

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Eighty One

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, August 27, 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
Tariq M. Siddiqui, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Alfonso J. Manforti, Commissioner
Philip I. Brilliant, Commissioner
Joseph G. Bilotta, Commissioner
Katarina Sevastakis, Alt. 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 #1281 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., August 27, 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, Ms. Sevastakis, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were present.

Chairman Valvano took a minute to announce the passing of an important, well-known local serviceman, John Parker, he asked everyone to take a moment of silence in his honor.

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1280 - July 23, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to approve the minutes of Meeting #1280 July 23, 2024 as written. A roll call vote was taken with, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Disbursements

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve payment of the Operating Expenses as listed in the amount of \$4,145,936.39. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

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 Mr. Brilliant to enter the financial reports 6A-6F into the record. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, 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 \$4,496.29 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 Dr. Manforti that the operating reports 7A-7G were accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant 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 Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 4:30 p.m. in the TRMUA conference room.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to accept the 2023 Audit. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

None.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Council stated they are still tracking the OPRA issues discussed in previous meetings.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee met to discuss a few projects and also prepare for Mr. Otten's retirement. The first project discussed was the work to PS 16, four proposals from the Engineering Pool firms were received, the lowest bidding firm chosen was Alaimo. The next project discussed was the Underground Storage Tank removal, two proposals from Co-ops were received and the lowest price selected was RVE. The Emergency Generator Project was the last project discussed involving 4 pump stations and the admin building, they are getting prices and hopefully next month

there will be a resolution for it. Lastly, the OCUA flows is substantially higher this year than previous years.

Land

None.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano reiterated that the OCUA raised rates 2% this year due to embedded inflation over the last four years. He went on to say that this is the highest OCUA flow since 2010 and we will not be receiving a credit. The most likely cause to all this is the high amounts of rain water or sump pumps which is why the Authority does re-lining projects to help with these problems. Mr. Valvano asked the Board to reread Section #8 of the Engineer report that sums this up and has all the numbers laid out. Lastly, he stated that our bank, Lakeland Bank, is being taken over by Provident Bank, the new bank will have Gupta and it will all transfer over and we won't have to do anything. Mr. Valvano then noted it was brought to his attention that First Commerce Bank is Gupta compliant, no money is being moved but he would like to add them to our Depository list. A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to add First Commerce Bank to our Financial Institutions. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Personnel

An Executive Session is needed.

Public Comments

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

Correspondence

The Executive Director brought to the attention of the Board that one of our interns wrote a leave of absence letter as he is returning to school and hopes to come back here in December.

Resolution to Enter Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adopt the resolution to enter Executive Session at 4:54 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, litigation/potential litigation and contractual matters. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Public Session Reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Manforti was asked to rejoin the meeting.

Back in Public Session a motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to give the Executive Director authorization to negotiate with the three candidates and hire one of them based on the discussions in Executive Session. Before voting, Dr. Manforti asked a few questions since he was not in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was then taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Dr. Manforti abstained.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.