

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

May 16, 2024

Vice Chairwoman Capri called the regular meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority to order at 7:00 p.m. via in person and 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	Vice Chair
Elwood Knight	Secretary
Christopher Gray	Deputy Secretary
John Francescone	Member

Also in attendance were:

Pamela Carolan	Executive Director
Jonathan Sears	Director of Finance
Rachael Concepcion	Employee Engagement/ Safety Officer
William Long	Consulting Engineer
George Morris	Solicitor
Willaim Giegerich	Mount Laurel Township

Vice 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 – General

No members of the public were present.

Minutes

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the April 18, 2024, regular meeting, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Gray, Mr. Knight and Mr. Francescone.

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

Developments/New Connections

There were no resolutions regarding new connections this month.

Operations

Water System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that there have been no water main breaks since the last board meeting, and there is one leaking hydrant in Holiday Village East.

Ms. Carolan reported that half of the water SCADA system was not functioning for several days in April, but it is now back in full service.

Ms. Carolan noted that we are now in the peak period for NJAW and that our employees stayed overnight to assure a smooth shutdown of those sources on April 30.

Ms. Carolan reported that there is 183 MG in the ASR for summer use, and that we are currently operating two wells and the remaining needs are coming from WMUA.

Ms. Carolan added that the use so far in 2024 has been slightly higher than the last few, but that upcoming fair weather use is largely dependent on weather conditions; current average daily use is around 4 million gallons per day.

Ms. Carolan noted that NJDEP incorrectly issued a Notice of Violation for sampling at the ASR for PFAS but that MUA staff was able to get the NOV removed quickly.

Mr. Francescone confirmed that the ASR is filled with treated water from us and then taken back out.

Ms. Carolan confirmed Mr. Francescone's description to be accurate and added that the water that is recovered from the ASR just needs reconditioning but does not need to be retreated.

Mr. Francescone asked when the water is taken back out of the ASR?

Ms. Carolan answered stating the window is from May 1st- September 30th; this year we're planning to begin recovering the water during the first two weeks of June.

Ms. Carolan reported that the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will go out with the June bills, and she will send the link to the board when the CCR is complete.

Sewer System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that there have been 2 force main breaks since the last meeting: one being on Beaver Ave at the new flushing port where Lifetime Fitness connects, the other on the Brettonwood force main.

Ms. Carolan reported a sewer overflow at 1020 Briggs Rd, where 4 buildings share a private pump station with a service agreement from the 1990's when constructed. Ms. Carolan continued, that one of our employees noticed a sewage overflow on Briggs Rd and chased it back to 1020 Briggs, to find the private pump station not operational. After further investigation it was determined that the power had been shut off to the pump station for non-payment. After several hours, our employees were able to get power restored and the pump station went back into normal operation.

Ms. Carolan added that cleaned up the spill and reported it to DEP; we sent a bill to the management company for our services and requested the Board's opinion about fines, as there were multiple violations.

Mr. Francescone noted that he has no issue with issuing a fine.

Ms. Carolan added that we will also require an annual update on the licensed operator for the private pump station, weekly site visits by the private pump stations licensed operator and a monthly report sent to us detailing the weekly visits.

Mr. Gray asked if it was one single event or three, since the electric was shut off, alarms were ignored and then the spill occurred.

Mr. Francescone confirmed it was 3 events so fine all 3 events individually.

Mr. Gray asked how much was the management company already charged?

Ms. Carolan answered that the bill we sent was for \$1500 for our man hours and equipment.

Mr. Gray asked if we should move this to closed?

Discussion on this matter in open session was concluded at this time

Ms. Carolan provided an update on the Ramblewood sanitary project, explaining that the Rogers Walk easement manholes have been raised which was phase 1 of the multi-phased plan. She added that we have talked to the homeowner at 200 Ramblewood explaining that we are looking to elevate the manhole as high as the others; the homeowner was not happy but they understand it is not their property and that we need to protect the sewer system. Ms. Carolan explained that homeowner mentioned that they were working with a former MUA employee to get the area cleared of shrubbery but the employee became unresponsive, so the clearing was not done. Ms. Carolan noted that we plan to clear the area now, at the homeowner's request

Ms. Carolan continued that other phases of this project are for slip lining the mains, and that award of a contract to do so is presented for approval tonight. She continued that the other parts are elevation of the manholes along the Gaither stream, and the work needed at the golf course. Ms. Carolan added that she met with the golf course on April 30th, the meeting went smoothly and that permission to start some of the needed work was granted but that elevation the manholes required approval from others at the golf course, but that they have not set up the meeting.

Mr. Giegerich indicated that he could facilitate a meeting.

Mr. Morris suggested we send a letter to the golf course letting them know contractors would be out the following day to get them to start talking to us

Ms. Carolan responded that the work we need to do requires them to shut down the golf course which is why we are trying to work around their schedule.

Mr. Gray agreed that we cannot hold up our work because they are unresponsive and asked if we should see if the Turnpike can make their culvert bigger?

Mr. Long explained that there was a study done regarding the increased flooding, but the cost of the project did not make sense as it did not help much with the flood waters.

Ms. Carolan continued with the Sewer Operational Update. Explaining that one RAS pump is still out of service at the Wastewater Treatment Plant but the pump being out of service is not adversely affecting our treatment process.

Ms. Carolan went on to explain that we just received the pre-draft NJPDES permit from NJDEP for the plant and that discharge limits for copper were added. Ms. Carolan notes that tonight she is proposing that the Board approve hiring of two firms to assist in review and opposition to this new requirement: a water quality engineer and special environmental counsel.

Mr. Gray asked if there was an alternative to removing the copper in our process.

Ms. Carolan responded that the plant is not designed to remove copper and that additional treatment to remove it would be costly. She added, if we cannot get the copper limits removed from the permit, we would have to contract another firm to start the design process.

Mr. Gray added that it would help in the fight against the copper restrictions to understand the cost related to the removal of the copper.

Ms. Carolan agreed and added that the firms we are contracting with would be able to supply general scope costs associated with having to change our treatment process to remove the copper.

Ms. Carolan completed the operations update by informing the board that there were a lot of underdrain blockages last month, and excessive flows in our system because of the blockages.

Presentation of Engineer's Status Report

Mr. Long presented the report.

Active Projects in Construction

Replacement of Part of Library Force Main and Millstream Force Main Connection, M-180-322-003

The project included replacing a section of the existing PVC library force main with 10" HDPE (via directional drill), beginning at the pump station, through the adjacent wooded area to Route 295, and cleaning and televising the force main crossing under Route 295/NJTP. The project also included replacement of the connection of the Millstream force main to the primary force main in Union Mill Rd. Project will be financed via an NJIB loan. Contract awarded to JVS Industrial and Commercial Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,219,000.83 on April 20, 2023. The Millstream connection is complete including pavement restoration despite delays due to an asphalt fire. Library piping is complete, but site work and televising remains.

Atrium & Hooton Pump Station Upgrades, M-180-347-001

This project included electrical and control system replacement and upgrades at both the Atrium and the Hooton Road stations. The Atrium station work also included pump replacement and replacement of the emergency generator which also connects to the adjacent Horizon Way Water Booster Station. Financing via NJIB Loan. On December 16, 2021, a contract in the amount of \$1,177,150.00 was awarded to Eagle Construction Services. The remaining open items are punch list items related to controls which the contractor is working to address.

Air Release MH Improvements 101 Hartford Rd & Isolation Valve Removal Pike Rd M-180-392-000

The project included the replacement of the air relief valve at 101 Hartford Road and the removal of the valve and fittings for the Pike Road isolation valve. Contract No. 2022-14 in the amount of \$599,670.00 was awarded to J.F. Kiely Construction, Inc. at the March 2023 meeting. Both valves have been replaced. Site work is complete, 101 Hartford electrical connection completed. Contractor is addressing punch list items.

Water Main on Hainesport-Mount Laurel Road County Bridge #B4.71 M-180-393-000

This project was for a repair of a 12" water main which is strapped to the side of the County bridge. A contract was awarded to JVS Industrial and Commercial Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$109,000.83 during the July 2023 meeting. Construction in 2023s completed. The contractor is working on punch list items.

Well No. 4 Redevelopment-M-180-395-000

This project was for the redevelopment of Well no. 4, including removal and rehabilitation of the existing pump and well piping, redevelopment of the well and installation of Authority supplied pump and well piping. A contract was awarded to A.C. Shultes, Inc. in the amount of \$117,600.00 in late 2023. Construction is complete and the contractor is addressing punch list items.

Active Projects in Design

Pump Station Monitoring System, M-180-365-000

This project includes updating the alarm system at 29 of the Authority's 41 sewage pumping stations. In addition, condition monitoring will be included with the system. The Authority authorized the start of design work with a construction completion of March 2021, which was not met. Financing for this project was originally planned for NJIB bundle #1 but the Authority was able to get I-Bank approval to move this to a separate financing so the remainder of bundle #1 can go to loan closing. Waiting on DEP to provide authorization to advertise.

Manual Transfer Switch Installation-81 Elbo Lane M-180-394-000

This project is to install a transfer switch with the capability of connecting a portable generator to it when needed, at the Authority's Engineering Office Located at 81 Elbo Lane. The contract is advertised and bid opening was held on April 11, 2024. Staff has additional questions to be resolved before recommending awarding the contract

Air Release Manhole Improvements Union Mill Road M-180-396-000

This project is for the replacement of 3 air release valves along Union Mill Rd at Signature Place, Marter Ave and Walton Ave. Design has started.

Library Pump Station Upgrades M-180-397-000

This project includes rehabilitation of the pump station with was originally installed in the 1980's. Work includes replacement of electrical controls, emergency generator, addition of a flow meter and addition of an electric building as an alternate. Design has started.

81 Elbo Lane Site Work M-180-397-000

This project includes milling and paving of the parking lot, drainage improvements and a dumpster pad. Design has started.

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

Elbo Lane WTP HVAC Replacement (Engineer: Mott MacDonald)

This project includes the replacement and rehabilitation of the HVAC system at the Elbo WTP. Financing will be via the NJIB. DEP has requested additional sections be added to the specifications before approval.

Ramblewood Pump Station Generator Replacement (Engineer: Remington & Vernick)

This project included the replacement of the existing standby generator at Ramblewood Pump Station. A contract was awarded to Lee-Way Electrical in the amount of \$173,400.00 at the February 17, 2022, meeting. The generator is installed and operational. There is a change order on the agenda tonight for approval, to reduce the overall final cost and then the project will be closed out.

HRWPCF Sludge Dewatering Equipment Replacement (Engineer: Colliers)

This project includes the replacement of the sludge handling and dewatering equipment in the sludge dewatering building which was originally constructed in 1996. We have obtained the TWA permit from the DEP. Pending DEP approval, we plan to advertise in June, receive bids in July and award at the July meeting.

Tricia Meadows Force Main (Engineer: ERI)

This project was for the replacement of a section of the Tricia Meadows force main from the vicinity of the PS to Moorestown-Mt Laurel Road. A contract was awarded to CTX Infrastructure, in the amount of \$223,875 at the September 2023 meeting. Construction is complete. Close out information including as-builts remains.

Cornwallis Drive and Carteret Court Water Main Replacement (Engineer: ERI)

Project includes replacement of 1000 feet of 8" water main on Cornwallis Drive and 570 feet of 6" water main on Carteret Court. A contract was awarded to A-to-Z Site Contractors in the amount of \$540,165.00 at the December 21, 2023, meeting. Construction is likely to start on June 10th. Notification will go out to the affected homeowners in early June.

Ramblewood Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation (Engineer: ERI)

This project is for lining ~1800 feet of gravity sewer in the Ramblewood drainage area. Bids were received and we are recommending awarding of Contract 2024-03 in the amount of \$201,889.00 to the low bidder, Vortex Companies tonight.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved to pass Resolution 2024-05-61 to close the meeting to discuss Litigation and Potential Litigation which are exempt from open meetings under the Sunshine Law, at 7:33 p.m., with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Litigation, Potential Litigation and Regulatory Matters – SEE CLOSED PORTION OF MEETING

The meeting was re-opened at 8:31 p.m., following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone, with unanimous agreement from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Contracts

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-05-62 Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Consulting Services for MLTMUA NJPDES Permit to One Water Consulting, LLC not to Exceed \$18,000.00, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-05-63 Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and open Contract for Consulting Services for MLTMUA NJPDES Permit to Maraziti Falcon, LLP not to Exceed \$10,000.00., with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-05-64 Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2. Contract No. 2021-08. Ramblewood Pump Station Generator Replacement., with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-05-65 Resolution Approving Award of Contract 2024 Sanitary Sewer Rehab. Contract No. 2024-03 to Vortex Companies in the amount of \$201,889.00, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Accounting and Financial

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved the Adopting of the Authority Budget for Water and Sewer Service and Facilities for Fiscal Year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, with roll call of members, Ms. Capri-aye, Mr. Francescone-aye, Mr. Knight-aye, Mr. Gray-aye.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Gray and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2024-05-67 Resolution Authorizing Entry Into a Shared Services Agreement with Evesham MUA for Special Counsel Services regarding a pending rate matter involving NJAWC., with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report of March 2024 and Payment Plan Status Report for May 2024, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Requestion #655 in the amount of \$1,717,069.26 for the Accounts Payable Vouchers, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Requestion #4568 in the amount of \$31,240.00 for the Acquisition & Construction Bill List, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

Following a motion made by Mr Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Requisitions #6107 through #6199, in the amount of \$285,340.96 from the Renewal and Replacement list with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight and Mr. Gray.

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

No comments were made and the board decided to allow the Reorganization Subcommittee to meet after the meeting.

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Gray, and with unanimous agreement from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.