

WESTERN MONMOUTH UTILITIES AUTHORITY

PUBLIC MEETING

November 24, 2020

Chairman Pernice opened the meeting and read the Sunshine Law and call 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.")

All present cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon roll call:

Present (on the phone): Messrs. McEnery, Mendez, Pernice and Rosen

Absent: None

Also in Attendance (on the phone): K. Kinsella, DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole LLP
G. Stankiewicz, Accountant
B. Valentino, CEO/Executive Director
J. Carr, Chief Operating Officer
S DiBenedetto, Chief Financial Officer
K. Leatherman, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Musich, Manalapan Committee Woman

Please note that this meeting was done via video conference. Chairman Pernice stated that we are conducting this meeting remotely and confirmed that we are in compliance because of the severe nature of the pandemic. Kevin Kinsella, Authority Attorney stated that we are in full compliance with the open public meetings act. The Department of community affairs issued guidance that we conduct these meetings via teleconference.

Chairman Pernice opened the meeting up to the public. He asked Jim Carr to see if anyone is onsite at the WMUA administration building. Jim Carr stated that Ann Finnerty is onsite and stated that she is on speaker phone. Ann Finnerty confirmed that no one was in attendance at the WMUA. Chairman Pernice asked if anyone else at the zoom meeting would like to speak. Maryann Musich the Manalapan Committee Woman stated that she would like to address the Commissioners. Ms. Musich wanted to thank the WMUA for addressing the Hawkins Road situation and that the surrounding residents were very grateful. Chairman Pernice closed the public meeting.

Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Chief Executive Officers Report. Brian J Valentino stated that one of our employee's husband tested positive for Covid this afternoon. As of a little over an hour ago, Mr. Valentino himself tested positive for Covid. He thanked everyone for their concerns.

Chairman Pernice started the meeting with the Discussion, Item V. On the agenda;

- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Introduction of the Authority Budget for 2021 -2022. Scott Di Benedetto stated that the key

highlights are no rate increase. We had a slight reduction in operating expenses, about 1%. No new positions are being hired or reflected in the new budget. He stated the important thing to note is that the operating expenses are being fully funded by the operating revenue in this budget. Chairman Pernice thanked Commissioner Mendez and Commissioner Rosen for working with Brian and Scott. He thanked Scott for picking up the pieces and doing such a good job. He stated that this is a very sound budget.

- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2021 -2022. Chairman Pernice stated that we can approve this tonight and just go along with it subject to change.
- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding Appointing Kleinfelder Environmental Engineer. Ray Ferrara is on the phone representing Kleinfelder right now. This resolution is related to the discharge permit. Brian Valentino stated that Tim VanPelt is on the phone and will give the reason for this discussion tonight. Tim VanPelt stated that the DEP reached out to us regarding the total phosphorus limit being applied to our permit. This has happened before, in 2004 and Kleinfelder helped us out. They are going to help us out either to defer the total phosphorus limit or come to some sort of agreement.
- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Purchase of a Wemco Pump and Hydrogritter Parts from Fleet Pump & Service Group Cooperative Pricing System (NJWCPS), Contract #B195-2. Jim Carr stated that this is part of our grit removal process. This is critical equipment that we keep, and if there is a breakdown we have it available to replace it right away. In the past year we have replaced a good portion of the equipment in this building and this is the awarding of the purchase of replacement parts if we need it in the future.
- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Purchase of a spare Pump for Battleground I through the North Jersey Purchasing Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System (NJWCPS), Contract #B192-2. Jim Carr stated that this is a similar situation. This is a duplex pump station with two submersible pumps. We recently had a situation where we had to pull one pump out. To comply with the DEP Rules and Regulations, we are required to have two pumps in the pump station at all times. The purchase of this pump will make us in compliance when we have to pull one out in the future. Chairman Pernice stated that we are just requesting a spare pump for now. Chairman Pernice stated that we requested from developers inventory for spare pumps. Jim Carr stated that when this station was built the developer did provide a spare pump and we have since used it. This will be putting another pump on the shelf when either of the two pumps break down. Chairman Pernice stated that life expectancy isn't what we expected. Jim Carr stated that people flush things that aren't supposed to be flushed and it tears apart the impeller.
- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Cancellation of a Receivable. Scott DiBenedetto stated that this customer's home has been uninhabitable for a while. For the time being and until they are able to get a C of O we are making the account in active and cancelling the related receivable affiliated on their account now. Commissioner Rosen asked, once they get the C of O there account will be activated again. Scott stated that we have the account noted and we will be notified by Township. Commissioner

Rosen asked if that was normal procedure. Scott confirmed that this was the normal procedure.

- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding Interest Removal from Account #'s 23289-0 & 27094-0. Chairman Pernice stated that we have removal of interest related to the Battleground Country Club. Scott DiBenedetto stated that the Country Club reached out to WMUA not to long ago and said that we have had this request before because our residents who are normally used to the quarterly bill were waiting for the reminder, they were asking us if we were able to waive interest. Normally there would be no issue and we would give them a onetime courtesy waiver. This situation is different because the amount of interest is over \$100.00 we would need to get a Resolution for them. Their quarterly bill is \$5,593.00 and their interest is over \$400.00. They did pay their principal balance so all that is left to waive is the interest charge. Scott said he is recommending the interest be waived. Commissioner Mendez and Rosen recused themselves because they are members of this club.
- Chairman Pernice asked for any comment regarding the Public Hearing to Set the New Connection Fee 2021 – 2022. Gerry Stankiewicz stated that the calculation is somewhat delinquent. We expect to be back on our normal pattern of June and July and the increase is \$10.00 per EDCU.

Chairman Pernice stated that we should move to the Resolutions.

Resolutions:

- 20-121 Introducing Authority Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- 20-122 Appointing Environmental Engineer for NJPDES Permit Consulting Services
- 20-123 Authorizing the Purchase of Wemco Pump and Hydrogritter Parts
- 20-124 Authorizing the Purchase of a Spare Pump for Battleground Pump Station I through the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System (NJWCPS). Contract #B195-2
- 20-125 Authorizing the Cancellation of a Receivable for Customer
- 20-126 Authorizing the Removal of Interest for Account #'s 23289-0 and 27094-0
- 20-127 Authorizing the Public Hearing to Set New connection Fee 2021 - 2022

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-121. Commissioner McEney moved, seconded by Commissioner Mendez. The vote is as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-122. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosen. The vote is as follows:

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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-123. Commissioner McEnergy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mendez. The vote is as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-124. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosen. The vote is as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-125. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner McEnergy. The vote is as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-126. Chairman Pernice moved, seconded by Commissioner McEnergy. The vote is as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked for a motion for Resolution 20-127. Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosen. The vote is as follows:

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

Consent Agenda

- 20-128 Accepting Minutes of October 13, 2020
- 20-129 Approving Minutes of October 27, 2020
- 20-130 Authorizing the Execution of a Developers Agreement for Links at Battleground, LLC, Project #708

- 20-131 Granting Approval to Marlboro Place LLC, (formerly Buckdale, LLC), Project #725
- 20-132 Granting Approval to Brookstone at Casola Farm, Project #706
- 20-133 Authorizing WMUA and Manalapan Township to enter into a shared Services Agreement
- 20-134 Authorizing Pay to Play, Fair and Open Resolutions: Authority Professionals
- 20-135 Authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to Prepare Plans and Specifications, Advertise and Receive Bids for the Receipt of Services Specified in this Resolution

Chairman Pernice asked if there was any discussion on the Consent Agenda for Resolution 20-128 through 20-135. There was none. Commissioner Mendez moved seconded by Commissioner Rosen. The vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Pernice asked if there were any questions on the bill list. Commissioner Rosen moved the bill list, seconded by Commissioner Mendez, all present voted aye.

Chairman Pernice confirmed that all the Resolutions were moved, as well as the Consent Agenda and the Bill List. He stated he will discuss Other Authority Business. Gerry Stankiewicz asked to confirm the next meeting. Chairman Pernice stated that we will keep the meeting for December 15th at 11am via zoom. Mr. Valentino stated that is normally our Employee Recognition Luncheon. Commissioner Rosen asked if we can do anything for our employees. Mr. Valentino stated when this is all over we will have a survivors party and have an employee BBQ. Chairman Pernice stated that he hopes everyone gets better. This has been a very peculiar year and he is sending prayers to all!

At 7:26pm Chairman Pernice asked for a motion to go into closed Session.

Resolution 20-136 Authorizing the Commissioners to go into closed Session for the purpose of Discussing Negotiations and Litigation and they will not return to Public Session

Commissioner Mendez moved, seconded by Commissioner Rosen. All present voted aye.

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