

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 Mr. Frank Warwick Secretary Mr. Patrick Brennan Treasurer Mr. Anthony Perno Ass't Secretary/ Treasurer

Minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting April 10, 2025 ATTENDEES

Commissioners:

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

Other Attendees:

Mr. Jack Killion, C.O.O.

Mr. Richard F. Spafford, P.E., Engineering Director
Mr. James Garaguso, Distribution Superintendent
Mr. Karl McConnell, General Counsel
Ms. Angela Waldon, Finance Director
Mrs. Jeannine Hershey, Asst. Finance Director
Mrs. Brandy Eisenmann, Customer Service Director
Ms. Raven Linton, Staff Engineer

Mr. Scavuzzo called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

A roll call of Commissioners reflected Mr. Perno was absent.

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

Bid Opening – Cherry Hill Tank Painting

Mr. Spafford noted that the MPWC received five bids for the project with the low bidder being Allie Painting.

Galvanized Service Line Project Discussion – Commercial Properties

Commissioners and staff engaged in a conversation as to the obligation of the Commission to replace galvanized service lines for commercial properties. It was agreed that the Commission does not have an obligation to cover the costs of replacements for these customers. The conversation turned to the MPWC's ability to enter properties for inspection purposes. Current regulations allow the MPWC to inspect inside meters annually so adjustments to the rules will not be necessary for the purposes of this project.

HomeServe USA Discussion

President Scavuzzo shared that an MPWC customer and resident of Pennsauken recently attended a Township meeting to vent frustrations at the way the HomeServe contractors determine repairs versus replacements. It was noted that there are other vendors now offering the same services and that there may not be a benefit to MPWC renew our contract with HomeServe when it expires. Staff will review the contracts and report back next month.

Salary Committee Meeting Date

Staff has requested a date to meet with the Salary Committee ahead of the May meeting. A date of April 24, 2025 was chosen.



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Summer Help

Staff requested to advertise for seasonal summer help.

EPL Training for Commissioners

Commissioners were reminded to complete their online training.

Financial Disclosure Forms

Commissioners and Senior Staff were reminded to complete their annual Financial Disclosure Forms.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve the minutes of the business meeting March 13, 2025. A unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Approval of the Bills

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Ali to approve payment of bills dated April 10, 2025 in the amount of \$511,840.97, and to approve payment of the P-card in the amount of \$398.00. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Meeting Open to the Public

The meeting was opened to the public at 4:31 PM. An attendee identified himself as Scott with Weinstein Supply. As a new approved vendor or the MPWC, he wanted to attend the meeting and familiarize himself with the MPWC.

Staff Reports

Superintendent

Mr. Brennan noted that there was a bump in usage recently. Mr. Garaguso acknowledged same but didn't have one specific thing to point to the increased usage for the month. There was a brief discussion regarding drought status, which has not yet been lifted for the state of New Jersey.

Engineer

Mr. Brennan noted that Collingswood has been campaigning their commitment to water system improvements.

New Services

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to approve a new 4" domestic and 6" fire service at 6757 Westfield Avenue. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**

Award Cherry Hill Tank Bid

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Warwick to award the Cherry Hill Tank Project to the Allied Painting for \$124,500.00. **A unanimous roll call vote of all present.**



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General Counsel Retirement

A motion by Mr. Brennan and 2nd by Mr. Ali accept official notification of retirement of Karl N. McConnell, effective June 30, 2025, and to approve retirement benefits by Resolution. A unanimous roll call vote of all present.

Project Status Table

Mr. Spafford informed the Commissioners that there are several modifications to the bid package for the Browning Road Plant Project and that the bid opening has been extended to April 23, 2025.

Commissioner Reports

Mr. Warwick congratulated Mr. McConnell on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Brennan walked through the bond closing timeline for National Highway and noted that the dry closing took place today, with the final closing anticipated to be June 2, 2025. The interest rate on the final loan will be set in May. Mr. Brennan reaffirmed that the documents must how that the total amount borrowed be \$6.9M. Mr. Spafford assured Mr. Brennan that he has been closely reviewing all documents and in constant contact with Bond Counsel. Mr. Scavuzzo informed the Commission that he recently participated in a Teams meeting with EPA officials regarding the testing sites and the plume field migration in the MPWC's service area. Mr. Scavuzzo has shared the MPWC's contact information with EPA officials as to connect the MPWC with them in an effort to field communications to customers as the project progresses.

Adjournment

A motion by Mr. Warwick and 2nd by Mr. Brennan to adjourn at 5:10 PM. A unanimous voice vote of all present.

Submitted By:

Brandy Eisenmann