

**TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY**  
**Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Eighty**

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 4:30 P.M. at the office of the Authority, 340 West Water Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

**The following were present:**

Charles S. Valvano, Chairman Evan Jansen/HFA  
Tariq M. Siddiqui, Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Alfonso J. Manforti, Commissioner  
Philip I. Brilliant, Commissioner  
Joseph G. Bilotta, Commissioner  
Sam Ellenbogen, Alt. Commissioner  
Bernard Rutkowski, Executive Director/Sec'y.-Treas.  
Joseph D. Coronato, General Counsel  
Mike Lee, Chief Financial Officer  
Nicholas Otten, Authority Engineer  
Cindy Toye, Human Resources Manager  
Christina Diamante, Executive Assistant/Assistant Sec'y

---

Meeting #1280 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., July 23, 2024 by Chairman Valvano.

Ms. Diamante, Assistant Secretary, reported that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c. 231, notice of this meeting was posted on the Township Bulletin Board, the Authority Bulletin Board, filed with the Clerk's Office and published in the Asbury Park Press.

Ms. Diamante called the roll. Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were present. Ms. Sevastakis was absent.

**2A Audit Draft Review – 2023**

Evan Jansen from Holman Frenia Allison presented the 2023 audit draft. Mr. Jansen reported we have an increase in capital assets, purchases and projects. Our net position is also positive for the first time in years, regardless of the liability increase from the NJIB loan, so that means we are in a very healthy position. We are also bringing in more revenue than we budgeted which is good. Overall, it was a very positive audit that shows the MUA is in very good standings.

**Minutes of Meetings for Approval**

*A. Meeting #1279 - June 25, 2024 - New Submission*

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the minutes of Meeting #1279 June 25, 2024 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

**Disbursements**

A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve payment of the Opening Expenses

as listed in the amount of \$450,062.05. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Siddiqui voted yes with exception to check #13475.

#### Trust Fund for Contracts

None at this time.

#### **Ratification of Monthly Transfer & Investment Resolutions**

A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to ratify the monthly transfer and investment resolutions. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

#### **Financial Reports**

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Dr. Manforti to enter the financial reports 6A-6F into the record. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

#### Finance & Investments: 6G

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to reinvest the available funds of \$4,661.19 into the Ocean First Trust Custodial Account. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

#### **Operating Reports**

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta that the operating reports 7A-7G were accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

#### **Development Applications-Major Sub Divisions**

There were no applications submitted for approval.

#### **Authority Meeting**

The next Authority meeting was confirmed for Tues., August 27, 2024, 4:30 p.m. in the TRMUA conference room.

#### **Adoption of Resolutions**

None.

#### **9B - Unfinished Business**

None.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### Legal

General Council informed the Board that the Supreme Court issued a dissertation on social media and from their opinion, personal emails can be exposed if you are using them for government communication. It was then again reminded to the Board to conduct MUA business only through their MUA emails.

##### Personnel

The Personnel Committee reported the Engineer position is still live, they have received 12 resumes so far and only 1 seems like a possibility. Another resume for Safety & Compliance Officer was received which makes 5 total, looking to start interviews for that position the first week of August.

Engineering/Regionalization/Technology

The Engineering Committee reported they had a meeting to discuss some upcoming projects that will need proposals from an Engineering Pool to finish if they are not completed before Mr. Otten's retirement, or before a new Engineer is hired. One of the projects that was mentioned is the Underground Storage Tank removal. The evaluation and deterioration of the Pump Station 16 building was also discussed, some structural work needs to be done to make it fit in more with the surrounding homes.

Land

None.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano recapped that the 2023 Audit was clean with no issues. He spoke briefly on the recent CrowdStrike tech outage and thankfully we do not use CrowdStrike so the Authority was not affected. Mr. Valvano then stated the OCUA is raising rates 2%, which is about 40% of the MUA's cost structure, on top of the added expense for the increase in rain water this year. Mr. Valvano mentioned how the Authority is feeling the effects of embedded inflation over the last 4 years, but overall the MUA is doing very well financially.

**Public Comments**

Seeing no public comments, Chairman Valvano closed the public portion of the meeting.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.