

WESTERN MONMOUTH UTILITIES AUTHORITY

WORKSHOP MEETING

October 9th, 2018

Chairman Pernice called the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority's Public meeting to order at 7:02pm. 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 and Pernice
Absent: Commissioner Rosen
Also in Attendance: Brian Valentino, CEO of WMUA
F. Borin, DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP
G. Stankiewicz, Auditor
J. Carr, Chief Operating Officer
K. Leatherman, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Finnerty, Authority Clerk
M. Musich, Manalapan Township Committeewoman
G. McEnery

All present cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Pernice asked for any public comment.

Maryann Musich, the Manalapan Township Committeewoman congratulated the Authority on the receipt of the Utility of the Future Award. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Musich.

Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Chief Executive Officers Report.

Brian Valentino stated that we were supposed to have the Route 79 Pump Station and Force Main Replacement Bid openings this week. There was a problem with the date and the advertisement. Notices have been sent out to the bidders and notices have been sent to the people who bid on the related projects. The rebid will take place in a few weeks.

Mr. Valentino stated that he had a very good meeting with JCP&L. This is our annual meeting to go over our relations with JCP&L. We talked in length about our upcoming projects and how it may affect JCP&L regarding shutoffs and turn-ons. They briefed us on their infrastructure reliability program which is a state mandated project after Hurricane Sandy that requires them to invest \$400 million dollars over 5 years in basically trimming trees and making sure the system is reliable to the end user rather than worrying about their transmission lines. This is not an optional program

and is built in to the system with the state, no rate increase will be necessary. They have asked us to endorse these improvements but Mr. Valentino stated he would not endorse that without consulting the Commissioners'. Based on his review on the law affecting them, he suggested that we support them. It is related to our wellbeing as a plant because they would have to bring us back on line first. He wanted to give the Commissioners an opportunity to ask any questions before he writes his letter of support to JCP&L. The Commissioners confirmed.

Mr. Valentino stated that he attended the ICMA symposium in Baltimore 2 weeks ago. He started sharing the education he received with the Managers at the Management meeting today. He thanked the Commissioner's for allowing him to go regardless of the fact that it is in his contract.

Mr. Valentino stated that he, Jim Carr and George White attended the WEFTEC Conference in Louisiana. They had an outstanding experience there as well. He is displaying pictures on the screens in the conference room. There was lots of training. There are also pictures of the Utilities Leader breakfast where they received the award for WMUA.

Jim Carr stated that he attended an 8 hour class for microbiology and wastewater treatment. The panel of experts that gave the class is our industry leaders and one professor in particular that spoke, David Jenkins is a professor at UCal Berkley. He has written a lot of the books that we use here for reference on microbiology. Jim stated that he sent him a sample of our sludge a couple of weeks before we went there. He pulled everybody aside who sent in sample and gave them an analysis of what he says and suggestions for improvement. When he pulled Jim Carr aside he stated that the Authority is in really good shape and no suggestions needed for improvement. Mr. Carr stated he told everybody here that we are doing a good job! He pulled a few of the bad examples and used them to teach the class and what can they do to improve. Chairman Pernice asked what makes it better or worse than the other. Mr. Carr stated that when the operators are not paying attention. Our operators are constantly taking samples. They are really looking at the numbers, making slight adjustments with oxygen levels keeping the good microorganisms happy. If you let the bad microorganisms take over then bad things will happen. Mr. Carr stated that it was a good experience; he learned a lot and thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to attend. Mr. Valentino asked Mr. Carr when he returned if this class would be beneficial to anybody else. He stated that a new operator that was promoted to Operator in Charge. Chairman Pernice stated that he had the opportunity to attend WEFTEC two years ago and he also learned a lot. Commissioner Mendez stated if we want to continue to be a leader in a world class organization, we need continuing education to be a big part of our program. Chairman Pernice stated that the key is bringing back the information and sharing. Mr. Valentino stated that anybody who gets training is required to share it and we can reinforce this with overtime. Mr. Valentino stated that George White attended a class on infill and inflow which has been his bread and butter for 35 years. He learned some new things and looking at things he did know in a different light. There are all kinds of good training coming out of WEFTEC. One lesson that we learned is that the water industry in NJ which we refer to as the environmental industry because it affects solid waste handling too as well. It is suffering from all the things that we were suffering from 4 years ago. Mainly the work force is not being developed, we don't have a deep bench for succession planning, we are not investing in training, and we are not worrying about our people. They were discussing how good they feel about the things they are working on because they are addressing all of the critical areas. The one thing he is very concerned is about storm water and he said its coming. There are bills currently in the state legislature that would make it the responsibility of authorities like ours. We are going to start dedicating some personal resources

to get trained on storm water on the off chance we have to worry about it so we can be prepared. Commissioner Mendez asked who manages storm water now. The municipalities are managing it now and it goes out to surface water, retention basins, lakes, etc. Governments across the county stated that it should really be maintained by likeminded agencies like us. The problem is the numbers involved in taking over the infrastructure. Chairman Pernice stated that it's not just about a big storm; it's about what goes into the system. People are dumping in the storm sewers, not just paint or perhaps oil but actually people are picking up after the dogs and putting it in the storm sewers. Ms. Leatherman stated lots of leaves are being dumped. All the complaints during the summers for beaches being infected with E.coli is from storm sewer drainage. We are dealing with everything and will educate ourselves regarding storm water. All of the personnel information was reiterated at the ICMA conference.

Mr. Valentino stated that we received the Utility of the Future Today Award. Ms. Musich asked for some information. Mr. Valentino stated that this is a Global Award that's given by 5 water agencies including WEF and NACWA which is the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. You can only apply if your State Association nominates you so we were nominated by WEA and AEA. There was only one other agency in NJ that was nominated and won. Ten were nominated in NJ, two of us won. Only 32 agencies around the world got it this year. Only 105 agencies in the history of the world got this. It is different than other awards, because you receive a flag. Commissioner Mendez was there to accept the award. Once you have won this once, you can apply for this every year. There are 12 categories you can apply for. He has the list of agencies that won. We are meeting with Suez Water. The water that Suez Water is treating for their program, we already treat to that level and better. Chairman Pernice stated that this a great honor and thanked everybody who works here day in and day out.

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion on the Consent Agenda.

- 18-122 Approving Minutes of August 28, 2018
- 18-123 Approving Minutes of September 24, 2018

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolutions 18-122. Chairman Pernice moved, seconded by Commissioner McEnergy, the vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolutions 18-123. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Chairman Pernice, the vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice proceeded with the meeting and moved on to Discussion.

- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Budget 2019 – 2020. Mr. Valentino stated that they had their second to last meeting today. It is progressing well. He does not have a draft. It will be ready for distribution on schedule. We are following all the guidelines set by the Commissioners. Chairman Pernice stated that he spoke with Leslie our Chief Financial Officer. Chairman Pernice asked Mr. Stankiewicz if he had any comments, he had none.

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for each of the following Resolutions:

- 18-124 Authorizing Shared Service Agreement with Marlboro Township for Snow Plow Operators
- 18-125 Authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare plans and specifications and advertise for the receipt of bids for the services specified in this Resolution

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 18-124. Chairman Pernice stated that Marlboro Township passed a Resolution in August regarding the Shared Service Agreement with WMUA. Chairman Pernice asked for comments from Brian Valentino. Mr. Valentino stated that this is the third year of this Shared Service Agreement. We provide commercial driver's license authorized snowplow operators who then drive Marlboro Township equipment to plow snow under there agreement. Mr. Valentino stated he also offered Manalapan Township and they said they had it covered. Marlboro pays more for these operators for private haulers than we charge them. We charge them more than is required to pay our drivers and our drivers get guaranteed overtime rates. Marlboro stated that they will take as many drivers as we can send! Marlboro has purchased trucks for our WMUA drivers to use. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Chairman Pernice. The vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 18-125. No additional discussion was needed. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner McEnergy. The vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked if there is any other Authority Business. Chairman Pernice asked Mr. Carr if he wanted to discuss connection fees.

Jim Carr stated that NJ just passed a new law regarding the way connection fees can be collected. It is regarding collecting from existing buildings changing their use, how long they were connected how long they were abandoned before they can reconnect. Jim Carr asked the

Commissioners permission to ask the Authority Attorney to review our Rules and Regulations. The Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Mendez asked about some pictures that were on the screen. Mr. Valentino gave some descriptions regarding a series of photos that were displayed on our screens in the meeting room. These pictures were taken at the WEFTEC convention. They show how water and flooding is dealt with in Louisiana. Commissioner Mendez stated that the Mayor of Atlanta and the Mayor of New Orleans spoke about their sewer authorities, the average age of the employees and the man to woman ratio. Mr. Mendez stated that we need to get a lot better at manning our facilities across the country. Mr. Mendez stated that we have a very, very aged employment group here at the WMUA.

Chairman Pernice asked if there were any comments on the bill list. There was none. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Chairman Pernice. All present voted aye.

At 7:30PM, Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 18-126 Authorizing the Commissioners to go into Closed Session for the Purpose of Discussing Personnel and they will not return to Public Session. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Chairman Pernice all present voted aye.

Chairman Pernice stated that our next meeting is Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018.

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