TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Ninety Seven

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, December 16, 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 — Jonathan Gery/MOP

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

Christina Diamante, Executive Assistant/Assistant Sec'y

Meeting #1297 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., December 16, 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 then called the roll. Mr. Ellenbogen, Ms. Sevastakis, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were all present.

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1296 - November 25, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to approve the minutes of Meeting #1296 November 25, 2025 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano and all casting affirmative votes.

B. Ex. Session #1296 - November 25, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1296 November 25, 2025 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant 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 listed in the amount of $1,399,841.03. Chairman Valvano stated for the record, that included in the Operating Exepenses, is the municipal appropriation to the town in the amount of $1,083,875.00, this is the 16th straight year, since

2010 that there has been a municipal appropriation. Over the past 16 years, the Toms River MUA has given the Township over 15 million dollars. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Brilliant voted yes with the exception to check #14664.

Trust Fund for Contracts

None at this time.

Ratification of Monthly Transfer & Investment Resolutions

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

Financial Reports

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

Finance & Investments: 6G

The CMO pay downs were not ready at the time of the meeting but a motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize the CFO to put those funds into the Ocean First Trust Account when they come in on 12/23/25. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

Operating Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Pascarella that the operating reports 7A-7G were accepted as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Development Applications-Major Sub Divisions

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to approve the preliminary application for Sub Division #D-1078 (1866 Old Freehold, LLC). A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Authority Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to cancel the Authority meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at 10 a.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes. The next Authority meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize the 2026 adopted budget. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

None.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Counsel looked over the access agreement with NJNG for the remediation work, which is for 10 years because of environmental concerns. They also are requiring access to our property to get to the wells and they will be putting in gates. General Counsel also reported he believes we have worked out the shared service agreement with the Toms River school system however; we have yet to receive the agreement back.

Personnel

Personnel Committee reported the Building & Grounds Foreman is retiring at the end of February, the Committee stated they think we have several good candidates we could promote internally and will need to post and interview for the position. The Executive Director introduced the IT Manager to the Board and complimented him on the good work he's been doing.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

With the snowstorm over the weekend, the B&G Foreman, Chris Gant, and crew did a great job to help clear snow, they also helped clear snow at Town Hall, PD Stations and the Parking Authority. Per the Shared Services agreement, we will be sending over a bill to those entities for the services provided.

Land

None.

Ad Hoc/Union

An Executive Session is needed.

Fuel

The Executive Director updated that we are just waiting on the Board of Ed for their updated list of key fobs and then we will be moving onto to the new billing system that the CFO and himself have been working on. He also informed that all the old fobs have been turned off.

Finance/Chairman

A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to post and interview for the Building & Grounds Foreman position. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Brilliant all casting affirmative votes.

Chairman Valvano reiterated, this is the 16th straight year we have given a municipal appropriation, culminating to 15 million dollars over those years. Mr. Valvano then talked about our snow policy and how we take care of not only our property and pump stations, but we also gladly help other entities with snow removal, as we have in past protocol. He gave his thanks and gratitude to all the MUA employees who helped out with the snow. Chairman Valvano then gave a 'State of the Authority' end of year statement by saying we are very financially responsible and always get the best use of our dollar, especially from the help of our employees finding ways to save us money and thanked everyone for doing a fantastic job. He also talked about the consistent lining projects we do that are necessary to keep the integrity of the piping and thanked management for their work on those projects. He then thanked the Board Committees for all the work they do, such as the Union Committee, who put in a lot of time and work on numerous meetings and research. Lastly, he informed that the annual bills will be going out shortly, they are due on

January 1st with a 10 day grace period, he thanked the employees who put their time in with the billing. He closed out with saying its his pleasure to be our Chairman and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Public Comments

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

Correspondence

The Executive Director shared with the Board he was asked by the Lake Ridge Garden Club to speak at one of their meetings. He prepared a PowerPoint on the systems and billing, how the waste is conveyed and how many manholes we have. They were very appreciative and inquisitive; the Garden Club even wrote an article on the visit from the Executive Director. The Chairman added this was excellent press for the MUA and brings awareness to what we do here, he thanked the ED for going to speak.

Resolution to Enter Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to adopt the resolution to enter into Executive Session at 5:04 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 5:31 p.m.

Back in public session, a motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to put the Memo Of Understanding between the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority and the Teamsters Local 97 of NJ Rank & File employees into the record and agreement to this MOU. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Brilliant thanked the two Commissioners who worked on this negotiation to get to this.

Another motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Pascarella that the 7 non-union employees: the Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Manager, IT Manager, Regulatory & Compliance Safety Officer, Executive Assistant, Engineering Assistant and Field Operations Secretary will follow the same MOU that was put into the record with the exception that year 1 they will receive a 3.5% increase instead of a flat rate. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

The Executive Director then thanked the Board for the continued support and a great year; he wished everyone happy holidays and looks forward to 2026.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.