

TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2023
Start Time: 6:30 PM
End Time: 8:09 PM

1. FLAG SALUTE:

- a. Led by Chairman Kubiel.

2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT	ABSENT	
<u> X </u>		Steven Grosso
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Beth Kimmick
<u> </u>		Nancy Lawrence
<u> X </u>		Michael Ruppel
<u> X </u>		Chairman Brian Kubiel

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Dave Leutwyler, Executive Director
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Chris Earle, Veolia Regional VP of Operations
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Alexandria Noriega, Veolia Project Manager
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Mel Davis, Contractor NSU
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Ben Wyler, ERI
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Greg McGuckin, Attorney
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Cynthia MacReynolds, Secretary
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Deputy Mayor Herb Marinari
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Committeeman Dominick Cuozzo

3. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:

- a. The Open Public Meeting Act was read by Counsel.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. Mr. Leutwyler gave his report.

No questions from the board.

5. BILL LIST:

- a. A motion to approve the Bill List was made by Mr. Ruppel and 2nd by Mr. Grosso.

The Board voted unanimously approved the Bill List.

6. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: 3/21/23 & 4/18/23.

- a. A motion to approve the March 21, 2023 minutes was made by Mr. Gross and 2nd by Mr. Ruppel.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Grosso
Ruppel

Abstained:

Lawrence
Kubiel

There was not a quorum to pass the minutes. Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.

- b. There was not a quorum to approve the April 2023 Minutes. Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.

7. APPROVAL FOR TOWNSHIP TO PAY T&M VOUCHER:

- a. The voucher is for \$479.50. This is to pay for the Collection and Disposal System.

A motion to approve the voucher was made by Mr. Ruppel and 2nd by Mr. Grosso.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the voucher.

8. T&M ASSOCIATES PROJECT UPDATE:

- a. Mel Palis of NSU presented the T&M Associates Project Update. Mr. Palis said that he will defer to Veolia to provide an update on the damaged Carbon Vessel. He said that it is pending replacement and that he does not have any more information regarding the vessel.

Mr. Palis said that the Construction Punchlist items are 100% complete as per the resolution of the Screen Room Heater.

Mr. Palis reported that NSU provided information to Veolia on certain design assumptions by email. He further reported that the final completion closeout of construction will be determined by the acceptance of the NJDEP. He said that the first requirement is to have a final walkthrough to confirm that there are no outstanding items. Those required to attend is a member from NSU, Veolia, T&M and of the board. He asked that the walkthrough be scheduled as soon as possible.

Mr. Palis said that the as build drawings are ready for submission to the PMUA. Mr. Ruppel asked if he has the list of house connections that he requested for the past 2 meetings. Mr. Palis said that he reminded T&M to provide the list and he said that their engineer said that they (T&M) are not responsible for that information, but they will reach out to other consultants to see if they have it.

Mr. Ruppel said that T&M should have a list because they were paid to provide oversight and review the contractor invoices for payment and those payments should be listed. Mr. Palis said that he will ask again.

No other questions from the Board.

End of Engineer's Report.

9. ERI UPDATE:

- a. Mr. Ben Waller addressed the board and said that he did not have an update, however, the only outstanding item is the Asset Management Report and he will be working with Veolia to finalize it.

Mr. Ruppel asked if Mr. Waller anticipated large maintenance items such as the Defined Screens. Mr. Waller said that he will have an answer for him by the next meeting. Mr. Ruppel said that the board will need a baseline document so that the board can anticipate some of the costs for the Board's future budget.

No other questions from the Board.

End of ERI Update.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a. Mr. Leutwyler read his report.

Mr. Leutwyler said that as of April 27, 2023, 528 permits were issued. He did not have a current number due to the Zoning Officer/Technical Assistant to the Construction Official being on vacation.

Mr. Leutwyler said that as of April 27, 2023, that there were 509 sewer connections completed in the downtown sewer area and that 244 connections were completed in Lennar.

Mr. Leutwyler said that the Sewer Loans are no longer accepted at the PMUA offices.

He said that he is working on providing an update on the Energy Aggregation contract. He said that the current contract runs until the end of 2023.

Chairman Kubiak asked about the missed trash pickups and that they need to have a meeting with Waste Management to address the ongoing problem. Mr. Leutwyler said that he has been communicating with the head of Waste Management and that he is in the process of coordinating a meeting.

Mr. Leutwyler was asked what the protocol is for missed trash pickups. He said that he reaches out to the supervisor and they usually come back to pick up the garbage. He also advised the board that during Bulk Pickup, if the truck is too full, Waste Management is supposed to come back the next day to complete pick up.

No other comments from the Board.

End of the Executive Director's Report.

11. VEOLIA REPORT:

- a. Chris Earle from Veolia presented the report.

Mr. Earle said that Tomar has issued a PO to the manufacturer for the Odor Control Vessel. They are awaiting an ETA from the manufacturer located in Texas so that Tomar can install it immediately. He said that it was determined that the operation of the facility during the pump and haul period was the cause of the broken vessel.

Mr. Earle reported that the total flow of effluent for April was 2,467,863 gallons and that the highest flow of 124,477 gallons was recorded on April 2nd. He said that rainfall in April and May are impacting the flows throughout the plant.

Mr. Earle said that they saw an increase of mixed liquor suspended solids towards the end of April and that they contacted the manufacturer of the Membrane Filter, MTS to train the operators in cleaning the Membrane Filter.

Mr. Earle also reported that the asset management of all of the equipment is set up by a CMMS system called "Job Plus" and that he will have the Work Orders completed.

Mr. Earle said that the facility has 2 trains, but they have only been operating with 1 due to low flows. He said that they had an increase of flow through the facility. Mr. Earle said that they have been draining the tanks and that the rains have filled the tanks back up. Mr. Earle said that the thought it beneficial to turn the aeration on to allow the sludge to break down. The new sludge became highly active and created a foam that crusted over the top of the anoxic tank and they engaged outside pump trucks to assist in clean up. A report of the incident was submitted to the NJDEP and the PMUA.

Chairman Kubiel asked if the DEP responded. Mr. Earle said that they advised him that this is a normal occurrence and that it is currently under review.

No other questions from the Board.

End of Veolia Report.

12. CORRESPONDENCES:

- a. There were no correspondences for the Board.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Tony Cacciotti from Casa Plumbing addressed the Board.

Mr. Cacciotti addressed the issue at 4 Oakford Ave. and Lakeview Dr. said that he has been waiting for an answer since November 2022.

Mr. Cacciotti read a statement that he had prepared for the board (statement is attached to the minutes).

Mr. Cacciotti added that he has a \$952.16 back charge to P&A and that since September 29, 2022, they have not acknowledged or paid for the repairs that were needed at 51 Jacobstown Rd.

Mr. Cacciotti said that with the pipe after the clean out that all the plumbers had to connect to, that the piece between the street sewer and to a fit in is not connected properly. He said that during and after the excavation that he could take the plug out by hand and that the pipe is loose. He said that should fall on the people who installed the pipe and not the people who have an issue with the pipe. Mr. Cacciotti said that issue is at 4 Oakford Ave., but the hole is on Lakeview Dr.

Chairman Kubiel said that the PMUA sent representatives from P&A and T&M to look at the area, as well as one of his counterparts. He said that he just received the reports and that he was going to respond thoughtfully.

Mr. Cacciotti responded that he did not know how anybody could make a determination when they cannot see the underground work that was there.

Mr. Gross said that he, the contractor, engineer and inspector was at the site and determined that it was installed correctly. It was pressure tested and that they had their notes to back up that it was installed properly.

Mr. Cacciotti said that he did not know how they could say that it was pressure tested. He said that he would like to see the process of pressure testing the line. He said that the lines are not capped off, but stuck together with gaskets and that he does not know how they would hold any air. He further said that anything with a rubber gasket instead of glue can easily dislodge when it is backfilled improperly. Mr. Grosso said that T&M inspected it.

Chairman Kubiel said that he would like to see the air pressure test and he wanted to know how much it will cost to fix it. Mr. Cacciotti said that it could cost approximately \$7,500.

Mr. Grosso asked Mr. Cacciotti if he thinks that the "T" "it is broken. Mr. Cacciotti said that he thinks that the 4" lateral is broken or dislodged from the "T". Mr. Grosso asked Mr. Cacciotti if there was a way that he could look at it with a camera to prove whether he was the cause of the broken pipe. Mr. Cacciotti said that the camera will be completely buried and that he will not be able to see the sludge that is constantly going in there. He further said that if has ever broken a pipe, that he would have fixed it. He said that the gentleman told him that it was his responsibility to repair the pipe and then responded by telling him that if he broke it, he would have already fixed it.

Mr. Grosso said that he requested the pressure testing report and the construction details of the house, which he has yet to receive.

Mr. Cacciotti said that the Municipal Clerk, Jennifer Witham contacted the homeowner to advise her that a letter will be sent to advise her that Mr. Cacciotti is at fault. Mr. Kubiel said that he is going to write a letter, but he is waiting for the pressure report.

Mr. Cacciotti retorted by saying that the pipe was exposed and that a pressure test will not be a true reflection. He further stated that anything could have easily disrupted it after the test.

Chairman Kubiel said that the board will reconvene, and asked for Mr. Cacciotti's business card so that they can discuss this further.

No further comments from Mr. Cacciotti.

b. Elaine Szydlo of 13 Lakeview Dr. addressed the Board.

Ms. Szydlo submitted pictures to the board. She said that ever since the pipes were put in, Lakeview Dr. has been ripped apart. Ms. Szydlo said that there is constantly 1" of water and mud in front of her house that is coming up from the ground. She said that it is not near her sewer connection. Ms. Szydlo also said that she had the sewer connection was placed in the middle of her driveway and that she had to replace it.

Ms. Szydlo said that the water is coming up from where her box is and that it is flowing into the street and onto her neighbor's property. She said that her neighbor got out of her car and slipped in the mud and fell.

Ms. Szydlo said that the problem began after the sewer pipes were installed. She is unsure as to what is causing it. She said that the issue began in 2021 and that she has been in contact with Mayor Bowen regarding the water. She feels that nobody is doing anything about it. She said that there is no water coming from the barn area and that is the location of the sump pumps. She said that there is a trickle from the sump pumps and it comes down over and around the corner.

Ms. Szydlo said that the soil in front of fence is slowly being eroded into the street, her lawn is soggy. She wants to know what the Board is going to do about it.

Mr. Kubiel said that he was just made aware of the problem 6 weeks ago and that he did not have an answer for her at this time, but he will look into this.

Mr. Ruppel said that he had a conversation with the Township Clerk and that it is his understanding that a capital improvement project is scheduled for that site.

Mr. Grosso asked about the sump pump water. Ms. Szydlo pointed out a trickle by the southern border of her property. She said that it happened after the rainfall (6" of rain). Ms. Szydlo also showed a picture of water and the sump pump by the barn and said that it is where the water is starting and that she does not know how it happened. She said that it was not there when she moved in and that it happened after the work on the street. Ms. Szydlo pleaded with the Board to do something about it and that she does not want it to be tabled.

No further comments from Ms. Szydlo.

- c. Jim Serbes of 6 Province Line Rd., representing his son, Christian Serbes of 4 Oakford Ln. addressed the Board.

Mr. Serbes said that his son has been trying to get in touch with someone from the township to discuss the problem and wants to make an appointment with the people in charge regarding his son's property and the water that is also on his son's (Christian) property. Chairman Kubiel said that once all of the data has been collected then he will set up a meeting. He asked Mr. Serbes to give him his son's phone number and that he will reach out to him.

No further comments from Mr. Serbes.

- d. Steve Estwan of 51 Jacobstown Rd. addressed the Board.

Mr. Estwan said that with regards to Mr. Cacciotti's comments about the improper backfilling that was done by P&A, that he pulled out 4 chunks of asphalt. Mr. Estwan said that he has worked for an excavating contractor for 28 years and that it is against the law in New Jersey to bury concrete when you are doing water main work. He said that it could deflect the pipe, shaping the pipe into an oval and not a circle. This can cause a leak and allow ground water

Mr. Estwan said asked what if the excessive water is coming from bad backfill and it is leaking into the main system, thus affecting what Mr. Cacciotti is trying to treat on his end.

Mr. Estwan asked how P&A could be released from their bond when they have not completed the work, mainly tying in all of the mains.

Chairman Kubiel said that he will not comment because he does not have any knowledge of the bond.

Mr. Estwan expressed his dissatisfaction with the problem on Oakford Dr. and said that it has not been resolved in 7 months and that he believes that who ever worked on that area did not do a good job. He reiterated that he saw Mr. Cacciotti pull out concrete in order to work on the tie ins.

No further comments from Mr. Estwan.

Motion to close the public comment session was made by Mr. Grosso and 2nd by Ms. Lawrence.

The Board voted unanimously to close public comment.

14. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Mr. Ruppel reported that they wanted to present a draft budget this evening for the upcoming fiscal year, but they are not able to.

He said that the Finance Committee is actively working on the budget. He said that they are obligated to either present and adopt it next month or seek relief from the state.

Mr. Ruppel said that they have a very rigorous schedule between the administrative staff, the Finance Committee and that he would like to reach Ms. Powell. He anticipates that it will happen between now and next month.

Mr. Ruppel said that unexpected issues every quarter, it has been hard to determine the correct values in order to complete the budget. He assured the board and the public that they are working diligently to complete the budget.

End of New/Old Business.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **RESOLUTION 2023-10: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE PLUMSTED MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY.**

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Ruppel and was 2nd by Mr. Grosso.

The Board voted unanimously to pass the resolution and go into Executive Session.

The Board went into Executive Session

- b. The Board returned from Executive Session.

Mr. Ruppel made the motion to open the Public Session and was 2nd Mr. Grosso.

The Board voted unanimously to open the Public Session.

16. RESOLUTION 2023-09: RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE AUTHORITY'S PROFESSIONALS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024.

- a. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Grosso and 2nd by Ms. Lawrence.

The Board voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. Mr. Ruppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd by Mr. Grosso.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes were prepared by the Plumsted Municipal Utilities Authority Secretary,

Cynthia MacReynolds