

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
AUTHORITY**

PUBLIC MEETING: November 25, 2024

In accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Statutes regarding “Open Public Meetings”, notice of public meetings for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (with time and place of meeting) was legally advertised in the Courier Post and The South Jersey Times.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Matt Gorman at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room located at 152 Whitman Drive, Turnersville, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL: Present from the Board were Matt Gorman, Chairman; Dawn Passante, Secretary; Scott Behm, Member; Joseph Mesi, Member; and Robert Finnegan, Alternate Member. Also present were Elizabeth Rogale, Executive Director/CFO; Matt Walker, Assistant Superintendent; Dennis Yoder, Authority Engineer and John Carleton, Authority Solicitor. Harry Adams and Stephen Pakradooni were absent. Robert Finnegan would vote in place of Harry Adams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Scott Behm made a motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2024. Robert Finnegan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:

Scott Behm made a motion to approve the closed session minutes of October 28, 2024. Robert Finnegan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 119 APPROVING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE FORM A APPROVAL FOR PAUL CUCCINELLO AT 128 CHAPEL HEIGHTS ROAD TO OCTOBER 27, 2025 BASED ON THE ENGINEER’S REVIEW LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2024.** Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 120 APPROVING FINAL CONTRACT REDUCTION CHANGE ORDER FOR ABBINGTON SEWER REHABILITATION WHICH AMENDS THE CONTRACT FROM \$46,993.00 TO \$41,625.00 AS PER REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEER’S LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2024.** Robert Finnegan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 121 APPROVING FINAL CONTRACT REDUCTION CHANGE ORDER FOR WEDGWOOD SEWER REHABILITATION WHICH AMENDS THE CONTRACT FROM \$119,791.58**

TO \$119,738.30 AS PER REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEER'S LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2024. Robert Finnegan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 122 APPROVING THE FORM B-1 APPLICATION FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICES FOR 7BREW COFFEE AT 5200 ROUTE 42; BLOCK 196.01, LOT 1 BASED UPON THE ENGINEER'S REVIEW LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 19, 2024.** Robert Finnegan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Yoder informed the Board that the MUA was denied a TCO for the new office building. The Township is now requiring fire suppression in the basement. Options and pricing are being explored and will hopefully be available by week's end. A special meeting may be required in order to approve a change order for the project and all for work to commence as soon as possible.

Mr. Yoder also informed the Board the sewer rehabilitation on Long Bow Drive will commence the first week of December.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 123 APPROVING THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF A 4" SEWER LATERAL AT 1754 CONGRESS DRIVE IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,200.00.** Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 124 APPROVING THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF A 6" CI WATER MAIN AT 55 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,300.00.** Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Walker mentioned that he has been looking into various cooperative buying groups in hopes that the Authority could participate, which would allow for the purchase of some higher-priced items without having to follow the lengthy public bidding process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Rogale explained that the proposed budget included significant increases to some of the Authority's biggest expenses, including health benefits and GCUA. A discussion ensued regarding potential rate increases. The Board agreed that it would be prudent to increase rates and agreed to authorize the advertising of a public rate hearing at its next meeting.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 125 APPROVING THE 2025-2026 AUTHORITY BUDGET**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 126 TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 2026**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Ms. Rogale informed that Board that the Daniel R. Swiger Laundromat requested a payment plan for its connection fees. The Board decided not to extend a payment plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was decided that the Board will host a holiday party for MUA staff on December 19th at 2pm.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Dawn Passante moved **THE PAYROLL FUND RESOLUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$181,486.26**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Dawn Passante moved **THE OPERATING FUND RESOLUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,368,079.02**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Dawn Passante moved **THE ESCROW FUND RESOLUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,715.36**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Dawn Passante moved **THE GENERAL RESERVE FUND RESOLUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$486,284.95**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Dawn Passante moved **THE BONDING FUND RESOLUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,180.07**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

RECEIPT AND FILING OF THE MONTHLY BUDGET STATEMENTS: #25-9:

Robert Finnegan moved the **RECEIPT AND FILING OF THE MONTHLY BUDGET STATEMENTS #25-9**. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the board.

CLOSED SESSION:

Matt Gorman moved **RESOLUTION #2024 – 127 TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**. Dawn Passante seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Since there was no further business to come before the Authority at this time, Matt Gorman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Scott Behm and then unanimously approved by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted

Dawn Passante
Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded and prepared by Elizabeth Rogale