

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo
PresidentMr. Shakir Ali
Vice PresidentMr. Frank Warwick
SecretaryMr. Patrick Brennan
TreasurerMr. Anthony Perno
Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer**Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting
November 10, 2022****ATTENDEES****Commissioners:**

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

Other Attendees:

Jack Killion, C.O.O.
Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel
James Garaguso, Distribution Superintendent
Angela Waldron, Asst Finance Director
Colleen O'Brien, Customer Support Supervisor

Mr. Scavuzzo called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

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

Annual Maintenance Contracts – Permission to Bid

The Commission authorized Staff to go to bid for any annual maintenance contracts due for renewal.

BAN Closing on November 21, 2022

Mr. Scavuzzo advised all proffered documents had been approved and handled appropriately for refinancing the Woodbine Avenue Plant Upgrade Note.

Salary Committee – Recommendations & Approval for Salaried Employees and COLA

It was agreed upon that the Salary Committee would meet on Monday November 14, 2022, at 2:00 pm.

Proposed Holiday Schedule for 2023

It was stated that there were no issues with the proposed holidays for next year.

Healthcare Benefits – 2023 Employee Contributions

Mr. Perno was advised of the recent history of the rates and percentages that the employees are required by the Commission to contribute towards the Healthcare Benefits.

Annual Employee Recognition & Holiday Breakfast

This will take place at Pennsauken Country Club on December 8, 2022, at 8:00 am.

December Meeting, Connection & Rate Hearing

The December Commission Meeting will take place on December 8, 2022, at 9:30 am, following the Annual Employee Recognition & Holiday Breakfast. Mr. Ali stated that he would be absent as he would be out of state at that time.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve the Business Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of October 13, 2022. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo
PresidentMr. Shakir Ali
Vice PresidentMr. Frank Warwick
SecretaryMr. Patrick Brennan
TreasurerMr. Anthony Perno
Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer**Payment of the Bills**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve payment of the bills dated October 13, 2022, in the amount of \$466,354.44 and the P-Card in the amount of \$1,207.45. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve payment of the bills for Pennsauken Township in the amount of \$140,934.32. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present; Mr. Ali and Mr. Scavuzzo abstained.**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve payment of the bills for Merchantville Borough in the amount of \$13,707.44. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Staff Reports

Mr. Killion informed the Commission that there is tree removal and tree trimming scheduled for the Westfield Avenue Office and Park Avenue Plant on November 26, 2022, which is part of a maintenance schedule planned for the trees on all MPWC properties.

Mr. Brennan commented that the pumpage numbers have been consistent. Discussion turned toward any new customers. Mr. Garaguso advised that unfortunately the Garden State Park developers allowed the DEP permit to expire for all the remaining residential areas and the MPWC cannot allow them to connect to our system without an active valid permit. They have been advised that they must restart the application process with the DEP for any unconnected/undeveloped areas.

Mr. McConnell reported that Mr. Miles requested a resolution regarding the public rate hearing and the proposed rates being advertised in the newspapers for the 2023 DCA budget auditor. Mr. McConnell advised that AT&T has requested to renegotiate the Woodbine Avenue lease and that they have effectively given timely notice to cancel their automatic renewals at the end of their 10-year contract in 2025. A discussion ensued and he was directed to wait until closer to the end of the contract to go out to bid on new terms for that license.

New Business

A motion by Mr. Perno and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Warwick and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve the Resolution setting the Budget and Rate Hearing to be advertised as proposed and take place on December 8, 2022. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Project Status

Mr. Scavuzzo asked about the timing of the Strategic Planning meeting. Mr. Killion advised that Senior Staff would start their portion and meet with Dillion Marcus by the end of November into the beginning of December, and then the Commissioner's portion will take place.

Mr. Brennan asked for an update regarding the National Highway Plant. The most recent steps and back and forth with NJDEP were described. MPWC is greatly frustrated by DEP's responses which appear to unnecessarily delay the process by only addressing one request at a time and ad seriatim. They appear to have no urgency or concern for time for moving forward to finish this project. Mr. Killion reported that the DEP has requested another single item of information each time a request is fulfilled.



MPWC

MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

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Commissioner Reports

Mr. Ali wished all a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving.

Mr. Brennan commented on the National Geographic article that was shared on the MPWC Facebook page and would like to see this information shared across more platforms than just social media outlets.

Mr. Scavuzzo echoed the same well wishes as Mr. Ali. Mr. Scavuzzo also commented on the electrical issue at the Woodbine Avenue Plant. Mr. Garaguso stated that he does not foresee that being an issue again, but it will be discussed to include fail safes for similar cases going forward.

Adjournment

A motion by Mr. Warwick and 2nd By Mr. Ali to adjourn at 5:02 PM. **Received a unanimous voice vote of all members present.**

Submitted By:

Colleen O'Brien
Jack Killion
Karl McConnell