. 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. Change Order #6 was approved on May 20, 2021, resulting in an adjusted contract amount of \$1,871,118.17, 0.6% reduction of the original contract amount. Fall protections for secondary clarifier ongoing. Sludge thickener tank, Primary Clarifier No. 1, and Primary Clarifier No. 2 punch list items to be completed. The project is 95% complete overall.

Hartford Road WPCF Lighting Replacement, M-180-364-001

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 40% complete. Poles are set, lighting heads being installed.

Pump Station Site Work, M-180-371, SPS-B-(B)

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. Construction started April 26, 2021. Demolition completed at all 3 stations. Paving, fences and concrete work completed at all 3 stations. Ethel Lawrence waiting on gate. Construction is 90% complete. Change Order #1 is recommended for approval tonight. The adjusted contract amount will be \$129,933.54.

Piping, Heat Tracing, and Insulation Replacement at Hartford Rd WPCF, M-180-378-001, HR-MIS-(H)

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/upgraded 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. Construction started April 2021, demolition complete, installing insulation and conduit, construction 65% complete. Change Order #1 was approved during the May 2021 meeting with an adjusted contract price of \$267,079.40.

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. Man doors and windows received. Installation started at the Hartford Plant. Work at the main office is slated to begin in early July. Construction is 10% complete.

Church Street Water Tank Painting, M-180-385-001

No change in status. 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 was awarded to Dynamic Sandblasting & Painting at the April 2021 meeting. Painting of the tank is scheduled for September 2021 per the Authority's requirements.

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 approval. 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 permit was received from NJDEP on May 6, 2021. Plans and specification submitted to SED office. Project to be advertised at the end of June early July and awarded in August.

Hartford Road WPCF Primary Clarifier Tank Repainting, M-180-355-002

This project was originally included in the tank repairs project (M-180-355-001); however, a problem with the bid indicated that specification revisions were needed. This project will be financed via the NJIB. Both primary clarifiers which were constructed in 1996 will be blasted and repainted. Plans and specifications to be submitted to NJDEP the week of May 17, 2021. Project to be awarded in July.

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. This project was included in the first loan application for NJIB financing, construction was originally scheduled for FY 2020, bidding in March 2021. Design is about 95% complete. Plans and specifications to be submitted to the Authority for review the week of May 17, 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 was not met. Design is ongoing with all 30 pump stations visited. May 4 meeting with Flygt representatives, Authority personnel and Alaimo Group to address project scope. Flygt visit each pump station and provide recommendations for each upgrade. Flygt 2<sup>nd</sup> site visits were this week. Plans and specification to be completed by the end of September for Authority review. Project will be financed thru the NJIB. Current schedule is to begin construction at the end of 2021.

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

No change in status. Waiting on NJDEP approval. 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. A buried plug valve will be installed in the new main at the approximate location of the existing blow off manhole. Financing will be via the NJIB. The TWA permit was received from NJDEP on May 7, 2021. Plans and specifications submitted to SED office. Project to be advertised at the end of July and awarded in September.

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.

Redevelopment of Well No. 7 (ASR), M-180-386

This project is for the periodic redevelopment of the well including removal and rehabilitation of the existing pump and well piping, redevelopment of the well and installation of Authority supplied pump and well piping. The project is scheduled to be advertised in August and awarded at the September meeting with construction in November and December.

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

Replacement of Briggs Force Main and Connection and Library Force Main Connection, M-180-322-001  
Construction completed on November 16, 2020. The maintenance bond will expire on November 16, 2022.

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, 2022.

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

Construction completed March 1, 2021. The maintenance bond will expire on March 1, 2023.

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 31, 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 21, 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 27, 2021. Maintenance bond expires January 27, 2023.

Redevelopment of Well #6, M-180-384

Construction completed April 7, 2021. Maintenance bond expires April 7, 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.), W21-CC-(A)

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 was 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 is done. Project close out information must be submitted. Change Order #2 is recommended for approval this evening, with an adjusted contract price of \$187,809.

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 recently received comments for traffic control from Burlington County. We plan to advertise in July and award in August 2021.

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 advertisement in June and award at the July 2021 meeting.

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

No change in status. The project schedule indicated that 22 flow meters would be installed at Authority PSs in February 2021 and flows would be recorded for 2 months. Winter is typically when the highest wastewater flows are experienced due to rain and snow events and a high ground water table. Installation of the flows meters was delayed by the metering company and the high flow season was missed. As a result, the flow metering will be postponed until November when the system flows typically increase. Mott MacDonald will continue with the development of the primary force main hydraulic model using the data available at this time. Final calibration of the model will be done after the flow monitoring data is collected.

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

The preliminary draft report which was received April 23<sup>rd</sup> by the Authority and a review meeting held. The final report is expected next week.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Francescone, voted on and unanimously approved to pass Resolution 2021-06-81 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 7:54 p.m.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

Mr. Cohen left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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

The meeting was re-opened at 8:06 p.m., following a motion made by Ms. Murphy, and seconded by Mr. Knight and with unanimous agreement from Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

**Contracts**

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-06-82, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 1, with an Increase of \$4,141.04, for the Sewage Pump Station Site Work, Contract No. 2020-08, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-06-83, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2, with an Increase of \$9,496.00, for the Indigo Drive Water Main Replacement Phase 3, Contract No. 2020-02, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

Following a motion made by Ms. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-06-84, Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2, with an Increase of \$11,074.00, for the Devonshire Pump Station Upgrade, Contract No. 2017-13, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2021-06-85, Resolution Authorizing Release of Maintenance Bond for York Road Water Main Replacement, Contract No. 2018-06, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Murphy.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstention, 1 absent

**Accounting and Financial**

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

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #620 in the amount of \$460,558.37 for the accounts payable vouchers, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

There are no bills from the Acquisition and Construction List.

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Murphy, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #5355 through #5388, in the amount of \$702,551.96 from the Renewal and Replacement list with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Knight and Mr. Francescone.

Total votes: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, 1 absent

**Comments:**

Mr. Sears referred to a memo requesting we no longer send the Authority's Amended Budget to the State. It is not required.

Mr. Sears noted the ongoing Edmonds training conversion. In August, hopefully we will convert to the new billing system.

Ms. Ordille reported on a sewer line at 208 Union Mill Rd leak from last June – When excavation for the repair took place, MUA crew found a Verizon FIOS cable lying directly over where the hole in the pipe was. It appeared that when Verizon was directionally drilling to install their cable, they hit the homeowner's sewer line. We reached out to Verizon and they denied directional drilling in the area. We went back to the homeowner with the \$16K repair bill and advised they were responsible for payment and could pursue Verizon directly. They reached out to the Mayor for help and it appears the Township could not get cooperation from Verizon either.

Mr. Kaufman said he dealt recently with a Verizon case and they were held responsible. He will advise Mr. Morris of the details.

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight seconded by Ms. Murphy, and with unanimous agreement from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.