

MERCHANTVILLE-PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

6751 Westfield Avenue

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Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo President Mr. Shakir Ali Vice President Mr. Frank Warwick Secretary Mr. Patrick Brennan Treasurer Mr. Anthony Perno Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer

Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting April 11, 2024 ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

Mr. Joseph Scavuzzo, President Mr. Patrick Brennan, Treasurer Mr. Shakir Ali, Vice President Mr. Frank Warwick, Secretary

Other Attendees:

Mr. Jack Killion, C.O.O.
Mr. Richard F. Spafford, P.E., Engineering Director
Mr. James Garaguso, Distribution Superintendent
Mrs. Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director
Mrs. Joyce Peirce, Finance Director
Mrs. Angela Waldon, Asst. Finance Director
Mrs. Jeannine Hershey

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

A roll call of Commissioners reflected: All Commissioners present, except Mr. Perno.

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

Oath of Office – Pennsauken Township Appointment: Mr. Frank Warwick

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. Frank Warwick

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Anthony Perno

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

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

RFQ for Marketing & PR Services – Quotes Received

Mrs. Waldron informed the Commissioners that the MPWC received two quotes for marketing services. Staff would review the quotes in detail and report back next month.

Cherry Hill Tank -Interior Painting - Permission to Bid

Mr. Spafford reported that it has been 16 years since the Cherry Hill tank was last painted and requests Commission approval to bid the project.



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Marion Tank Painting Contracts - Prepared for Signature

Mr. Spafford provided the contracts for the Marion Avenue Tank Painting contract for Commission signature.

EPL Training for Commissioners

Staff reminded Commissioners to complete their annual training.

Summer Help Recruitment

Staff seeks Commission approval to hire seasonal employees.

Financial Disclosure Forms

Staff and Commissioners were reminded to complete their Financial Disclosure Forms by April 30, 2024.

<u>DillonMarcus – Strategic Plan Follow-up Meeting</u>

Mrs. Waldron summarized the most recent strategic planning meeting with Tara.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali to approve the minutes of the business meeting March 14, 2024. A unanimous roll call vote of all present, except Mr. Warwick who abstained.

Approval of the Bills

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve payment of bills dated April 11, 2024 in the amount of \$966,890.77, and for Merchantville Borough for \$2,000.00, and for the P-Card for \$4,695.46. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve payment of bills for Pennsauken Township dated April 11, 2024 in the amount of \$10,246.67. A roll call vote approval including Mr. Ali who invoked the Doctrine of Necessity, and except and Mr. Scavuzzo who abstained.

Staff Reports

Mr. Spafford informed the Commission that the EPA has officially released its PFAS rule. Utilities will have a 3 year testing window and 2 years to implement treatment so about a 5 year lead time. The MPWC is already ahead of the curve with addressing the treatment concerns with the new plants. Mr. Spafford discussed the plans for the construction of Browning Road's plant and noted that the cost estimate was bumped up from \$8.8M to \$9.3M. Mr. Brennan asked Mr. Spafford about progress at Collingswood and he reported the focus is on PFAS as they have been under the NJDEP limit but the new EPA limits need to be evaluated. Mr. Killion noted that the Commissioners should start to think about potential dedication plaque recipients for the National Highway Plant. Mr. Brennan asked about the Rt. 70 main replacement project. Mr. Spafford noted that the project scope has been finalized with the engineering firm. There is still no confirmation on the financing piece. And lastly, lead & copper testing is scheduled for this year.



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New Business

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to go out for bid to paint the interior of the Cherry Hill tank. A unanimous roll call vote of all present.

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali agreeing to NJEIT financing for the construction of the Browning Road Plant. A unanimous roll call vote of all present. Resolution 2024-06

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick for MPWC's intent to reimburse expenditures for the Browning Road plant construction project. A unanimous roll call vote of all present. Resolution 2024-07

New Service

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve a new 6" domestic and 6" fire service for 5605 N Crescent Blvd. A unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Project Status Table

Proposals received for the marketing initiative and the National Highway plant building is fully enclosed.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Warwick is happy to be back and looking forward to serving again on the Commission. Mr. Ali welcomes back Mr. Warwick, as does Mr. Brennan. Mr. Brennan noted that the MPWC is doing a lot of things right, ahead of the curve and scheduled to be fully complaint by the deadlines set by the EPA. Mr. Spafford noted that he was still waiting the results of the microplastics samples sent to California for testing. Mr. Brennan also inquired as to whether staff has had the opportunity to watch the Bloomburg video and how they intended to utilize it. Staff noted that it would be shown to staff in the next Employee Development sessions. Mr. Killion informed the Commission that he's been conducting employee interviews and getting really great feedback from all departments. Mr. Brennan asked about the career path and succession planning, specifically related to recruitment of an Engineer. Mr. Spafford noted that he would be preparing a job description for a recruitment initiative in the next couple of months. Mr. Scavuzzo welcomed Mr. Warwick back – "ice never fails".

Adjournment

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to adjourn at 4:53 PM. A unanimous voice vote of all present.

Submitted By:

Brandy Eisenmann Jack Killion