

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Eighty Two

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, September 24, 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 #1282 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., September 24, 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 in the Asbury Park Press, The Star Ledger, filed with the township Clerk's Office, posted on the Township bulletin board and the Authority bulletin board.

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

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1281 - August 27, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to approve the minutes of Meeting #1281 August 27, 2024 as written. A roll call vote was taken with, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

B. Ex. Session #1281 - August 27, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1281 August 27, 2024 as written. A roll call vote was taken with, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Dr. Manforti abstained.

Disbursements

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

as listed in the amount of \$456,345.99. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Dr. Manforti voted yes with exception to all the RX reimbursements.

Trust Fund for Contracts

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to approve the release from the Trust Fund for Contracts as listed in the amount of \$500.00. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

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 Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to enter the financial reports 6A-6F into the record. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, 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 \$4,431.06 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, October 22, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Dr. Manforti to approve authorization to award the Sandblasting/Painting & Undercoating of (1) Bobcat Skid Steer Unit to Derstine Company, LLC. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-3 – A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize a contract with Falasca Mechanical for the installation of (3) mini-split systems. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-4 – A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to approve the draft 5 year Capital Plan 2025-2030. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

The Executive Director stated he had an item for Executive Session. He then thanked Mr. Otten, the Authority's Engineer, for his service and the hard work he's put in to the MUA all these years and wished him well in his retirement.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Council stated nothing new other than seeing more articles coming out on the OPRA issues.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee announced the new Safety & Compliance Officer will be starting on October 1st. Commissioner Brilliant asked if we get to know who it was who was selected, the Personnel Committee replied his name is Greg Myre, who was the first candidate in the previous discussions. Commissioner Manforti then asked how it will work with him in the position because he's an assemblyman who has to be in Trenton. The Executive Director stated he is allowed the time to miss work to go to legislative meetings and we will just have to make sure everything is covered just as if someone were out on vacation. Commissioner Manforti also asked if he has the experience and qualifications the job asked of, to which the Executive Director replied yes, he has government experience and experience with regulatory agencies as well as the MEL. Mr. Rutkowski further explained that when he himself started in the Safety Officer position there were parts of the job he didn't know and had to learn and teach himself and get familiar with over time. Commissioner Manforti lastly asked the salary were hiring him at, to which Mr. Rutkowski replied is \$75,000, the same salary the previous Safety & Compliance Officer started at.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee had their last monthly meeting with the Authority's engineer, Nick Otten, before he retires. Commissioner Siddiqui had many generous words to say about Mr. Otten and thanked him for all his hard work he has done here. An Executive Session is also needed.

Land

Herflicker Blvd. has finally been paved which is apart of the gas company's project. The next phase of the project is moving over to our property and the Park & Ride. The Executive Director spoke with the gas company and they will be putting a fence along Iron Street past the water which will isolate our entire property with just an access gate. The fence will be entirely paid for by the gas company at no cost to the Authority.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano repeated how the OCUA raised rates 2% this year due to embedded inflation and since the expense to the OCUA went up due to excessive rain water our budget number next year will go up considerably. He announced the Finance Committee will meet in October about User Rates and the annual Rate Hearing will be in November. Lastly, the Chairman recommended there be an education incentive for sewer levels 1-4, similar to what the Foremen have, for non-union employees. He said that he feels employees should be educated and if they are educated they should be compensated for it, but this has nothing to do with the upcoming bargaining agreement with the Union.

Public Comments

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

Correspondence

None.

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 5:03 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 5:43 p.m.

Back in Public Session it was declared that in the absence of finding an in-house engineer the Authority will be using the Engineering Pool that was approved at the February Reorg meeting at the hourly rates stated in the professional services Engineering Pool resolution.

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 5:44 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.