

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Eighty Four

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, November 26, 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

Colleen Vaughn, Court Reporter

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

Greg Myhre, Safety & Compliance Officer

Mark Rohmeyer, Consulting Engineer

Cindy Toye, Human Resources Manager

Public Hearing – 2025 Connection Fee & Sewer User Rate

The Public Hearing for the Proposed 2025 Connection Fee and Sewer User Rate was held on November 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. with Mr. Coronato presiding over the meeting. Michael Lee, Chief Financial Officer, was sworn in by Counsel and reported the calculations of the 2025 user fees and connection fee. Chairman Valvano asked the Board and members of the Public if there were any questions regarding these fees, seeing none he closed public comments. Bernard Rutkowski, Executive Director, was sworn in by Counsel and testified to reviewing the calculations and deemed them adequate. Chairman Valvano again asked the Board and Public if there were any questions for Mr. Rutkowski, seeing none he closed public comments. A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Dr. Manforti to adopt the connection fee of \$3,132 for the Authority for the fiscal year 2025. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Siddiqui, and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Another motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adopt the sewer user fees for the fiscal year 2025, including the basic sewer user rate \$350.78 for residential and non-residential. 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. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to adopt the resolution for the proposed rate schedule. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. A motion was then made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adjourn the Public Rate Hearing at 4:18 pm. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

A short recess took place before resuming the regularly scheduled meeting agenda at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting #1284 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., November 26, 2024 by Chairman Valvano.

Mrs. Toye, Human Resources Manager, 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.

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

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1283 - October 22, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the minutes of Meeting #1283 October 22, 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.

B. Ex. Session #1283 - October 22, 2024 - New Submission

A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1283 October 22, 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 Dr. Manforti to approve payment of the Operating Expenses as listed in the amount of \$4,712,588.36. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Dr. Manforti voted yes with exception to all the RX reimbursements. Mr. Siddiqui voted yes with exception to check #13754.

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. Brilliant to ratify the monthly transfer and investment resolutions. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, 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 \$4,754.35 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. 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. Commissioner Manforti asked if anyone was hurt in either of the accidents that occurred this month and if an accident occurs where our employee is not at fault do they still have to get drug tested, to which the Executive Director replied there was one workers comp claim but no LTAF in the eyes of the insurance and yes, they still get sent for drug testing because that is the criteria in the Personnel manual.

Development Applications-Major Sub Divisions

There were no applications submitted for approval.

Authority Meeting

The next Authority meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Dr. Manforti to authorize the execution awarding a second year contract to Pipeline Renewal Technologies for the Trenchless Repair Clamps. 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. Bilotta to authorize the execution of the late budget submittal. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-4 – A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to authorize Bernard Rutkowski to sign NJ DEP sewer applications. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-5 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Dr. Manforti to authorize the Change Order to decrease payment on PS 24 Force Main project. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bilotta and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-6 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to authorize the purchase of a mobile spray concrete trailer. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-7 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to advertise for On-call Roadway Paving Restoration. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-8 – A motion was made by Dr. Manforti and seconded by Mr. Bilotta to approve the 2025 DRAFT budget. A roll call vote was taken with Dr. Manforti, Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

None.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Counsel informed there were a couple OPRA requests he worked through with the Executive Director.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee informed that the IT Director has resigned from the TRMUA, however, even though she is still helping out part-time, we still need to hire someone to fill the position. The Personnel Committee also requested to remove the Engineer position at least through the holiday season because everything seems to be working out with Morgan Engineering. Lastly, the Executive Director discussed how in January the Lead Inspector will be retiring in addition to the inspector who retired just a few months ago. In lieu of these vacancies the Executive Director will post an opportunity to train LMO's on inspections, specifically on Cut & Caps, there would be no promotional incentive just out of title pay. A motion was then made by Mr. Bilotta and seconded by Dr. Manforti to post, interview and hire for the IT Director position. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee had a meeting to discuss the ongoing projects with Mark from Morgan Engineering.

User Charge

The Chairman thanked both commissioners on the User Charge Committee for all their hard work.

Land

None.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano announced the HVAC and mini split installations are all finally complete, he thanked all the commissioners who supported the project that started several years ago. He mentioned again the OCUA amount going up to 12.5 million for the budget. Chairman Valvano then welcomed our new Safety & Compliance Officer, Greg Myhre, and Morgan Engineering's, Mark Rohmeyer, our consulting Engineer.

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 4:56 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Brilliant, Dr. Manforti, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.