

## MINUTES of the Lower Township MUA

Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

**Call to order:** A meeting of the Lower Township MUA, was held at 2900 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ, 08251. The meeting convened at 5:00pm.

### ROLL CALL OF THE MEMBERS

James P. Ridgway	Present
Bryan Steere	Present
Karen Rechner	Present
Jacqueline Henderson	Present
Stephen Prince	Present

### STAFF / PROFESSIONALS

Steven A. Morris, Esq., The Morris Law Firm, MUA Solicitor
Ronald N. Curcio, PE, Polistina & Associates, MUA Engineer
Stephen Testa, RHT & K, MUA Financial Consultant
Stephen Blankenship, Executive Director
Melissa Jasinski, Board Secretary

- Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Sunshine Law
- Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
- Comments or Questions from the Public on Agenda Items

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes: March 4, 2026 Regular Minutes
2. Approval of Bills
  - a. **Resolution No. 52-2026 \$49,938.57** Operating Account (Authorizes payment of operating expenses up to \$50,000)
  - b. **Resolution No. 53-2026 \$746,758.70** Excess operating account (Authorizes payment of operating expenses in excess of \$50,000)
3. **Resolution No. 54-2026** Authorizing Transfer from the Sturdy Capital Improvement Fund Account to Sturdy Operating Account. For Payment of **Sewer** Capital items in the amount of **\$797,745.39**.
4. **Resolution No. 55-2026** Authorizing Transfer from the Sturdy Capital Improvement Fund Account to Sturdy Operating Account. For Payment of **Water** Capital items in the amount of **\$708,973.88**.
5. **Resolution No. 56-2026** – Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Fund and Designating Net Position
6. **Resolution No. 57-2026** Customer Change Resolution Approving Reductions to Accounts  
*Motion was made by Mrs. Rechner for the approval of the Business Consent Agenda and seconded by Mr. Steere.*  
*Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye*  
*The Chair asked the public if there were any questions on the Regular Agenda: There were none.*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

7. **Resolution No. 58-2026 – Authorizing the Purchase of a Crane Truck Through the Sourcewell**  
The Authority intends to award a contract for the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford Super Duty F-550 with a Hydraulic Crane Body Sourcewell Contract # 081325-NAF in the amount of \$205,576.98.

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*Motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Rechner for Resolution No. 58-2026 Authorizing the Purchase of a Crane Truck Through the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperation in an amount not to exceed \$205,576.98.*

*Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye*

**8. Resolution No. 59-2026 – Authorizing the Purchase of Sewer Pumps Through the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System**

The Authority intends to award a contract for the purchase of two (2) Sulzer/ABS XFP150G-CB1 PE3 wet/dry pit submersible pumps, along with necessary hardware and appurtenances from Reiner Pump Systems through the NJWCPS in the amount of \$83,230.00.

*Motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Rechner for Resolution No. 59-2026 Authorizing the Purchase of Sewer Pump Through the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System in an amount not to exceed \$83,230.00.*

*Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye*

**9. Resolution No. 60-2026 – Authorizing an Amendment to Polistina & Associates Contract for the 2024-2025 Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project**

In a letter dated February 23, 2026, Polistina & Associates requested that the 2024-2025 Sewage Pump Station Rehabilitation Project contract price be amended by decoupling the IBank Pump Stations (WWTP Headworks, Route 9 and Racetrack) from the contract and adding construction management services for the Diamond Beach and Poplarwood Pump Stations. The amendment would decrease the contract by \$82,012.63 and then increase it by \$55,800.00 for the construction management services, which would result in an amended contract amount of \$228,387.37

*Motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Rechner for Resolution No. 60-2026 Authorizing an Amendment to Polistina & Associates Contract for the 2024-2025 Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project in a decreased amount of (\$82,012.63) and an increased amount of \$55,800.00, which will result in an amended contract amount of \$228,387.37.*

*Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye*

**10. Resolution No. 61-2026 - Approving a Contract with Polistina & Associates for Construction Management Services for the 2024-2025 Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project's Pump Stations to be Financed Via the IBank**

After submitting a breakdown of the proposed costs to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Polistina & Associates, LLC prepared and submitted a proposal dated February 23, 2026, to perform construction management services for the IBank-funded pump stations that are part of the 2024-2025 Sewage Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project in an amount not to exceed \$92,320.00

*Motion was made by Mrs. Rechner and seconded by Mrs. Henderson for Resolution No. 61-2026 Approving a Contract with Polistina & Associates for Construction Management Services for the 2024-2025 Pump Stations Rehabilitation Project's Pump Station to be financed via the IBank in an amount not to exceed \$92,320.00.*

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***Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye***

**11. Resolution No. 62-2026 - Authorizing a Tri-Party Agreement for Handwash Stations**

The Township, LTMUA, and the Lower Cape May Regional School District (District) have negotiated a Shared Services Agreement for the installation, filling, maintenance, inspection, and removal of up to five (5) outdoor handwashing stations (the “Stations”) to be located on properties owned by the Township in connection with the student project. The LTMUA shall be responsible for providing water to the Stations on a bi-weekly basis.

***Motion was made by Mrs. Rechner and seconded by Mr. Steere for Resolution No. 62-2026 Authorizing a Tri-Party Agreement for Handwash Stations.***

***Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye***

**12. Resolution No. 63-2026 - Authorizing Payments to Colt Services, LLC for Contracts and Purchase Orders Previously Issued to Garrison Enterprise Inc.**

A notice dated December 18, 2025, informed the Authority that the contracted vendor, Garrison Enterprise, Inc., was acquired by Colt Services, LLC as of November 25, 2025. Authorization is requested to allow the Chief Financial Officer or Purchasing Agent to make payments to Colt Services, LLC, in lieu of Garrison Enterprise Inc.

***Motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Rechner for Resolution No. 63-2026 Authorizing Payments to Colt Services, LLC for Contracts and Purchase Orders Previously Issued to Garrison Enterprise Inc.***

***Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye***

**Administrative Reports**

**Solicitor-** Nothing to Report

**Engineer**

- On March 2, 2026, a failure at the Poplarwood PS caused the dry-well to be flooded, leaving the pump station inoperable. Level 1 Construction engaged Colt Services to install an emergency bypass system to bring the PS back online.
- A preconstruction meeting on the Diamond Beach Project was held. The project will be completed in two phases, with all of the pump work completed prior to Memorial Day weekend.
- DeBlasio & Associates provided updates on the following projects:
  - North Cape May Watermain Project- Phase I: P&A Construction has completed ~25% of the work (~2,100 LF of 8” water main, ~3,700 LF of 12” water main and 10 water services). The contractor is currently installing the water main on Lincoln Blvd and water services on Atlantic Avenue.
  - North Cape May Watermain Project- Phase II- Design work is ongoing, with construction in Fall 2026. The project will be financed through the IBank. Principal forgiveness grant money in the amount of \$2M may be available for this project.

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- GIS Pilot Data Conversion Services- Drafts of the pilot GIS conversions should be submitted by the end of March 2026.
- LT Public Works Building- Water Main Extension- The water main extension to service the public works complex will be added to the NCM Watermain Project- Phase I with work to be completed in the Spring 2026.

### Financial Consultant-

- To date, revenues and expenditures are in order with the budgetary amounts.
- FY2024 audit information is being submitted to the Auditor with field work beginning in April.

### Executive Director

- Lower Township awarded a contract for the Public Works Complex water main extension. Authority is discussing a change order to P & A's NCM Water Main Project – Phase 1 contract to allow P & A to install the main extension. An agreement will need to be prepared with the Township.
- An update on Phase II of the Township's Rotary Park Project is expected by the April meeting.
- Thanked staff for their work on the emergency repair at the Poplarwood Pump Station.

Mr. Pierce gave an update on the NCM Watermain Project-Phase I involving the tie-in of Delaware River and Bay Authority's (DRBA) water main, which services the Ferry complex. He also noted that the 2026 Spring Hydrant Flushing will commence on Monday, March 23, 2026 through Friday, March 27, 2026. Postcard notifications have been mailed to the residents, advertisements have been posted with local publications and on social media, and the "Interactive Hydrant Flushing Map" is up on the Authority website.

### Public Comments-

LTMUA retirees aired concerns and questions regarding potential changes to retiree health benefits.

### Comments from the Board–

Mr. Ridgway thanked the Authority staff for helping Lower Township Public Works with snow plowing during the recent snowstorm. He also apologized that the health insurance issue has been long and ongoing, but believes we are now at the finish line and thanked the staff for their ongoing understanding and assistance to move that forward.

***Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 pm was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mrs. Rechner.***

***Roll call vote: Mrs. Henderson- Aye, Mrs. Rechner- Aye, Mr. Ridgway- Aye, Mr. Steere- Aye, Mr. Prince- Aye***