

MINUTES of the Lower Township MUA

Meeting date: June 1st, 2016

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Lower Township MUA, was held at 2900 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251 on June 1st. The meeting convened at 5:00pm. Chairman Mr. O'Connor presiding.

PRESENT:

Brian O'Connor	Chairman
Harrison Bitting	Treasurer
Thomas Frisoli	Vice Chairman
Stephen Sheftz	Assistant Treasurer
Jacqueline Henderson	Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Sharon Otto	Secretary
William Kaufmann	Solicitor
Michael Chapman	Executive Director
Marc DeBlasio	Engineer
Stephen Testa	Financial Consultant

Call to Order
Determination of Quorum
Sunshine Law
Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes May 4th 2016, regular minutes

Approval of Bills

- a. **Resolution No. 63 -2016** \$49,983.24 Operating Account (Authorizes payment of operating expensed up to \$50.000)
- b. **Resolution No. 64-2016** \$267,529.00 Excess Operating Account (Authorizes payment of operating expenses in excess of \$50,000) includes both regular and retired medical benefits. Cape May County MUA effluent for \$112,972.25

Resolution No. 65-2016 Customer Change Approving reductions to accounts.

Resolution No. 66-2016 Authorizing Transfer from Sturdy Capital Improvement Fund to Sturdy Operating Account.

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting for the approval of the Consent Agenda, and seconded by Mrs. Henderson Motion **carried.**

REGULAR AGENDA

Mr. Conrad, Villas, asked when the Wissahickon Ave sewer project will begin. Mr. Chapman and Mr. DeBlasio both indicated that the pre-construction meeting was scheduled for June 2nd at 10:00am. How the project will proceed will be discussed.

Mr. Chapman clarified that T & T Commonwealth Construction admitted to making a mistake in their figures and withdrew their bid. **Resolution No 67-2016** cancelled the awarded to T & T Commonwealth Construction and awarded the project to Perna Finnigan Inc. The difference between the two bids was \$1,200.00.

Resolution No. 67-2016 Rescinding Award of Wissahickon Avenue Sanitary Replacement to T & T Commonwealth Construction Co. Inc.

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting and seconded by Mrs. Henderson Motion **carried**.

Mr. Chapman spoke explained **Resolution No. 68-2016**; the MUA is purchasing the station package and then will install the new sewer station in house.

Resolution No. 68-2016 Awarding Contract for Sewer Pump Stations Rehabilitation

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting and seconded by Mrs. Henderson Motion **carried**.

Resolution No. 69-2016 Consent to Advertise Bid for Cellular Communication Space at the Shunpike Water Tower

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting and seconded by Mrs. Henderson Motion **carried**.

Mr. Frisoli arrived at 5:07pm, due to an accident on Bayshore Road. He spoke about Mr. Butler and his passing. Mr. Frisoli was able to attend a service at which he met Mr. Butler's children; he conveyed to his family what an asset their father was to this area. Mr. Butler was an advocate for this community and will be missed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Solicitor- Mr. Kaufmann

Mr. Kaufman looked at the Local Law in regard to the Wissahickon Ave project. He found that a 60 day window existed in which the bid can be withdrawn and the Resolution rescinded. He also researched the awarding of Resolution No. 68-2016 and found that a bid is not required for this type of purchase because the contracting unit is an operating waste water system. The third item for the month was the cellular communication bid and this did require a bid because it involved the use of private property. The last item was the installation of Mr. Chapman in the PERS pension system. This was an argument that was finally settled today by the PERS review board.

Engineer- Marc DeBlasio

Mr. DeBlasio stated that the USDA concurred the award of the Villas East water project and the pre-construction meeting is scheduled for June 15th 2016. As stated earlier the Pre-construction meeting for Wissahickon is tomorrow June 2, 2016 and at the meeting a time line for completion will be discussed. The last item was a request for a Resolution to have an energy audit with the paperwork done by R & V this will be touched on in closed session.

Executive Director- Michael Chapman

Mr. Chapman indicated that the LTMUA was approached by the Middle Township Manager, Connie Mahon to discuss the possibility of providing water to the Del Haven area. This meeting was only a concept meeting and no definite plans were made. Middle Township was to present the LTMUA Board, at a meeting, the specifics of the project prior to entertaining the concept. This type of project would never proceed without prior Board approval.

The proposal for Engineering Services for the replacement of the water main on Roseann Ave was received. This has been reviewed and there are several duplication of services. He is preparing a response to clarify duties within the various scopes of work.

The last item in the Director's report was the refurbishing of waste water pump station 20. With the MUA doing a majority of the work the total for the project is \$106,700.00, since the budgeted amount was \$200.00 in the capital budget for each pump station this is a very reasonable price. The installation of the new station will occur late in September to early November.

Call to the Public

Mr. Saracco asked about the article in the paper referencing the MUA giving water to Middle Township. His concern was the allocation for water that the MUA fought years for. A brief discussion about the allocation and different avenues for Middle Township to proceed were discussed.

Marion Doyle from 447 Sheridan Blvd. requires sewer at her home. She has a cesspool and does not have the land for a septic. The Board and the Executive Director explained that a vacuumed system has been looked at, but the reality of the situation is that it costs too much to bring the sewer to her area. Just to break even all the sewer customers in Lower would incur a rate increase of \$200.00 per year on their existing rates. She understood, but will be attending the meetings in hope that a cost effective solution will be found.

Mr. O'Connor confirmed that though expanding the sewer was approved by the DEP in 2013 it cannot happen without grants to subsidize the costs.

Mr. Frisoli added that when attending a class at the Atlantic City conference he spoke to the DEP representative and at this time funds are not available for grants to expand the sewer. The priority is to repair the existing systems. Mr. Frisoli also spoke to the DEP official about the ordeals this MUA overcame during the past year.

Resolution No. 70-2016 Closed Session Litigation and Negotiations

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting and seconded by Mr. Frisoli Motion **carried**

Meeting closed at 5:45 pm.

Meeting reopened at 6:40

Results of closed Session

Resolution No 71-2016 Authorization for R & V to Apply for an Energy Audit

Motion was made by Mr. Bitting and seconded by Mr. Frisoli Motion **carried**

Comments from the Board

There were no comments from the board.

Motion to adjourn was motioned by Mr. Frisoli and seconded by Mr. Bitting all in favor.

Meeting was closed at 6:50pm.