



**MPWC**

**MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION**

6751 Westfield Avenue • Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
Ph: 856.663.0043 • Fx: 856.486.7417 • www.mpwc.com

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo  
President

Mr. Patrick Brennan  
Vice President

Mr. George Piperno  
Secretary

Mr. G. Burton German  
Treasurer

Mr. Ronald Johnson  
Ass't Secretary/Treasurer

**Minutes of the MPWC Monthly Business Meeting  
April 14, 2016**

**ATTENDEES**

**Commissioners:**

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President  
Mr. Patrick Brennan, Vice President  
Mr. G. Burton German, Treasurer  
Mr. George Piperno, Secretary  
Mr. Ronald Johnson, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**Other Attendees:**

Michael A. Saraceni, C.O.O.  
Craig Campbell, Superintendent  
Richard Spafford, P.E.  
Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel  
Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director

The President called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

All Commissioners were present.

Salute to the Flag; the Open Public Meetings Act Compliance Statement was read.

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

**Longwood Avenue Main Replacement-Bids Received**

Rich Spafford reported on the bid results. The initially apparent low bid by Kline Construction contained a calculation error and violated a specification, and was therefore non-responsive. Mr. Spafford recommends award by the , South State which was the lowest responsive bid.

**2017 Main Replacement Project-RFQs Received**

Rich Spafford reported on the bid results. Mr. German suggested that the conversation be tabled until later in the meeting.

**Marion Avenue Antenna-Bid Received**

Mr. McConnell reported on the bid results and recommends award to the sole bidder (Verizon) and requests that the Commission authorize the C.O.O. to execute the lease.

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-Emblem Contest Submissions**

Brandy Eisenmann reported that she received 5 submissions for Commission review. The Commission confirmed that all participants would receive participation awards.

**Personnel Matters**

Mr. Saraceni reported on an employee resignation, as well as another employee's intent to retire, and seeks Commission approval to replace the resigning employee. The Commissioners instructed the C.O.O. to recruit for both positions. Mr. German reported that the Salary Committee will meet with staff in the coming weeks and they intend to submit report/recommendations to the Commissioners at the next meeting.



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### Water Quality-Testing Concerns

Commissioners discussed a letter to Mr. Scavuzzo from Pennsauken Public Schools. The letter requested direction and assistance from the MPWC with regard to water quality testing in the schools. The Commissioners agreed to respond by suggesting to secure the cost benefits for any schools who wished to participate of the MPWC's contracted price per test performed. This would drastically reduce the costs incurred by the schools. In addition, the MPWC will, if requested, provide recommendations for the testing protocol. The Commission instructed staff to prepare specific instructions to the schools for collecting samples and test results. All schools in the service area will be contacted and offered the same consideration should they be interested in utilizing any portion of the offered assistance.

### Executive Session

Executive session discussions were postponed until later in the meeting.

### Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes of the Business meeting and Executive sessions of March 10, 2016. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

### Payment of the Bills

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to approve payment of the bills dated April 14, 2016, with the exception of a bill for Pennsauken Township. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to approve payment of a bill for Pennsauken Township dated April 14, 2016. **A unanimous roll call vote, except Mr. Scavuzzo abstained.**

### Correspondence

John J. Deserable, Pennsauken BOE to President Scavuzzo

### Staff Reports

Mr. Saraceni reminded the Commissioners that Arbor Day was quickly approaching and that staff is in the process of making the necessary arrangements. Commissioners will be notified of the time and locations.

Mr. McConnell reported on his research regarding a possible water donation to Flint, Michigan. Unfortunately, the Commission agreed it will not be feasible. Mr. McConnell also reported on the receipt of three (3) condemnation notices for properties in Merchantville Borough. A discussion ensued and General Counsel was directed to coordinate MPWC concerns expressed with the Borough Solicitor.

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Ass't Secretary/Treasurer**Old Business**

- Mr. Saraceni reminded the Commissions of the due date for submission of Financial Disclosure Statements as well as the upcoming EPL Training.
- Mr. Saraceni reported that the closing on the former Pennsauken Mart property has taken place and that the MPWC is awaiting the signed agreement from KMS Development.

**Award Longwood Avenue Main Replacement Project**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to award the Longwood Avenue Main Replacement Project to South State and to reject all others, including Kline Construction, who was deemed non-responsive. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Award Marion Avenue Tank Antenna Bid**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Johnson to award the bid for an antenna on the Marion Avenue Tank to Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**New Services**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Brennan to approve a new 1.5" domestic service at 469 Third Avenue and also two (2) new 2" domestic services at 900-912 Haddonfield Road. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Condemnation Notices-Borough Redevelopment Properties**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to authorize the C.O.O. to take any action deemed by him to be reasonable including assigning the collection or the actual claim to Merchantville Borough for properties at 29 Volan Street, 309 Plymouth Place and 19 West Chestnut Avenue. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Water Quality Testing for School Districts**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Johnson to offer a program to school districts and private schools in the service area to provide access to the MPWC's contract for independent lab at the contracted cost to conduct water quality testing, with the cost to be incurred by the school/district and for test results to also be sent to the MPWC for review by water quality professionals. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Infrastructure Design Project-RFOs Received-Discussion**

Rich Spafford reported again on the Proposal results and offered more detail on how he prepared the RFP package and indicated that 3 of 4 Commission qualified consulting engineers responded with competitive proposals. Mr. Spafford reported that he called the lowest bidder to confirm the basis of the proposal as it was low by comparison and he wanted clarification. He advised the Commissioners that he agreed and was comfortable with the explanation offered by that firm.

Mr. Brennan advised that although he could not participate fully, he felt compelled to advise the other Commissioners of his reluctance regarding the low bidder and the Commission's previous change orders when they were assigned engineers on the Park Avenue plant. Mr. German discussed the MPWC's previous experience with the firm with the lowest quote and voiced dissatisfaction and stated that he would not be comfortable contracting with them simply because they would provide the service for the lowest cost. He further requested that past experience with the firm be considered by all Commissioners.

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Mr. Brennan also indicated that he has not been impressed by the MPWC's past interaction and performance by the firm submitting the lowest quote, citing extensive redesign and change orders throughout the course of a previous projects.,

Mr. Johnson offered that he has had many years of good experience with the firm submitting the lowest while serving on the Pennsauken Planning Board, and that he has a similar discomfort with the firm submitting the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest quote and would be less than comfortable passing by the low quote in favor of the other firm. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Spafford to clarify which aspects of the project could, if any, be handled in-house by the MPWC. Mr. Spafford indicated that he could not survey, but could design and would be capable of inspecting. He also indicated that the design portion, though simplistic, would be time prohibitive for him since it is almost all CAD work. Mr. Johnson stated that he was not comfortable by-passing the lowest quote.

Mr. Scavuzzo initiated a discussion regarding Mr. Spafford's ability to do portions of the project in-house and to oversee the project, including all inspections, if the Commission should choose to award to the low bidder. Mr. Spafford agreed that he could easily oversee the project and handle the contract administrations and inspections if the projects were done on a multi-year capital plan schedule. Mr. Scavuzzo acknowledged that Commissioners had unsatisfactory interactions with both firms – the lowest and the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest quote - and questioned staff and Commissioners on any past interactions we've had with the third firm. All parties responded that the known engineers had left that firm and no one is familiar with the current staff, so there couldn't currently be a fair assessment of expectations of that firm.

It was suggested by the Commission that since it was not clear that the sections of the work might not all be awarded that it was safest that all quotes are rejected at this time. Mr. Spafford was instructed to review the RFP for any sort of language that may have caused such drastic differences in cost. Mr. Spafford would like to reach out all firms in an effort to gain some insight into how they approached the project. He will revise the package to include redefining the specifications and to clarify that the inspections portion would exist as an option that may or may not be awarded with the survey and design portions.

**Executive Session-Litigation**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to move to Executive Session for litigation discussions at 6:58 with the intention to return to public session. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Minutes of the Executive Session are to be kept confidential until 6 months after the conclusion of all deadlines to appeal.

The Commissioners came to order in public session at 7:05 PM.

**Settlement on Cherry Hill Tank Painting Claim**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to accept the settlement offered regarding the litigation and to authorize the C.O .O. to execute the settlement documents so as to accept a settlement in the aggregate of \$205,000.00. **A unanimous roll call vote.**



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**RFP for Infrastructure Design Projects**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to reject all RFPs submitted for the 2017 Main Replacement Project and directed staff to further define/clarify the request and resubmit for new RFPs for all firms. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Commissioners Reports**

Mr. Johnson reported that he has been working on assessing the MPWC vulnerability assessment and will be providing a progress report at the next commission meeting.

Mr. Piperno expressed his concerns over the recent and intense focus on the issue of lead in drinking water. Staff reported on our compliance with all current state guidelines with regard to lead testing throughout our service area. The Superintendent is confident the source water is not a problem and that any instances of lead exposure in drinking water are coming from private plumbing beyond the MPWC's distribution system. The MPWC is continuing its assessment of the system and has identified only a possible 6 services that may have lead laterals, however, it is important to state that of those 6 identified, they may have already been replaced and the records may be outdated. Several options were discussed and it was agreed that with the information they have now, the responsibility for any plumbing/water services on the customer's property will remain the customer's responsibility until additional information becomes available

Mr. German indicated that the Salary Committee would be meeting over the next couple of weeks and would be reporting at the next Commission meeting. Mr. German also proposed moving the time of the meeting to 4:00 PM when the next Commission schedule is produced at the upcoming Reorganization Meeting in July. Staff was directed to prepare a draft of the 2016-2017 meeting schedule for the re-organization meeting which includes any specific or different times. (Scheduled Public interfaces, December meeting, etc.)

Mr. Scavuzzo reported that he had an opportunity to attend the recent PMAC luncheon, where the C.O.O. and Treatment Technician, Sean Fitzgerald delivered a presentation on the value of the MPWC to the residential and business communities. Mr. Scavuzzo noted that the presentation was very well received and that both Mr. Saraceni and Mr. Fitzgerald did a fantastic job in their delivery of the presentation.

**Adjournment**

A motion by Mr. German and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Johnson to adjourn at 8:07 PM. **A unanimous roll call vote.**