**MPWC****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

George Piperno
Secretary

Mr. Patrick Brennan
Treasurer

Mr. Anthony Perno
Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer

Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting
October 12, 2023
ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President
Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer
Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President
Mr. George Piperno, Secretary

Other Attendees:

Mr. Jack Killion, C.O.O.
Mr. Richard F. Spafford, P.E., Engineering Director
Mr. Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel
Mr. James Garaguso, Distribution Superintendent
Mrs. Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director
Ms. Joyce Peirce, Finance Director
Mrs. Angela Waldon, Asst. Finance Director
Nicholas S. Colanzi, CPA, Bowman & Co.
Careen Sheehan, Stenographer

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

Roll call results: All Commissioners present, except Mr. Perno.

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

Annual Connection Fee & Rate Hearing

The President turned the meeting over to General Counsel McConnell to conduct the Public Hearing regarding the advertised *increases* to the Connection Fees and Water Rates. The court reporter swore in the witnesses Richard Spafford, Brandy Eisenmann, and Nick Colanzi. There were no members of the public present.

Staff presented recommendations of certain residential rate increases (Attached) , along with the connection fee adjustments based on statutory formula as calculated by Bowmans's report. (Attached). At the conclusion of the hearing the Commission accepted the testimony, exhibits as well as the exhibits from last year's hearing. There were no additional questions or comments from the Commissioners. Mr. Colanzi and Ms. Sheehan were excused. A verbatim transcript of the hearing will be created and on file.

2022 Audit Adoption

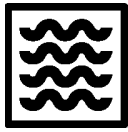
Staff recommended adoption of the 2022 Audit.

2024 Budget Approval

Staff recommended adoption of the 2024 Budget.

I-Bank Application for Browning Road Plant Project

Mr. Spafford recommended beginning the application process because it can take as much as a year to complete. Mr. Spafford expects the cost to be similar to the cost to construct the National Highway Plant.

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Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer**Service Line Replacement Surcharge Discussion**

There was a discussion regarding the approximate cost to replace the lead and galvanized services. Mr. Spafford indicated that we do not have a concrete number as of this date since we are still working toward identifying the remaining unknown services on the customer side. Mr. Brennan asked about the status of state funding and Mr. Spafford explained that the state is only funding extremely low-income areas and that would not include our customer base.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve the Business Meeting Minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Approval of the Bills

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve payment of bills dated October 12, 2023 in the amount of \$729,439.39, and for the P-card in the amount of \$3,793.74 and also for ACH wire transfer for the BAN payoff, dated November 2, 2023 in the amount of \$1,819,282.01. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Staff Reports

Mr. Brennan commented on the increase in allocation over the last month despite a rainy September. It was noted that the allocation from the Merchantville Country Club would be reincorporated when their new well comes online.

Mr. Spafford provided an update on the status of the Rt. 70 main replacement project. There is little to report at this time because the contact has been on vacation. Mr. Spafford will report additional details as they become available.

Mrs. Waldron informed the Commissioners of a recent meeting with Conner Strong Buckelew regarding the switch back to the state plan for disability coverage, as well as to review alternative HRA providers for the coming year.

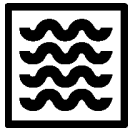
New Business

A motion by Mr. Ali and 2nd by Mr. Piperno to approve the proposed revised connection fees effective December 31, 2023 and the new General rates and fees effective January 1, 2024 by Resolution. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Ali and 2nd by Mr. Brennan to approve the 2022 Audit Report by Resolution. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Ali and 2nd by Mr. Brennan to approve the 2024 Budget by Resolution. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to begin the I-Bank application process to fund the construction of a new Browning Road Treatment Plant. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

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Project Status Table

Mr. Brennan inquired as to the status of the Strategic Plan coming from the DillonMarcus sessions, noting that the project has now been open and in progress for two years. A discussion ensued and staff indicated that DillonMarcus just recently provided a “Playbook” of topics for review by staff. Mrs. Waldron indicated that she would collect comments from department heads and then forward the document to the Commissioners for review and comment. Mr. Killion also informed the Commissioners that department heads would be addressing the strategic plan as an agenda item in at least one staff meeting per month.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Scavuzzo noted that he appreciated that staff provided the flushing schedule to Twp. Public Works Dept. Also, Mr. Scavuzzo indicated the per the MPWC’s shared services agreement for paving, the MPWC would be receiving an invoice related to the paving of holes for last past summer’s main replacement project.

Adjournment

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Piperno to adjourn at 5:13 PM. **A unanimous voice vote of all present.**

Submitted By:

Brandy Eisenmann
Karl McConnell
Jack Killion