

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Eighty Three

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, October 22, 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
Bernard Rutkowski, Executive Director/Sec'y.-Treas.
Joseph D. Coronato, General Counsel
Cindy Toye, Human Resources Manager
Christina Diamante, Executive Assistant/Assistant Sec'y

Meeting #1283 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., October 22, 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. Ms. Sevastakis, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were present. Mr. Ellenbogen was absent.

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1282 - September 24, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to approve the minutes of Meeting #1282 September 24, 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 #1282 - September 24, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1282 September 24, 2024 as written. A roll call vote was taken with, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, 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 \$1,713,901.54. 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 the exception to all RX reimbursements and refund check #13614 to Smith, Robert.

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. Siddiqui to reinvest the available funds of \$4,576.62 into the Ocean First Trust Custodial Account. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Operating Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Dr. Manforti that the operating reports 7A-7G were accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Dr. Manforti asked if someone will be here daily from the Engineering firm we are temporarily using to which Mr. Rutkowski replied yes, he comes from time to time to the building to check in and do work. Dr. Manforti also asked if we are keeping the Engineer position live to which Mr. Rutkowski replied we are, just have not received much.

Development Applications-Major Sub Divisions

There were no applications submitted for approval.

Authority Meeting

The next Authority meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The 2025 TRMUA Rate Hearing meeting will be held the same day at 4:00 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize a Change Order for an increase in time, material and services to (5) manholes that were found after the fact. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-3 – A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to authorize the execution to advertise for Professional Services for 2025. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-4 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to authorize the execution of a Schedule C agreement between the TRMUA and the County of Ocean for 2025. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

The Executive Director talked about how we have been restoring and preserving equipment to make them last longer, the last piece restored was the Skid Steer Unit. We sent it out to be treated, sandblasted and painted which only cost us \$8,000 as opposed to a brand new version of this unit which runs about \$100,000. The contractor who won the bid went above and beyond and did a fabulous job; it looks brand new.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Counsel reported nothing new just did some research in regard to the cyber hack we had.

Personnel

An Executive Session is needed.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee met to go over some of the current projects. The Underground Storage Tank replacement project received pricing for services under NJ state contract pricing. The on-going supplemental Force Main 9 easement project was finally advertised to receive bids, the firm RVE will be handling that. Under Regionalization, the Shared Service contract with the schools, Township and Parking Authority over fuel will have some changes made to it. The Executive Director went on to explain how the new system with the fuel keys will operate.

Land

NJ Natural Gas will be remediating our back property, they are also doing work to the bus depot's property as well as putting up a fence along Iron Street. Work will probably start Summer 2025.

User Charge

There will be a Rate Hearing on November 26th at 4pm.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano restated we are having our Rate Hearing on November 26th at 4pm in the TRMUA conference room. We will be publishing it in the newspaper and will have a court reporter present. He reminded the Board that the OCUA rates went up 2% as well as our expenses to them due to an excessive amount of rainwater, these factors affect our rates as well. Mr. Valvano also declared he will be signing the annual letter that goes out with the bills at the November meeting. The last topic needed to be discussed will be done so in Executive Session.

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 Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to adopt the resolution to enter Executive Session at 5:02 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, litigation/potential litigation and contractual matters. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Public Session Reconvened at 6:07 p.m.

Back in Public Session a motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to increase Mrs. Toye's salary \$800 per pay period to take over the duties of the Executive Assistant while she's out on leave from November 12th until January 2nd 2025. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Another motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to give out annual incentives for certain licenses for non-union employees as follows: C2-\$500, C3-\$800, C4-\$1,000, Operator of Record-\$2,000, QPA-\$1,000, Sherm-\$1,000 and CMFO-\$2,000. These will be paid out in the last pay of the year and also revisited in 6 months to see how this incentive is operating. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.