

**MPWC**

**MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION**

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

Joseph C. Scavuzzo  
President

George R. Piperno  
Vice-President

Patrick Brennan  
Treasurer

Edward F. Brennan  
Secretary

Shakir Ali  
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**Minutes of the MPWC Monthly Business Meeting  
February 11, 2021**

**ATTENDEES**

**Commissioners:**

Mr. Joseph C. Scavuzzo, President  
Mr. George R. Piperno, Vice President  
Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer  
Mr. Edward Brennan, Secretary  
Mr. Shakir Ali, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**Other Attendees:**

Michael A. Saraceni, C.O.O.  
Richard Spafford, P.E., Director of Engineering  
Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel  
Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director  
Carol Feriozzi, Personnel Administrator

The President called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in a Zoom video conference.

There was a roll call of Commissioners; Participants choosing to identify themselves were noted on record. After the Salute to the Flag, the Open Public Meetings Act Compliance Statement was read.

**Oath of Office – Shakir Ali**

General Counsel administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shakir Ali in person at the G. Burton German Meeting Room in the presence of Mr. Scavuzzo and Mr. Spafford.

**Designation of Commission Officers:**

Upon nomination and vote of the Commissioners, the following reorganization occurred:

Mr. Ted Brennan- Secretary

Mr. Shakir Ali- Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer

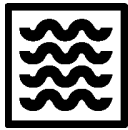
All other Commissioners remained in their current positions

**Retiree Benefits – Commission Authorization – F. Benzenhafer – Resolution**

Mr. Saraceni stated that staff is now requesting that Commissioners authorize a resolution anytime an employee retires and is qualified for lifetime benefits without premium contribution such as Frank Benzenhafer. This will become a matter of record.

**Replacement vehicles – authorization to purchase – State Contract – Resolution**

Mr. Spafford explained that he budgeted \$160,000 for the purchase of new vehicles in 2021. He continued that the price of buyout of the Dodge Rams is \$17,350.00 for each of the 5 trucks and purchasing new trucks would cost over \$30,000.00 for each. He said our current fleet is still in good shape and requested that the Commissioners authorize the buyouts for the Rams, which would leave enough money in the budget to purchase a new F250. A discussion ensued. The Commissioners agreed to the buyout of the trucks and the purchase of the new F250.



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**Authorization to advertise for bid - painting of Marion Avenue Elevated Water Tank**

Mr. Spafford reported that the specifications for the painting of the Marion Ave. water tank have been completed and he requested authorization to go to bid for the painting. He added that \$250,000 has been budgeted for the project. The Commissioners authorized to go to bid.

**Bond reduction for Edgewood Properties from \$92,400 to \$69,300 – Resolution**

Mr. Spafford informed the Commissioners that Edgewood Properties requested a reduction in the original Project Performance bond from \$92,400 to \$69,300. The remaining amount will be held until future project build-out is completed.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Pat Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to approve the Business Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of January 14, 2021. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**Payment of the Bills**

Mr. Pat Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ted Brennan to approve ACH- Loan payment of \$83,117.46, the bill list in the amount of \$284,483.67 and the P-Card payment of \$1,004.31 all dated February 11, 2021. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Mr. Pat Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to approve payment of bill for Pennsauken Township, dated February 11, 2021 in the amount of \$101,265.79. **Affirmative roll call vote, except Mr. Ali and Mr. Scavuzzo abstained.**

Mr. Pat Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to approve payment of bill to Merchantville Borough in the amount of \$ 13,262.36 and R&V in the amount of \$ 14,695.90 dated February 11, 2021. **Affirmative roll call vote, except Mr. Ted Brennan abstained.**

**Correspondence**

Edgewood Properties to Richard Spafford, PE – request for bond reduction

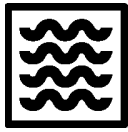
**Meeting Open to the Public:**

The President indicated that the meeting was open for public comment. There was no public in attendance either live or on virtual. The public portion was closed on a voice vote.

**Staff Reports**

Mr. Saraceni informed the Commissioners that MPWC photo Id's are currently being made and information updated All Commissioners reported that they had no changes needed Mr. Saraceni welcomed Mr. Ali to the MPWC, and invited him to get a picture ID

**Staff Reports continued**



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Mr. Pat Brennan noted that pumpage was down reflecting the decrease in industrial production and the general economy. He asked staff to monitor pumpage in the preparation of next year's budget and rate proposals.

Mr. Spafford concerns raised by the cyber-attack on the Tampa Bay Water Treatment system caused him to contact Complete Controls and our IT contractors. A discussion ensued regarding potential cyber security threats and Mr. Spafford said he will report his findings and actions at next month's meeting.

Mr. McConnell asked the Commissioners for separate resolutions regarding Approval of the Public-Private Main asset Management Agreement with Suez recommended by the staff and authorization to sign and a second Resolution authorizing the application to the State Agencies. The complete transcripts and exhibits had been presented and posted to the Commissioners information site since the hearing record was closed on January 22 without any submissions from the public.

**New Business:**

Mr. Ted Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ali to approve Public-Private Water Main Asset Management Agreement. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Mr. Piperno motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ted Brennan to authorize MPWC by Mr. Saraceni to apply to required State Agencies under the N.J. Public-Private Water Supply Contract Act for approval of that Agreement with Suez. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Mr. Piperno motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ali to approve Retiree Benefits for Frank Benzenhafer without contributions to premium by him as reflected in the resolution. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Mr. Piperno motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ted Brennan to approve authorization to purchase a new F250 truck and the buyouts for the 5 Dodge Rams. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

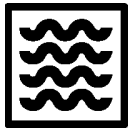
Mr. Ted Brennan motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Piperno to authorize the acceptance of a Performance Bond in the amount of \$69,300 or a reduction of the Performance Bond to that amount for Edgewood Properties. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

**New Services:**

Mr. Piperno motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ted Brennan to approve new services at 9625 River Road – 1" Commercial Service – 6" Main Extension (900') plus a new Hydrant

**Informational:**

- Public-Private Hearing Transcript including Exhibits #1-11
- Suez Agreement Proposed- Exhibit #12
- Summary of Issues Raised at Hearing
- Hearing Report To be Filed with Agencies



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### Commissioners Reports

All Commissioners welcomed Mr. Ali to the Commission.

Mr. Ted Brennan suggested staff to investigate the value of changing any portion of our fleet of vehicles to electric vehicles in the future as sound financially and ecologically.

Mr. Piperno invited Mr. Ali to tour the MPWC facilities to see that it is a very special organization that is well run.

Mr. Pat Brennan provided some background of the MPWC to Mr. Ali and invited him to reach out if he needs anything.

Mr. Scavuzzo said that he is very proud of the MPWC, the facilities and the professionalism.

Mr. Ali said thanked everyone for the opportunity to work for the MPWC and that he is very excited to do so.

The Commissioners commenced a discussion regarding their desired procedure for the search and selection of the Commission's retiring leader, Mr. Michael Saraceni. The Commissioners agreed that all candidates seeking the position of C.O.O. must commence their application by submission of a covering letter of intent with an accompanying complete resume. Only after review of these submissions will the Commissioners determine when, how and by whom will interviews be conducted and if there is need to advertise for the position. Mr. Saraceni was asked to circulate: 1) C.O.O. job description drafted and 2) the 2014 -approved Executive Development Criteria; and the 3) Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities (KSA's) of Executives which he will send to all Commissioners for their review. It was suggested by the Commissioners that all three of these should be shared with each applicant in advance of any scheduled interview. Mr. Scavuzzo and Mr. Pat Brennan together will discuss the applicants and then may schedule a Special Meeting to continue the discussion regarding the procedure to be followed.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Piperno and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Ted Brennan to adjourn at 5:07 PM. **A unanimous roll call vote.**

Prepared By:

Carol Feriozzi

Michael A. Saraceni