

WESTERN MONMOUTH UTILITIES AUTHORITY

PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 25, 2019

Chairman Mendez called the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority's Public meeting to order at 7:00pm. It was announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act and N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notice of this meeting has been sent to the Asbury Park Press, The Home News and Tribune, Clerks of Manalapan and Marlboro Townships, and is posted in the lobby of the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority ("W.M.U.A.")

Upon roll call:

Present: Messrs. McEnery, Mendez, Pernice and Rosen  
Absent: None  
Also in Attendance: F. Borin, DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP  
G. Stankiewicz, Accountant  
M. Musich, Manalapan Township Committeewoman  
B. Valentino, C.E.O.  
J. Carr, Chief Operating Officer  
K. Leatherman, Chief Administrative Officer  
A. Finnerty, Authority Clerk  
M. Volovnik, Manalapan Resident

All present cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Mendez asked for any public comment. Chairman Mendez told Mr. Volovnik that he absolutely can speak to the Commissioners during public comment; however he advised him that they just received the paperwork regarding his situation and have not reviewed it yet. Michael Volovnik stated his name and address for the record. Mr. Volovnik offered to read his introduction letter to the Commissioners. Mr. Frank Borin, the Authority Attorney stated that they will all be able to read the letter and the supporting documentation which they received a few minutes prior to the meeting. They just need an opportunity to review his situation. Mr. Borin stated he can still speak, but ultimately they need to review everything. Mr. Volovnik stated that he doesn't want to pressure anybody; he just wanted to make himself available at their convenience if they have any questions. He understands that decisions cannot be made instantly. Chairman Mendez asked for at least two weeks to review his documents and suggested that he return to the meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Volovnik thanked the Commissioners and left. Chairman Mendez closed the public portion of the meeting.

Chairman Mendez asked for any comment regarding the Chief Executive Officer's Report. Mr. Valentino stated that at the last meeting the Commissioners requested more information regarding the purchase of the Bobcat. He stated that he has left pictures of the 1975 forklift on the dais. He stated that it is replacing a 1975 Yale forklift; it is part of the original Pinebrook Treatment Plant

inventory list. It has been in service for 44 years. Mr. Valentino stated that it is here longer than Kathy; Chairman Mendez stated he was 15 in 1975. Commissioner Pernice asked what kind of engine is in the forklift. Mr. Valentino stated that it is an internal combustion engine. Chairman Mendez asked if it says 953 and 7/10's of an hour, does that mean that it turned multiple times. Jim Carr, the Chief Operating Officer stated that we run it only ½ hour a day, we use it to load and off load items. Commissioner Rosen asked if we are keeping it; is it still usable? Mr. Valentino stated that we will add it to the surplus list. Mr. Valentino stated that for the next meeting there will be two resolutions filling plant positions; plant operations division and there are two wonderful candidates to assist the Chief Operating Officer. One candidate is the currently Administration Manager for the Pemberton Township MUA, she is a graduate of the Academy. The Pemberton Township MUA is being taking over by the township. Chairman Mendez asked what position she will be filling. Ms. Leatherman stated that she will be filling the Clerks position. Mr. Valentino stated that we will hire a plant operator from Manchester MUA; he is currently working in the water treatment division. He will be eligible to test for the licenses we need here. That is our last vacancy as of right now in the plant.

Mr. Valentino stated that Manalapan Township has obtained the bond rating we requested. We are on schedule for closing on Friday, June 28, 2019.

Mr. Valentino stated that in front of every Commissioner is the strategic planning goals update. The darker the color means the work has been completed, the light colors show where they should be in order to complete those goals and when. We are making progress. Chairman Mendez said this is fantastic.

Mr. Valentino stated that we had the energy auction today and Ms. Leatherman will be giving the update. Ms. Leatherman stated that our new energy price for electric is \$0.065 we were paying \$0.062 however the gentleman that does the auction stated that energy is on the rise. This could be due to issues overseas. He stated that 2 years at that rate is a good deal for us. Mr. Valentino stated just to be clear that this is thousandths of a cent per kilowatt hour. Chairman Mendez and Commissioner Rosen thought that we were self-sufficient because of the solar field. Mr. Valentino said he will clarify. He stated that the solar field generates the equivalent of the power needed to run half the plant during daylight hours. The plant does not generate power that we directly use. We are in a contract in with a provider who generates the power which is put back to the grid. We have a pre-negotiated discounted rate that we buy back so we are getting the savings for that field. Commissioner Pernice stated that we had a power purchase agreement many years ago. The discussion was whether or not we should purchase the solar fields ourselves. We made the best decision by doing the power purchase plan, which means another company will maintain the solar fields. We were thinking about installing additional solar panels but we decided against it. Mr. Valentino stated when he was employed in South River; they owned their own electric utility. Mr. Stankiewicz was the auditor there as well. He stated that so much of the power utilities are based on what the cost of fuel is going to be that any one disruption in the fuel sector, the energy sector would make the numbers very high. He said we would have energy auctions as well. The first year he was employed, there was an explosion at an oil refinery in the gulf that nobody would bid at the auction. If we want to have more green energy, we can buy green energy as opposed to us producing green energy.

Mr. Valentino stated that Jim Carr will give us the construction update. Mr. Valentino stated that we have a letter from the Marlboro Township Board of Fire Commissioners, District #3. This is the District that Robby Smith is the Chief. We have been in talks with them for two years about an old

generator that we no longer have use for and they would like to have it for their fire house. Mr. Valentino stated that we have a standing Resolution authorizing Mr. Valentino to dispose of surplus equipment to any not for profit that is a customer of ours. He is confirming that he can let them come pick this generator up.

Jim Carr, Chief Operating Officer, stated that he has a quick update on the three major projects we have going on. Regarding the Raw Sewage pump station, he stated that this morning he received a letter from Coppola to extend the time to complete the job. They were going to start the pumps up today, but there was something they had to repair. The request is being reviewed. Commissioner Pernice asked how much time they are asking for. Mr. Carr stated that they would like to extend the deadline to August 31, 2019. Chairman Mendez asked when this project was supposed to be completed. Mr. Carr stated they asked for an extension two months to complete the job by this Friday, July 28, 2019. Chairman Mendez stated that we should not grant them an extension. Ms. Leatherman stated we should give them the extension. Mr. Carr stated that looking at the construction they are very close to completion. The extension is really to disassemble the bypass piping; they need to keep that in place until the new pumps are running and we know they are reliable. Chairman Mendez asked if we replaced the elevator. Mr. Valentino stated that this is not part of the project. Mr. Carr stated that over the last year we have replaced every electronic component of the elevator. With the current HVAC improvements, we will have much less corrosion which is what really affected the elevator. Regarding the EQ Tank Project; 99% of the sludge has been removed from the basin and the contractor is demolishing ½ of the reed beds right now. The Route 79 project is not going as smoothly as hoped. The contractor is mailing letters daily regarding mismarked service lateral on the water department side or mismarked storm sewers. None of which is the WMUA's responsibility. CME is doing a great job of responding to each letter listing the reasons they don't agree with the contractor's letter. CME is doing a lot more work than anticipated. There is one issue that we are still working out which will most likely result in a change order; an unknown 8 inch high pressure gas main has been found that directly in conflict with our sewer in one section. The engineers are coming up with a fix, so we won't know till the engineers assess the situation. It was not picked up by the survey; nobody knew it was there till they put a shovel in the ground. We won't know the impact to the contract till we know what the fix is. We are waiting for the contractor to give a price to move two manholes to fix this problem. Chairman Mendez asked if we had mark outs. Mr. Carr stated we did but this wasn't known till we started doing the work. Commissioner Pernice asked Jim Carr to please keep him in the loop because he needs to have answers when he is contacted by Marlboro Township. Commissioner Rosen stated that it is a disaster site on Route 79. He stated that when the day is over they just leave equipment wherever they are. Ms. Leatherman stated that OSHA would shut them down if there was an issue. Jim Carr stated that the construction project is so spread out; it is difficult to keep the sites clean. Mr. Carr stated that they are almost done with the construction at Brandon Road and that will be a big relief to the residents. Mr. Carr stated he has pictures which he displayed on the screen at the meeting and he explained each picture. Commissioner Pernice asked if CME is out there every day. Mr. Carr stated that they are there daily overseeing the project. Commissioner Rosen asked about the employee that lost his leg during a phase of the project. Mr. Carr stated that he was transported to a hospital closer to his home and he is stable. They have changed their method of placing steel plates because of this accident.

Chairman Mendez continued with the Discussion Items.

- Chairman Mendez asked for any comment regarding the purchase of the Bobcat Compact Track Loader. There were no questions.

RESOLUTIONS:

19-81 Authorizing the Purchase of a Bobcat Compact Track Loader through a Cooperative Pricing System

Chairman Mendez asked for a motion for Resolution 19-81. Commissioner Pernice moved, seconded by Chairman Mendez, the vote was as follows:

AYES:	Messrs. McEnergy, Mendez, Pernice and Rosen
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None
ABSENT:	None

Consent Agenda Resolutions:

19-82 Approving Minutes of May 21, <sup>2019</sup>

Chairman Mendez stated he would like to have a vote on the **Consent Agenda**. Chairman Mendez asked for a motion for Resolution 19-82. Commissioner Pernice moved, seconded by Commissioner McEnergy, the vote was as follows:

AYES:	Messrs. McEnergy, Mendez and Pernice
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	Commissioner Rosen
ABSENT:	None

Chairman Mendez asked if there were any comments on the bill list. Chairman Mendez asked for a motion on the bill list. Commissioner Pernice moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosen. All present voted aye.

Chairman Mendez asked if there was any other Authority Business. There was none.

At 7:29PM, Chairman Mendez asked for a motion for Resolution 19-83; Authorizing the Commissioners to go into Closed Session and they *will not* return to Public Session. Mr. Valentino stated that there is nothing for Closed Session and they can adjourn the meeting. Chairman Mendez closed the meeting. All present voted aye.

#####