

# MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

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

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo President Mr. Shakir Ali Vice President Mr. Frank Warwick Secretary/Asst Treasurer

Mr. Patrick Brennan Treasurer Mr. Anthony Perno Ass't Secretary

# Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting August 11, 2022 ATTENDEES

## **Commissioners:**

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President Mr. Frank Warwick, Secretary/Asst Treasurer Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer Mr. Anthony Perno, Asst Secretary

## **Other Attendees:**

Jack Killion, C.O.O.
Richard Spafford, P.E., Director of Engineering
Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel
Angela Waldron, Asst Finance Director
Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director

Mr. Scavuzzo called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

The Roll Call of Commissioners reflected: All Commissioners were present.

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

#### **ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

## **BAN Loan**

It is the recommendation of the Treasurer to pay down \$250K and to roll over the remaining balance.

#### **Budget Planning**

A budget planning meeting will take place next week following the audit exit conference. Staff presented pay scale adjustments for consideration.

#### **Antenna Leases**

Park Ave lease documents are ready for signature. Staff is still waiting on the paperwork for the T-Mobile National Highway agreement and Mr. McConnell sought approval for his recommendation to increase the new Verizon location Park Ave. minimum bid to \$37K and to increase the initial term escalator to 2.5%

## **Employee Manual Policy 1010 – Protection & Safe Treatment of Minors**

Staff presented a new policy for commission review and approval.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ali to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2022. **A unanimous roll call vote.** 

#### Payment of the Bills

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Warwick to approve payment of the bill to in the amount of \$797,686.77 and payment of the P-Card for \$986.34. **A unanimous roll call vote.** 

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Warwick to approve payment to Pennsauken Township for \$104,664.27. A roll call vote of all present, Mr. Ali and Mr. Scavuzzo recused themselves.



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A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ali to approve payment to Merchantville Borough for \$13,707.44. **A unanimous roll call vote.** 

### **Staff Reports**

The Customer Service Director reported that the MPWC finally received requests for open balances from the State on the first batch of LIHWAP applications and anticipate that payments will begin to arrive in the near future.

The Engineering Director reported that all plants are back up and running after issues with a lightning strike the previous evening. Mr. Brennan asked Mr. Spafford his assessment on how the transition is going in Collingswood. Mr. Spafford reported that the designated employees are slow to learn what will be necessary to run the plants once the agreed upon date to decrease MPWC presence arrives. Mr. Spafford said that he is addressing it with the appropriate parties.

Mr. McConnell requested the Commissioner increase the minimum bid for the Verizon antennae space at Park Ave. even above his report recommendation to \$37K with an escalator of 2.5% for 1<sup>st</sup> term; 3.0%/yr. for 1st option term; and 3.5% for 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

Mr. McConnell also informed the Commissioners that contractor storing pipe at our Park Ave. plant has requested an extension to September 30, 2022 and has prepared the agreement extension for Mr. Killion's signature.

### **New Business**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Perno to 1) revise the hourly pay scale as proposed by staff and 2) to offer health coverage to new hires as early as allowable by the insurance provider, and additionally to adjust any currently affected employees to revised rates. A unanimous roll call vote.

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ali to adopt MPWC Policy 1010 – Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors. A unanimous roll call vote.

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Warwick approve new services at 640 & 642 Woodland Avenue, Cherry Hill. **A unanimous roll call vote.** 

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Warwick to set minimum bid for new antennae license and use agreement at Park Ave Water Tank currently held by Verizon at 37K initial year of 10 yr. term with annual 2.5 escalator; and 3 subsequent 5-year vendor options with escalators of 3.0%/yr. for 1st option term; and 3.5% for 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> term. **A unanimous roll call vote.** 

#### **Project Status Table**

The Woodbine Avenue Plant project can officially be removed from the table. The Commissioners Strategic Planning session will become a higher priority. Mr. Brennan suggested that staff reach out to the individual that led the discussions last time the Commissioners met in this forum. Mr. Brennan also indicated that he'd suggest including additional members of the management team in the session. Staff will reach out to secure a commitment from a moderator and then a date will be selected.



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### **Commissioner Reports**

Mr. Brennan thanked Commissioners and Staff for the dedication of the Woodbine Avenue plant and expressed that it was an incredible honor. Mr. Scavuzzo responded that it was well-deserved and an honor to be a part of such a special dedication ceremony. Mr. Scavuzzo also discussed upcoming CCMUA project that will separate combined sewer and stormwater into new lines in anticipation of Infrastructure Trust Funding. Mr. Brennan reminded everyone that the Governor has issued a drought advisory and despite not being a rule of order, be aware that we could potentially be headed in that direction.

## **Adjournment**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to adjourn at 4:54 PM received a unanimous voice vote.

## **Submitted By:**

Brandy Eisenmann Jack Killion Karl McConnell