

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Twelve Hundred Ninety Eight

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 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

Robert Stevens/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

Cindy Toye, Human Resources Manager

Christina Diamante, Executive Assistant/Assistant Sec'y

Meeting #1298 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., January 27, 2026 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 #1297 - December 16, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to approve the minutes of Meeting #1297 December 16, 2025 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano and all casting affirmative votes.

B. Ex. Session #1297 - December 16, 2025 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve the minutes of Ex. Session #1297 December 16, 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. Pascarella and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve payment of the Operating Expenses listed in the amount of \$1,187,576.14. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr.

Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

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. Brilliant to enter the financial reports 6A-6F into the record. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella 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 \$2,540.04 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, February 24, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. This is the 2026 Reorganization meeting.

Adoption of Resolutions

9A-2 – A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to authorize and appoint Cindy Toye as the Fund Commissioner to the CJHIF to represent the TRMUA and Bernie Rutkowski will be appointed as the alternate Fund Commissioner to the CJHIF effective January 27th. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-3 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize to advertise for Sandblasting & Painting of (1) John Deere 544 K loader. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-4 – A motion was made by Mr. Pascarella and seconded by Mr. Braaten to authorize to advertise for the purchase of (3) Rigid See Snake Cameras. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-5 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to authorize the execution to award the bid contract for Trenchless Point Repair Clamps to Pipeline Renewal Technologies, LLC. A roll call vote was taken

with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-6 – A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve the 2025 Budget Appropriation transfers. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

The Executive Director thanked everyone who came in for snow plowing on Sunday, close to 30 employees came in to help out.

Committee Reports

Legal

General Counsel reported that because of the holidays things have been quiet, one item came across his desk about an easement down by the Yacht Club, he will look into it a bit more and give a report on it next month. The Executive Director stated this is something the Authority has been working on with Morgan Engineering for a while to get cleaned up.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee reported that the MUA authorized Morgan Engineering to do a flow study on Whitesville Road which is not finished yet and still proceeding, will report more on it next month.

Land

The access agreement with NJNG has been executed, this will be an 18 month or so project that will start probably at the end of summer.

Fuel

Still waiting on the Board of Education Shared Service agreement to be signed, the Authority's attorney stated they would make another call to the Business Administrator.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee reported the Building & Grounds Foreman position was posted, there were nine applications received and five of the applicants were interviewed. There were two excellent candidates but there is a recommendation to award the position to James Collier who has been with the Authority for 20 years and was the best candidate. There is also an LMO position open from an employee who retired in November as well as a Billing Clerk position that will be posted soon. A motion was then made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to award the Building & Grounds Foreman position to James Collier. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Bratten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano reminded the Board that the reorganization meeting is next month on February 24th. He also thanked all the employees who came in to help with the snow removal.

Public Comments

There was a member of the public here but they did not state anything during this portion. 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. Siddiqui to adopt the resolution to enter into Executive Session at 4:51 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, litigation/potential litigation and contractual matters. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella and Mr. Brilliant all casting affirmative votes.

Public Session Reconvened at 5:07 p.m.

Mr. Rutkowski re-entered the meeting.

Back in public session, a motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Pascarella to extend the Executive Director, Bernie Rutkowski's, contract from expiring December 31, 2027 to December 31, 2030, with the exact same contract specifications. 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 thanked the Board for the continued confidence in the position.

The Board was going to extend Public Comment for the member of the public who was here but they did not stay after Executive Session finished.

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 5:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.