

TOMS RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
Meeting Number Thirteen Hundred

The regular meeting of the Toms River Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, March 24, 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

Tariq M. Siddiqui, Vice-Chairman

Philip I. Brilliant, 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 #1300 was called to order at 4:30 p.m., March 24, 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.

Oath of Office

At this time, the Oath of Office was administered to Commissioner Sevastakis by the Authority's attorney, Joseph D. Coronato.

Ms. Diamante then called the roll. Mr. Ellenbogen, Ms. Sevastakis, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano were all present. Mr. Pascarella was absent.

Minutes of Meetings for Approval

A. Meeting #1299 - February 27, 2026 - New Submission

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve the minutes of Meeting #1299 February 27, 2026 as written. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Brilliant and Mr. Valvano and all casting affirmative votes.

Disbursements

A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to approve payment of the Operating Expenses listed in the amount of \$607,062.58. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Trust Fund for Contracts

A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Valvano to approve the release from the Trust Fund for Contracts as listed in the amount of \$5,685.03. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Valvano, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Brilliant all casting affirmative votes.

Ratification of Monthly Transfer & Investment Resolutions

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

Financial Reports

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

Finance & Investments: 6G

A motion was made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant to reinvest the available funds of \$2,788.13 into the Ocean First Trust Custodial Account. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

Operating Reports

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

Development Applications-Major Sub Divisions

A motion was made by Mr. Ellenbogen and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to approve the final application for Sub Division #D-761C (EETTSA, LLC). A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Brilliant abstained.

Authority Meeting

The next Authority meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions

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

A motion was then made by Mr. Valvano and seconded by Mr. Brilliant approving the following resolutions, 9A-3 through 9A-7 as follows:

9A-3 – Authorize the execution of the Shared Services agreement between the TRMUA and Lakewood Township Municipal Utilities Authority for 2026.

9A-4 – Authorize the execution of the Shared Services agreement between the TRMUA and Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority for 2026.

9A-5 – Authorize the execution of the Shared Services agreement between the TRMUA and Beachwood Sewerage Authority for 2026.

9A-6 – Authorize the execution of the Shared Services agreement between the TRMUA and South Toms River Sewerage Authority for 2026.

9A-7 – Authorize the execution of the Shared Services agreement between the TRMUA and Toms River Parking Authority for 2026.

A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Valvano, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten and Mr. Ellenbogen all casting affirmative votes. Mr. Siddiqui voted yes with exception to 9A-7, the Toms River Parking Authority Shared Service.

9A-8 – A motion was made by Mr. Siddiqui and seconded by Mr. Braaten to authorize the awarding of contract TRMUA SCIU-2026 for (3) Sanitary Sewer Rigid See Snake Cameras to Ferguson Waterworks. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-9 – A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to authorize the sandblasting & undercoating of camera truck 83. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9A-10 – A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Braaten to authorize the extended working hours schedule. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

9B - Unfinished Business

None.

Committee Reports

Personnel

An Executive Session is needed. The Personnel Committee is requesting approval to post and interview for three LMW positions. A motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to post & interview for three LMW's. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes. The Personnel Chair also stated they will be posting for two Engineering trainees, from in-house employees, who will get the out of title pay per the Union contract.

Legal

General Counsel reported The Toms River Board of Education signed off on the Shared Services agreement for fuel. General Counsel also explained the Board of Ed that the TRMUA is looking to get out of the gas business in the future.

Engineering/Technology/Regionalization

The Engineering Committee met and discussed Pump Station 9, the last section of pipe is almost done, all that's left are the tie ins. The Engineering Chair also reported that the Toms River Yacht Club design is almost complete and will be ready to go out for bid sometime after Labor Day. Lastly, for Regionalization, there were several Shared Service resolutions passed tonight.

Ad Hoc/Union

Like years past, July is the month that meetings will start taking place for Union contract negotiations, the Committee will be reaching out.

User Charge

Ms. Sevastakis is the new Committee Chair; this committee is busy at the end of the year when the rate hearing is approaching.

Land

Mr. Braaten is the new Land Chair, he will be working with the Executive Director to report back to the Board on anything new.

Finance/Chairman

Chairman Valvano repeated that the Financial Disclosures are due by April 30th, he urged to please complete them as soon as they are received. He also reminded the Board to do the MEL training course; it will benefit the Authority as we will get a \$250 insurance credit for each board member who completes it.

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 into Executive Session at 4:56 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. Ellenbogen and Mr. Siddiqui all casting affirmative votes.

Public Session Reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Back in public session, a motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Siddiqui to offer the position of Asst. Customer Account Clerk to Alyssa Pereira at the base salary of \$55,900 per the union contract. This is a conditional offer, based upon a background check, that expires in 30 days. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Siddiqui, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.

Adjournment

Chairman Valvano wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season coming up.

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Brilliant and seconded by Mr. Ellenbogen to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Brilliant, Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Braaten, Mr. Siddiqui and Mr. Valvano all casting affirmative votes.