

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

May 18, 2023

Chairwoman Murphy 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:

Carol Murphy	Chair
Cheryl Coco-Capri	Vice Chair
Elwood Knight	Secretary
John Francescone	Member
Jim Kehoe	Member

Also in attendance were:

William Long	Consulting Engineer
George Morris	Solicitor
Pamela Carolan	Executive Director
Russell Trice	Operations Engineer
Diane Ordille	Administrative Assistant
Jonathan Sears	Director of Finance
William Giegerich	Mount Laurel Township

Chairwoman Murphy 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.

Jim Kehoe arrived.

Public Comment – General

Ms. Kathleen Derderian from 2208 Bluegrass was in attendance to ask some questions. Ms. Derderian questioned if the irrigation system at her condo was the same as the water supplied for drinking. Ms. Carolan explained that the condo's use private wells to irrigate, hence the high iron content. Ms. Derderian also complained that her water was very hard. Ms. Carolan replied that our water is more in the moderate range. Mr. Kehoe offered that we have someone test her water. Ms. Derderian went on to say that her and her neighbors sometimes have "waste" in their toilets. Ms. Derderian acknowledged that Ms. Ordille sent someone out to check and didn't find any blockages in the MUA system. Ms. Ordille offered to send a supervisor out to further investigate.

Minutes

Following a motion made by Mr. Kehoe and seconded by Mr. Francescone the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the April 20, 2023, regular meeting, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Developments/New Connections

No development or new connection resolutions this month.

Ms. Carolan mentioned the meeting that took place with the Rancocas Woods Business Owners regarding connecting to our sewer system. Ms. Carolan stated they left with an understanding of what they needed to do. Ms. Carolan provided the board diagrams of the new low pressure lines and how and where customers would connect or extend the system.

Operations

Water System Summary

Ms. Carolan reported that NJAWC is off as we are now in the “peak” period, so we are supplying water from our plant and in 4-5 weeks we will start utilizing the ASR, which has 175 MG stored, for higher demand.

Ms. Murphy said the Mayor of Burlington City said he has plenty of water and that she would like us to look into getting some from them. Ms. Carolan explained that a similar route was attempted with Burlington Township in the past, but DEP wouldn’t approve it.

Ms. Carolan explained that water use is about the same as in the last few years.

Ms. Carolan indicated that we have started replacing the fire hydrants that are out of service; there are still 11 public and 7 private out of service.

Mr. Knight questioned private hydrants being used for another property for an emergency. Ms. Carolan answered that in an emergency the Fire Department will use whatever hydrants they deem appropriate. Ms. Carolan continued to explain that the Fire Marshall makes the determination of which hydrant will be part of the public system or private. Mr. Trice added that private hydrants are normally in office parks or service businesses.

Ms. Carolan reported that during our state required lead and copper sampling reporting to the customers who volunteer to be sampling points, the wrong unit of measurement was reported in letters to customers. Ms. Carolan explained that although our compliance was not impacted, a correction notice was sent to all the customers explaining the error, along with the revised results.

Sewer System Summary

Ms. Carolan talked about the recent rain event that occurred over the weekend of April 28th when Mount Laurel received over 5 inches of rain. Ms. Carolan showed photos of the flooding and where manholes become submerged. Ms. Carolan said there were 6 trucks needed for the trucking of sanitary sewage during the storm event.

Ms. Carolan added that the MUA assisted Mount Laurel Township with clogged storm drains in several other areas to break blockages.

Ms. Carolan reported that there are 2 pumping stations working outside of normal parameters.

Ms. Carolan said the East Gate pump station was outfitted with a new bar screen built by our employees, rather than paying someone to manufacture it; this has how we’ve been handling these replacements for many years.

Ms. Carolan showed a photo from the recent Tricia Meadows force main repair.

Ms. Carolan added that we’ve been tanking the Laurel Acres septic system once a week for the last month due to a problem the Township has been having there.

Ms. Carolan also mentioned that we jetted several storm drains in the first week of May, unrelated to the storm. Ms. Carolan added that while performing this work, the jet-vac truck broke down. Ms. Carolan said the older jet-vac truck was already in for repair so both of our jet-vac trucks are currently out of service. Ms. Carolan reported that in the event of an emergency, EMUA agreed to assist us using their jet-vac truck.

Underdrains

Ms. Carolan reported a problem in a section of Cornwallis Drive where customers had water in their basements again. Ms. Carolan added that Jerry Mascia was made aware.

Ms. Carolan said that during routine servicing we found that the pump at the Haines Court UD station, was not functional and needed replacement. This was reported to the Township.

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-180-322-002

The project includes 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 includes 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, with DEP approval. Preconstruction meeting scheduled for June 1st.

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 will be via a NJIB loan. On December 16, 2021, a contract in the amount of \$1,177,150.00 was awarded to Eagle Construction Services. Construction is 90% complete and facilities operational. The generator for Atrium PS was recently received but still needs to be installed.

Hartford Road WPCF Orbal Aerator Repairs, M-180-360-001

This project was for the repair of broken discs and hoods on some of the aerators located on the orbal tank and channel 2 will also be cleaned. This project will be financed via NJIB loan. Contract # 2018-03 awarded to Eagle Construction Services in the amount of \$752,514.00 on August 18, 2022. Construction is 90% complete, and cell 2 back in service. Some aerators remain out of service. More bearings were supposed to be delivered this week but haven't been received yet.

Union Mill Farms Force Main Replacement, M-180-376-001

No change in status. This project included installation of a new force main that redirects the pump station discharge out of the primary force main in Union Mill Road and into the gravity sewer collection system for Holiday Village East Pump Station. Financing will be via an NJIB loan. Contract No. 2019-02 was awarded to Earle Asphalt Company in the amount of \$409,713.13 during the October 21, 2021, meeting. Issues worked out with the insurance company (for reimbursement for line stop valve failure). Mr. Morris received the settlement agreement; he will review and comment.

Well No. 3 Redevelopment M-180-391

No change in status. This project included removal and rehabilitation of the existing pump and well piping, redevelopment of the well and installation of Authority supplied pump and well piping. Contract awarded to A.C. Schultes in the amount of \$128,500.00 during the October 20, 2022, meeting. Basically complete. Preparing closeout documentation.

Air Release Manhole Improvements 101 Hartford Rd & Isolation Valve Removal Pike Rd M-180-292

The project includes 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. A contract No. 2022-14 in the amount of \$599,670.00 was awarded to J.F. Kiely Construction, Inc. at the March 2023 meeting. Contractor is waiting on parts.

Active Projects in Design

Pump Station Monitoring System, M-180-365

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 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. The design remains 90% complete. Received Authority comments on the plans and specifications.

Air Release Manhole Improvements Union Mill Road M-180-390

No change in status. This project includes the replacement of a force main air relief valve at the intersection of Union Mill Road and the entrance to Signature Place. The project scheduled is to coincide with the Township project to improve Union Mill Road. Priority and construction schedule will be done when UMR is closed for improvements which are now scheduled to begin in spring of 2024 as permitting applications are still at DEP. Design of the AR replacement has started, but basically on hold at this point.

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

This project is for repair of a leaking 12" water main which is strapped to the side of the County bridge. Originally a repair was planned but due to configuration a replacement is necessary. The plan has been with the County under review since February 2023. Plan and specs reviewed and commented on by Authority. Comments to be addressed. Waiting for comments from the County.

Automatic Transfer Switch Installation-81 Elbo Lane M-180-394

No change in status. This project is to install an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) with the capability of connecting an existing portable generator to it when needed, at the Authority's Engineering Office Located at 81 Elbo Lane. Design has started.

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

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

No change in status. The hydraulic model has been completed and calibrated. Mott MacDonald used the model to develop and analyze alternatives for alleviating operational problems experienced in the system and to evaluate alternatives identified by the Authority in the initial SOW. On January 27th Mott MacDonald submitted the hydraulic modeling results report and the design memorandum which identifies the system deficiencies and provides recommendations for capacity relief projects and project cost estimates. The reports are under review and Mott MacDonald is finalizing other sections of the report. We included some of their recommendations for pumping station upgrades and rerouting of pump station force mains in the capital budget which is presented for adoption tonight.

Elbo Lane WTP HVAC Replacement (Engineer: Mott MacDonald)

No change in status. This project includes the replacement and rehabilitation of the HVAC system at the Elbo WTP. Design is 60% complete and anticipated to be 90% in June. Financing will be via the NJIB. Plan is to submit to DEP in July. Expecting final bid documents in June.

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

No change in status. This project includes 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. Generator delivery date is in October 2023.

HRWPCF Sludge Dewatering Equipment Replacement (Engineer: Colliers)

No change in status. This project includes the replacement of the sludge handling and dewatering equipment in the sludge dewatering building which was originally constructed in 1996. Colliers provided documents for review, the authority commented and expect to have for final review in the next couple of weeks. Waiting for updated scheduled from them.

Chapel Hill Road and Trefoil Terrace Water Main Replacements (Engineer: ERI)

No change in status. This project included the replacement of approximately 1,020 feet of 6" and 8" water main and 45 services on Chapel Hill Road and Trefoil Terrace. Contract No. 2022-07-84 was awarded to CTX Infrastructure in the amount of \$430,673.50 in July 2022. The new mains are in service, all individual house services have been connected to new mains and the old mains have been taken out of service. Final paving will take place in late July after the trenches have had time to settle.

Tricia Meadows Force Main (Engineer: ERI)

No change in status. This project is for the replacement of a section of the Tricia Meadows force main from the vicinity of the PS to Moorestown-Mount Laurel Road. Davis Enterprises had no issues with the proposed work. ERI continues to work on the contract documents and wetlands, stream encroachment and TWA applications. We have received some permit applications from ERI that we have to get endorsed by Davis Enterprises as the property owner. DEP applications getting signed.

Hartford Road WPCF Headworks Facility (Engineer: Mott MacDonald)

Mott MacDonald has been authorized to perform an evaluation of the existing comminutors and grit removal facilities at the Hartford Road WPCF. Mott MacDonald's scope of work includes the evaluation of new screening and grit removal equipment technologies and the ability to construct new headworks at both on and off-site locations. Received preliminary evaluation report. Meeting scheduled on May 30th to review the report.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Francescone, seconded by Ms. Capri, the Board unanimously approved to pass Resolution 2023-05-65 to close the meeting to discuss Litigation and Potential Litigation which are exempt from open meetings under the Sunshine Law, at 7:48 p.m., with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

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

The meeting was re-opened at 8:02 p.m., following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Ms. Capri with unanimous agreement from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Contracts

Following a motion made by Mr. Kehoe and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-05-66 Resolution Authorizing Participation in the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System of Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Kehoe and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-05-67 Resolution Approving Award of Contract for Sludge Hauling Services to American Disposal Systems, for the Contract Option Year 2, in the amount of \$273.65 per load, MUA Contract No. 2022-05, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Kehoe and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-05-68 Resolution Approving the Use of Patented or Copyrighted Equipment, PLC Based Pump Station Monitoring System, MUA Contract No. 2022-15, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Kehoe and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-05-69 Resolution Granting Award and Authorizing Execution of Lease Agreement with Cellco Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless Following Solicitation of Competitive Bids for the Lease of Space on the Water Tower for Telecommunication Equipment and a Portion of Ground Space, Located on Commerce Parkway, Block 1100.01, Lot 4 – MUA Contract No. 2023-04 Rebid, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Accounting and Financial

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Knight the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2023-05-70 Resolution Approving Adoption of Authority Budget for Water and Sewer Service and Facilities for Fiscal Year 2024 from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Following a motion made by Ms. Capri and seconded by Mr. Kehoe the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 and Payment Plan Status Report for May 2023, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Ms. Capri, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #643 in the amount of \$1,145,906.54 for the Accounts Payable voucher's list, with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

There were no bills from the Acquisition and Construction Bill List

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Capri the Board unanimously approved Requisitions #5862 through #5877 and #5879 through #5880, in the amount of \$424,062.92 from the

Renewal and Replacement list with affirmative votes from Ms. Murphy, Ms. Capri, Mr. Knight, Mr. Francescone and Mr. Kehoe.

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

Comments:

Ms. Carolan mentioned that we hosted “bring your child to work day” for the first time since covid; we had a great turnout, the kids really enjoyed the day, and it was a good morale booster.

Ms. Carolan reported that we had a group of girl scouts tour the sewer treatment plant. Ms. Carolan added that they might come back to tour the water treatment plant for some badges they’re working on.

Ms. Murphy acknowledged Bill Giegerich from the township was in attendance.

Mr. Giegerich commented that the Rancocas Woods business association information was helpful.

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight seconded by Ms. Capri, and with unanimous agreement from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.