

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
AUTHORITY**

PUBLIC MEETING: February 3, 2025

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 the Executive Director/CFO, Elizabeth Rogale, at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room located at 152 Whitman Drive, Turnersville, New Jersey.

Jack Yerkes swore in Keith Ludwig as Board Member and Michael Good as Alternate Member.

ROLL CALL: Present from the Board were Dawn Passante, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Behm, Member; Joseph Mesi, Member; Keith Ludwig, Member; Michael Good, Alternate Member; Robert Finnegan, Alternate Member. Also present were Elizabeth Rogale, Executive Director/CFO; and Matt Walker, Assistant Superintendent. Robert Finnegan and Joseph Mesi participated via phone. Harry Adams was absent due to illness. Michael Good would vote in place of Harry Adams.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman:

Ms. Rogale requested nominations for the office of Chairman. Keith Ludwig nominated Scott Behm. Joseph Mesi seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board. The motion passed for Mr. Behm as Chairman.

Vice Chairman:

Mr. Behm opened nominations for Vice Chairman. Scott Behm nominated Joseph Mesi. Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board. The motion passed for Mr. Mesi as Vice Chairman.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mr. Behm opened nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Scott Behm nominated Keith Ludwig. Michael Good seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board. The motion passed for Mr. Ludwig as Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Behm opened nominations for the following:

BOND COUNSEL APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 001 TO APPOINT ARCHER AND GREINER AS AUTHORITY BOND COUNSEL**. Dawn Passante seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

ENGINEER APPOINTMENT: Joseph Mesi moved **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 002 TO APPOINT ALAIMO GROUP AS AUTHORITY ENGINEER.** Scott Behm seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

David Skibicki of Alaimo Group was invited to take his seat at the Board table.

CONFLICT ENGINEER: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 003 TO APPOINT ROBERTS ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC AS AUTHORITY CONFLICT ENGINEER.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 004 TO APPOINT PHOENIX ADVISORS, LLC AS AUTHORITY FINANCIAL ADVISOR.** Dawn Passante seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

RISK MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 005 TO APPOINT THE BARCLAY GROUP AS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Rogale informed Mr. Behm that he had skipped the appointment for the Licensed Operator. Mr. Behm stated that he was going to come back to it.

SOLICITOR APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 006 TO APPOINT DASTI, MCGUCKIN, MCNICHOLS, CONNORS, ANTHONY & BUCKLEY AS AUTHORITY SOLICITOR.** Joseph Mesi seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Marty Buckley of Dasti, McGuckin, McNichols, Connors, Anthony & Buckley was invited to take his seat at the Board table.

CONFLICT SOLICITOR APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 007 TO APPOINT HOLSTON LAW AS CONFLICT SOLICITOR.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

At this time, Mr. Behm stated that only one RFP submission was received for the Licensed Operator and that he believed the Engineer could do that too. Mr. Behm asked Ms. Rogale if there was an opportunity to go back out to bid or ask the new Engineer if they could do that, too. Ms. Rogale referred the question to Mr. Buckley, the Authority's new Solicitor. Mr. Buckley stated that the Board could deny the bid received and go out for new bids. In the interim, the Board could check to see if the new Engineer could do double duty but depending on if they factored that into their RFP, they may have to submit for it anyway. Mr. Buckley stated, "My suggestion would be, if you're not inclined to appoint the one person who applied, then you would deny that." Mr. Behm mentioned a conversation at the last meeting about going back out to bid for other things and referenced the fact that the bids become public record. He mentioned that a new

bidder or anybody can OPRA the submission and then utilize those rates or undercut those rates. Mr. Behm asked Mr. Buckley if the Authority could redact that type of information in a submission. Mr. Buckley suggested checking with OPRA Counsel, but he believed the Authority would not be able to do that. Ms. Rogale added that the appointed Engineer requested the RFP, but did not submit for it. Mr. Behm asked if that was an oversight on their part. Mr. Skibicki responded that it was an oversight. Mr. Behm requested Ms. Rogale's experience. She told Mr. Behm that she was not comfortable as it was more of a legal issue. She stated that her opinion was that the Board should appoint the firm that submitted as they were qualified, their submission was complete, and it had been reviewed by the Solicitor. She said she would take the least risky option. Mr. Behm then asked Mr. Buckley if he felt the MUA would be at risk if it were to go back to the RFP process and ask for a resubmission. Mr. Buckley stated that if the Board didn't have a valid reason to deny the bid, and the rates were in line with what the Authority normally pays, and the firm that submitted was otherwise qualified to do the job, then unfortunately, "we are left with them." Mr. Buckley further stated that if the Board were to deny the bid without a valid reason to do so, the submitter could challenge the rebid. Mr. Behm thanked Mr. Buckley and stated, "With that said, I am going to put forth WRM as our Licensed Operator."

LICENSED OPERATOR APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 - 008 TO APPOINT WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS LICENSED OPERATOR.** Dawn Passante seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

TRUST BANK APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 009 TO CONTINUE WITH TD BANK AS THE APPOINTED AUTHORITY TRUST BANK.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 010 TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN.** Dawn Passante seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

DEPOSITORY BANK APPOINTMENT: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 011 TO APPOINT FULTON BANK/TD BANK AS THE AUTHORITY DEPOSITORY BANKS.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER DESIGNATION: Scott Behm moved **RESOLUTION # 2025 – 012 TO APPOINT THE COURIER POST AND THE SOUTH JERSEY TIMES AS THE OFFICIAL AUTHORITY NEWSPAPERS.** Keith Ludwig seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS:

Keith Ludwig moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 013 APPOINTING ELIZABETH ROGALE TO SERVE AS THE PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE**

OFFICER (PACO) FOR 2025-2026. Dawn Passante seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Keith Ludwig moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 014 APPOINTING ELIZABETH ROGALE TO SIGN PERMIT APPLICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE MUA FOR 2025-2026.** Joseph Mesi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Keith Ludwig moved **RESOLUTION #2025 – 015 APPOINTING SCOTT BEHM, JOSEPH MESI, KEITH LUDWIG, ELIZABETH ROGALE AND MATT WALKER AS AUTHORIZED SIGNERS OF THE AUTHORITY'S DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS AT FULTON BANK.** Dawn Passante seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Board opened the meeting for public participation. Councilman Jack Yerkes congratulated the elected officers and welcomed the new engineer and attorney to the WTMUA.

ADJOURNMENT:

Since there was no further business to come before the Authority at this time, Keith Ludwig made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dawn Passante and then unanimously approved by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted

Keith Ludwig
Secretary/Treasurer

Recorded and prepared by Jennifer Rotella