TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Ninety Six

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 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 — Denise Sweet, Court Reporter

Tariq M. Siddiqui, Vice-Chairman

Philip I. Brilliant, Commissioner

Kim A. Pascarella, Commissioner

James Braaten, 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

Greg Myre, Safety & Compliance Officer

Cindy Toye, Human Resources Manager

Christina Diamante, Executive Assistant/Assistant Sec'y

Meeting #1296 was called to order at 4:00 p.m., November 25, 2025 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, The Press of Atlantic City, 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. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were present. Mr. Ellenbogen was absent from the Rate Hearing but present for the regular meeting.

Public Hearing – 2026 Connection Fee & Sewer User Rate

Chairman Valvano turned the meeting over to Mr. Coronato who presided over the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2026 Connection Fee and Sewer User Rate. The CFO, Michael Lee, was sworn in and verified the connection fee of $3,057, which is a decrease from last year, and the proposed 2.75% rate increase for 2026. The Executive Director, Bernard Rutkowski, was sworn in and testified to, after speaking with the Authority Engineer, recommending the 2026 connection fee and proposed rate increase. A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adopt the connection fee and sewer user fees for the fiscal year 2026 for residential and non-residential. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes. Chairman Valvano asked if there were any public comments on the 2026 Rate Hearing, seeing none, Chairman Valvano concluded the Public Rate Hearing at 4:07 p.m.

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

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1295 - October 28, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the minutes of Meeting #1295 October 28, 2025 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

B. Ex. Session #1295 - October 28, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1295 October 28, 2025 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Disbursements

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve payment of the Operating Expenses as listed in the amount of $3,477,616.00. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Pascarella voted yes with exception to check #14636.

Trust Fund for Contracts

None at this time.

Ratification of Monthly Transfer & Investment Resolutions

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

Financial Reports

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

Finance & Investments: 6G

A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to reinvest the available funds of $3,264.60 into the Ocean First Trust Custodial Account. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Brilliant all casting affirmative votes.

Operating Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant that the operating reports 7A-7G were accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella 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, December 16, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to authorize the execution of the Schedule C agreement between the Toms River MUA and the County of Ocean for 2026. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-3 – A motion was made by Mr. Pascarella and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to authorize the advertising for On-Call Roadway Pavement Restoration. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-4 – A motion was made by Mr. Pascarella and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize the advertising for Professional Services for 2026. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-5 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to authorize the extension of the Risk Management contract for an additional 2 months. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-6 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Valvano to authorize the execution of a Line Maintenance Operator's retirement. The Executive Director stated that Mr. Smith has been with the Authority since 1993 and was very well liked and will be missed greatly. The Chairman stated that he hopes he has a very happy and healthy retirement. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Valvano, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Brilliant all casting affirmative votes.

9A-7 – A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to approve the Draft 2026 budget. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

9A-8 – A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to authorize the execution of the late budget submittal. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

None

Committee Reports

Legal

General Counsel reported that there was some angst that occurred this month with the possibility of the MUA being disbanded but it came and went and there is nothing else new to report.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Toms River MUA closed on the $6.2 million short term financing on November 17th for projects such as generator replacement and manhole rehabilitation projects for the Authority.

Fuel

The Executive Director informed we are still waiting on the signed Shared Service agreement from the schools. The Police Dept have been issued their new key fobs, still waiting on the finalized list for the Fire Commissioners and

the Park & Ride was completed today. The new billing process will start in January, everyone will be billed based on gallons, the ED and the CFO will be working on that together.

Ad Hoc/Union

A brief Executive Session is needed.

User Charge

The Committee Chair, Mr. Brilliant, thanked the CFO, Executive Director and Attorney for doing a great job with the Rate Hearing.

Land

The Authority agreed upon an access agreement with NJ Natural Gas, they will be bidding out for the remediation of the back property sometime in December/early January. This remediation includes fencing around the property and containers to store our materials while NJ Gas is doing work, as well as an access road from Irons Street. There will be a walk thru with them on our property next week.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano wished everyone to enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season with friends and family.

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. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adopt the resolution to enter Executive Session at 4:43 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, litigation/potential litigation and contractual matters. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

Public Session Reconvened at 4:47 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.