

**MPWC****MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION**6751 Westfield Avenue • Pennsauken, NJ 08110
Ph: 856.663.0043 • Fax: 856.486.7417 • www.mpwc.comMr. Joseph Scavuzzo
PresidentMr. Shakir Ali
Vice PresidentGeorge Piperno
SecretaryMr. Patrick Brennan
TreasurerMr. Anthony Perno
Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer**Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting****August 10, 2023****ATTENDEES****Commissioners:**

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President

Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President

Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer

Mr. George Piperno, Secretary

Mr. Anthony Perno, Assist Secretary/Treasurer

Other Attendees:

Jack Killion, C.O.O.

Richard Spafford, P.E., Director of Engineering

Karl N. McConnell, General Counsel

James Garaguso, Distribution Superintendent

Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director

Joyce Peirce, Finance Director

Jeannine Hershey

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

The Roll Call of Commissioners reflected: All Commissioners were present, except Mr. Perno.

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

Oath of Office – Pennsauken Township Appointment: Mr. George Piperno

A motion was made by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to nominate officers as follows,:

President: Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo

Vice President: Mr. Shakir Ali

Treasurer: Patrick J. Brennan

Secretary: Mr. George Piperno

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Anthony Perno

A unanimous roll call vote of all present, Mr. Perno was absent.

A motion was made by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve the Cash Management Plan changes as presented. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present, Mr. Perno was absent.**

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**Neptune Prop Study Discussion**

Mr. Spafford reported that Neptune has studied the service area to detect the uncovered neighborhoods that would benefit from additional antennas. Those two areas were identified as Delaware Gardens and Marion Avenue and it was recommended to place additional antennas. An antenna on the Marion Tank will address that particular area and can be ordered immediately while the other area in question will require some additional investigation to determine the best location.

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo
PresidentMr. Shakir Ali
Vice PresidentGeorge Piperno
SecretaryMr. Patrick Brennan
TreasurerMr. Anthony Perno
Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer**Route 70 Main Replacement Proposal**

Mr. Spafford reported that his discussions with the DOT revealed that they are looking for the MPWC to potentially invest half of the project costs to replace all of the MPWC's main along Rt. 70. Mr. Brennan asked about potentially relining Rt. 70 in the future and asked about a cost comparison. Mr. Spafford indicated that the currently occasional breaks along that stretch of highway are extremely expensive to repair, coming in at six figures each due to the emergency status, paving, traffic control, etc. Mr. Spafford noted that if the main replacement contract budget amount can be moved to this project, it would be a substantial cost savings to the MPWC if the DOT agrees to proceed for the amount the MPWC is willing to contribute. Mr. Spafford will report back next month.

Browning Road Temporary Pilot Study Progress

Mr. Spafford summarized the progress and noted that despite being over the limit for PFAS previously, the past month the numbers were back down below the current limit this month. Despite the progress on the project including that the permits were filed, lease to purchase on the units was bid, and concrete pads were poured for the units, the DEP came back and said they did not want to continue with a pilot study. Mr. Spafford requested a meeting with the head of the DEP to take place next week and will report back next month.

Collingswood Agreement / Contract

Mr. McConnell asked for a Resolution for the approval of the agreement.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve the revised Business Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2023 and to approve the Reorganization and Business mMeeting minutes of July 13, 2023. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Payment of the Bills

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve payment of bills for Pennsauken Township dated July 13, 2023, for \$9,881.98 and dated August 10, 2023 for \$96,887.60. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Piperno to approve payment of bills dated August 10, 2023, for \$1,348,119.49, bills for Merchantville Borough for \$12,688.96, for the legal account for \$11.00 and for the P-Card for \$229.24. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present; Mr. Ali and Mr. Scavuzzo abstained.**

Staff Reports

Mr. Killion reported that he has been in touch with Evan at DillonMarcus regarding the MPWC's plans and next steps. DillonMarcus would like to reach out to Mr. Brennan for some feedback and would potentially like to meet again with Commissioners and staff sometime in September or October. Mr. Killion noted that the staff sessions were overall successful and that DillonMarcus would like to discuss what works, doesn't work and what can be done differently moving forward. Mr. Killion noted that he inquired as to whether they had any recommendations for marketing firms. Mr. Brennan voiced his concerns over how long the process has been in motion versus the lack of deliverables in the way of an actual strategic plan.

Ms. Peirce noted that the audit exit conference is scheduled for August 16th at 2:30 PM.



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Old Business

A Resolution by Mr. Scavuzzo and 2nd by Mr. Perno to approve the Collingswood SAA Agreement. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

New Business

A motion by Mr. Scavuzzo and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve a new one inch domestic service at 8330 Holman Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Brennan inquired about the income qualifications for the MPWC's current senior citizen/disabled customer discounts. Staff indicated that the income qualifications have been the same for as long as any of the current staff can remember. Mr. McConnell indicated that the qualification are based on state statute. Mrs. Eisenmann noted that the MPWC qualifies applicants based on their qualification status for property tax discounts with the respective municipalities. The discussion continued and Mr. McConnell was asked to investigate raising the income qualification to \$25,000 from the current \$10,000. It was also noted that the MPWC does not currently income qualify applicants and the process of doing so should be considered in this research. Staff will report back finding next month.

Adjournment

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

Submitted By:

Brandy Eisenmann
Karl McConnell
Jack Killion