

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

May 21, 2020

Chairwoman Coco-Capri called the regular meeting of the Mount Laurel Township Municipal Utilities Authority to order at 7:02 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	Chairwoman
Dennis Riley	Vice Chairman
Christopher Smith	Secretary
Elwood Knight	Member
John Francescone	Member

Also in attendance were:

Richard Alaimo	Consulting Engineer
David Kahn	Consulting Engineer
Jose Calves	Solicitor
Pamela Carolan	Executive Director
Russell Trice	Operations Engineer
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

There was no public comment.

Minutes

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Riley, the Board approved the minutes for the April 23, 2020 regular meeting, with affirmative votes from Mr. Francescone, Ms. Capri, Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight and Mr. Riley.

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

Developments/New Connections

No Developments/New Connections this month

Operations

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Carolan gave a COVID pandemic summary of staffing – next Tuesday we will return to a 2-team schedule. There are 36 active employees reporting to facilities, with 24 employees working from home and 10 on stand-by. All are wearing masks, temperature checks are being taken, all are practicing social distancing and we are cleaning between shifts. We have entered only one home since the last meeting and the homeowner went outside during the visit. Notices were sent to 1,600 commercial customers regarding flushing plumbing fixtures before returning for business – no one has asked for assistance so far.

Ms. Carolan noted that a nationwide program for fingerprinting of COVID in wastewater has been launched by Biobot Analytics and other companies with sewer entities in Nevada, Oregon and Virginia; 18 sewer entities in New Jersey including Mount Laurel MUA have volunteered to participate in the Biobot study. There was no cost initially but now the cost has jumped from \$120/week to \$1,200.00/week so we have opted out for now, unless Federal funding becomes available. The virus is shed by infected people into wastewater but individuals are unlikely to contract the virus this way.

Water System Summary

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

Customer use is low – the average use for May is 3.5 – 3.7MGD and it is averaging at 3.2MGD now.

Ms. Carolan noted that the ASR is off – we stopped re-charging as of 4/30 and 210MG has been stored for this summer or next summer.

Ms. Carolan reported that all the coliform sampling has been completed and lead and copper will resume in the Fall when we resume use from NJ American.

Ms. Carolan said that Evesham MUA flushes hydrants two times per year and last week opened the interconnection in Ravenscliff without notifying us, causing rusty water to our customers.

Ms. Carolan said that we have been in communication with all levels of personnel there, as this happened last year as well as is definitely a problem for us.

Sewer System Summary

Ms. Carolan indicated that 3 pump stations are operating outside of normal parameters – one is the Atrium pumping station which was on by-pass for 5 weeks waiting for Capital work to be done but this past weekend the by-pass pump broke so a rental pump was installed. Our in-house electrician worked on it and it was put back on-line on Monday.

Ms. Carolan added that there were more issues with the dewatered sludge pump (Schwing), which were again addressed and we have been running for 8 straight days without incident.

Underdrains

Ms. Carolan said there were no verifications this month.

Ms. Carolan added that there are now clogging issues with the Mill Run sump pump headers that were installed approximately 20 years ago. Most homes are not connected to this “new” system, but are still connected to the original system that was constructed with the development – clogging issues continue with both systems – the Township will be advised.

Presentation of Engineer’s Status Report

Mr. Kahn presented the report.

Replacement of Part of Library Force Main and Millstream Force Main Connection

No change in status. This project includes replacement of a section of force main for the Library PS beginning at the pump station and extending beyond the Rt. 295/NJ Turnpike crossing and replacement of the connection of the Millstream force main to the primary force main on Union Mill Road. The Library force main and Millstream connection projects were combined in one NJ Infrastructure Bank (NJIB) loan application with the Briggs force main, Library connection and Union Mill Farms Force Main Redirection project. The Planning Document was submitted to NJDEP and we are awaiting comment or approval. Other required submittals are being made to the NJDEP.

Replacement of Briggs Force Main and Connection and Library Force Main Connection

This project includes 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. The Briggs force main, and Library connection projects were combined in one NJ Infrastructure Bank (NJIB) loan application with the Library force main replacement, Millstream connection, and Union Mill Farms Force Main Redirection projects.

The project was publicly bid with bids opened on May 7. We recommend that the Authority award the contract to the low bidder, Pioneer Pipe Contractors, in the amount of \$780,050.00 this evening. NJDEP approval to award has already been granted.

Atrium & Hooten Pump Station Upgrades

No change in status. 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 Booster Station. This project was included in the first loan application for NJIB financing. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in FY20. Design is being finalized. Plans and specifications will be submitted to the Authority prior to NJDEP review.

Ms. Carolan added that the Authority has requested that the design be rushed due to the bypass pumping situation.

Devonshire Pump Station Upgrade

No change in status. This project will include a major rehabilitation of the Devonshire Pump Station. The original pump station was constructed in 1977 as part of the Larchmont Village IV development. Although the station has been rehabilitated and upgraded a few times since it was constructed, major work is now required to the electrical and mechanical systems to keep the station operating acceptably.

The Devonshire Pump Station receives flow from some of the Larchmont sections and from the Timbercrest Pump Station and the Rancocas Woods Pump Station. It is anticipated that a proposed housing project in Rancocas Woods as well as existing commercial and residential properties currently on septic systems located on or near Creek Road may connect to the Devonshire Pump Station drainage area. Although the estimated wastewater flow that could be discharged to the Devonshire Pump Station is not yet known, it is assumed based on a flow metering study that the station will have sufficient capacity to handle these new connections. However, the design and sizing of the collection system along Creek Road should be sized to accommodate as many future connections as possible. Providing sewer to the properties along Creek Road may necessitate determining how to provide sewer to the remainder of the unsewered properties in Rancocas Woods.

Site work plans have been submitted to the Planning Board for review. Plans and specifications are being updated to incorporate full replacement of both pumps and appurtenances. Site visit with pump vendor was conducted on November 13.

Hartford Road WPCF Tank Repairs

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.

A contract in the amount of \$1,882,000 was awarded to BR Welding, Incorporated, on August 15, 2019. Change order No 1 was approved by the Authority during the April meeting and was recently approved by NJDEP. The new completion date is October 31, 2020.

Ms. Carolan added that tonight the Board is being asked to approve a change order to extend the anticipated completion date by 125 days to October 31, 2020, following supply chain issues caused the state of emergency.

Hartford Road WPCF Orbal Aerator Repairs

No change in status. 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. The plans and specs are substantially complete. This project was included in the first loan application for NJIB financing, construction was originally scheduled for FY 2020.

Hartford Road WPCF Roof Replacement and Lightning Protection

No change in status. This project includes the replacement of roofs on five (5) buildings and lightning protection at the WPCF. These roofs are the original roofs installed when the buildings were constructed in 1996. This project will be funded using NJIB financing, bundle 1; bidding will occur as soon as approvals are obtained with construction planned to begin in July 2020.

The project was recently advertised with bid acceptance on June 11.

Harford Road WPCF Lighting Replacement

No change in status. This project is for the replacement of site lighting throughout the plant. Design is complete. Engineering review to be finalized and then given to MUA for review before submission to NJDEP. Plans and specs are being updated following feedback from the Authority.

Saint David Drive Water Main Replacement – Phase 2

This project includes the replacement of approximately 2,200 LF of 12' and 8" water main. A contract was awarded on March 26, 2020 to the low bidder Pioneer Pipe Contractors in the amount of \$523,526.00.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to start during the week of May 25.

Emergency Shower and Eyewash Facility Installation

This project includes the installation/replacement of emergency shower and eyewash equipment at 6 locations. Some of the facilities do not currently have shower/eyewashes and some of the facilities do have shower/eyewashes; however, they do not use tepid water as is required by current regulations.

The Authority awarded a contract to Whitfield Schneider Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$193,100.00 on March 26, 2020. Notice to proceed has been issued.

Hartford Road WPCF Filter Press Control Panel Replacements

This project includes the replacement of the filter press controls and filter press belt motors. This project is part of bundle 1 of the NJIB loan. A contract in the amount of \$183,750 was awarded to the low bidder, A.B.S. Electric, Incorporated on June 28, 2019. Construction is underway. Project was to be completed by December 28, 2019. Notice of substantial completion was issued on May 8.

Union Mill Farms Force Main Replacement

No change in status. 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. An existing adjacent isolation valve for the primary will also be replaced. This project was combined in one NJIB loan application with the Replacement of Library Force Main, Millstream Force Main Connection, the Briggs Road Force Main Replacement and Connection and Library Force Main Connection. The Planning Document has been

submitted to the DEP and we are awaiting comment or approval. Other required submittals are being submitted to DEP.

Piping, Heat Tracing and Insulation Replacement at the Hartford Rd WPCF

No change in status. 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. Plans and specifications have been given to the Authority for review before submission to the NJDEP.

Closed Session

There was no closed session this month.

Contracts

Following a motion made by Mr. Riley and seconded by Mr. Knight, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-05-51, Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract No 2019-11 to Pioneer Pipe in the amount of \$780,050.00 for the Replacement of the Briggs Road Force Main and Connection and Library Force Main Connection, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Smith and Mr. Riley.

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. 2020-05-52, Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2020-02-007 Establishing Meeting Dates for the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority for the Year 2020 (optional Virtual Meetings), with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Smith and Mr. Riley.

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

Accounting and Financial

Following a motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Francescone, the Board unanimously approved Resolution No. 2020-05-53, Resolution Approving the Authority Budget Adoption for Water and Sewer Service and Facilities for Fiscal Year from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Francescone, Mr. Knight, Mr. Smith and Mr. Riley.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Riley, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report of March 2020 and Payment Plan Status Report for April 2020, with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Riley, Mr. Smith, 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 #607 in the amount of \$479,529.50 for the accounts payable vouchers with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Riley, Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Francescone.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Riley and seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #4557 through #4559 in the amount of \$147,809.28 from the Acquisition and Construction list with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Riley, Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Francescone.

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

Following a motion made by Mr. Francescone and seconded by Mr. Riley, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #5017 through #5027 in the amount of \$84,523.76 from the Renewal and Replacement list with affirmative votes from Ms. Capri, Mr. Riley, Mr. Smith, Mr. Knight and Mr. Francescone.

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

Comments:

Ms. Carolan noted that the package emailed to the members contained incorrect rate comparison numbers for Mount Laurel. A revised comparison will be issued next month.

Following a motion made by Mr. Riley seconded by Mr. Knight, and with unanimous agreement from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.