

TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2022

**1. FLAG SALUTE:**

- a. Led by Walter Bronson

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MR. BRONSON:**

- a. Mr. Bronson announced Edward Weirsky's resignation from the PMUA. The resignation was effective on February 11, 2022.

Mr. Bronson expressed his appreciation and accomplishments for Mr. Wiersky and his disapproval for the lack of appreciation for Mr. Weirsky's service.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT	ABSENT	
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Walter Bronson
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Nancy Lawrence
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Steven Grosso

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT**

<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Tim Shea, VP Operations
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Dominick Cuzzo, Committeeman/Liaison
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Herb Marinari, Deputy Mayor/Liaison
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Cynthia MacReynolds, Secretary
<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	Gregory McGuckin, Attorney

**4. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT:**

- a. Mr. McGuckin read the Open Public Meeting Act.

**5. ANNUAL REORGANIZATION:**

- a. Mr. Bronson announced that the reorganization portion of the meeting will be postponed until the end of the meeting. This is due to there being 2 regular members and 1 alternate.

**6. TREASURER REPORT:**

- a. Mr. Shea read the Treasure's Report.

Mr. Bronson asked the board if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's report.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ms. Lawrence. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

## **7. BILL LIST:**

- a. Mr. Shea read through the Bill List for February 15, 2022. He noted that the bill list was reviewed by a shortened finance committee. The bill list was recommended for approval as presented.

Mr. Bronson had a question about the Veolia bill for \$67,261.10 for the month of February. Mr. Bronson stated that \$50,000 of the bill is for pumping, hauling, and treating costs associated with startup activities at the wastewater treatment plant, which will not be the same once the plant is fully operational and the township is able to cease the pump and haul and treat the wastewater in Bordentown starting on February 16, 2022. Mr. Shea stated that he will elaborate later in the meeting. No other comments or questions from the board.

Motion to approve the bill list as listed was made by Ms. Lawrence. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

## **8. TOWNSHIP REQUISITION FOR PAYMENT:**

- a. Mr. Bronson introduced the Requisition list. Advised that the list was reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bronson had a question on the ERI bill for the Asset Management Plan. Mr. Bronson asked if the work has been completed. Mr. Shea stated that it is the first installment, and the payment is not to exceed more than the \$27,000 contract that was awarded to ERI. Mr. Shea estimated that in August 2021 it was required to close out the loan/construction program. He also stated that a proposal was given to the board prior. Mr. Bronson recalled the proposal, however due to cashflow, should the board delay the payment. Mr. Shea stated that the money does not come out of the PMUA budget, but through the township, so the fee will not impact the PMUA budget.

Mr. Grosso asked about the purpose of the Asset Management Plan as listed on the Requisition List. Mr. Shea stated that the Ibank requires an Asset Management and Sustainability plan to identify the assets that have been

procured through the program, the intent to maintain it through the life cycle and to certify that in the design that energy conservation measures were considered in the pumps, etc.

Mr. Shea also stated that it is tied directly to the assets that are put into the plant and that the Operating and Managements are needed. Mr. Bronson stated that the O&M's are completed by the design team and the contractor.

Mr. Grosso asked if the fee includes all assets such as manholes, gravity mains etc. Mr. Shea said that it does.

No further questions from the board.

Motion to recommend the requisition list to the township was made by Ms. Lawrence. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

**9. MINUTES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL: 1/18/22**

- a. No comments or recommendations from the board regarding the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Lawrence. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

**10. T&M ASSOCIATES MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT AND SYSTEM:**

- a. The monthly report for January 2022 was read by Justin Streleckis of T&M and Associates via Zoom.

Mr. Shea asked Mr. Streleckis if he had the total compensation remaining from Tomar. Mr. Streleckis stated that approximately \$500,000. Mr. Streleckis quoted \$501,437.51, which includes retainage. He also noted that sampling port was authorized at an additional cost and was a necessary change order. He also stated that approximately half of the sum is due to retainage (\$222,000).

No other questions or comments from the board.

## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

- a. The Executive Director Report was read by Mr. Shea.

Mr. Shea stated that the township committee agreed to contract into the NJ Sustainability Energy Management cooperative.

The Veolia Plumsted MUA Monthly Report was also read by Mr. Shea.

Mr. Shea announced Veolia will be transitioning to a new interim director. Mr. Shea elaborated on his new involvement with Plumsted Township. He stated that he will still be involved with Plumsted Township, however, he will not be handling the day-to-day customer activities and that there are no changes in the amended contract fees.

Mr. Bronson asked if the board has any choice in the matter. Mr. Shea stated that they could hire an Executive Director.

Mr. Bronson stated that when the board appointed Veolia, it was their understanding that Mr. Shea would be the Executive Director. Mr. Shea stated that he was the Interim director. Mr. Bronson disagreed with Mr. Shea regarding his appointment as the interim director. Mr. Shea stated that the contract states "interim". Mr. Shea assured the board that Veolia will not let this project fail. He will still be at Plumsted, the technical component of the Utility Authority Operations will remain Veolia's responsibility. If the board wishes to hire an executive director with a wastewater question, the township could contact Veolia.

Mr. Bronson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Shea. Mr. Shea continued to express his commitment to the project.

Mr. Shea continued to read the Outstanding Issues of the MUA report.

Mr. Shea brought the NJDEP requirement for the MUA to have a commitment to emergency repairs to ensure that technical emergencies would be handled immediately. Mr. Bronson stated that it was his understanding that the township had an emergency contract with Veolia. Mr. Shea explained that Veolia could assume that role, however, it is out of Veolia's scope of work, but Veolia could take that role and that it could be accomplished under their direction with a contracted markup. Mr. Shea stated that if Veolia handles the emergency repair, they will have a contracted markup. He stated that if the township adds the service with Veolia, then they (Veolia) would contact the contractor, pay them and they will bill the authority with the mark up for the contract. Mr. Shea stated that if the authority contacts the contractor independently, the township will pay for the contractor as per the contractor's bid and there would not be a markup from Veolia because it is direct with the MUA. Mr. Bronson stated that his understanding that it was always Veolia's responsibility. Mr. McGuckin stated that Veolia can bill for the emergency work.

Mr. Shea stated that he is not trying to remove the responsibility, but he is trying to save the authority money with this option.

He also stated that if there is a repair that needs to be made, that the township would contact Veolia and Veolia would contact the contractor. The responsibility of completing the repairs would be responsibility and risk would fall under Veolia.

Mr. Bronson asked Mr. Shea what the markup would be to include this service. Mr. Shea quoted 12.5%. Mr. Shea stated that a decision from the authority needs to be made when the DEP pushes it and that the NJDEP requires an Emergency Repair contract.

Mr. Bronson stated that Ms. Lawrence will have to consider the options. Mr. Grosso stated that he does not think that there is an emergency contract on file. He stated that in the past, that they did put out to bid an emergency contractor for 1 year, depending on the price. He suggested that it could also be an option for the board to consider and it would also need to be broken down by what they the contractors for, such as pump need station contractors, plant contractors as per the recommendation of the board. Mr. Shea stated that Veolia has contractor that they frequently use and that they format their contracts accordingly. He also reminded the board that municipality contractors have different requirements when the contract is out for bid.

Mr. Bronson stated that he calculated that they had 163 EDUs and 18,000 gallons per day and according to his calculation, the 110 gallons per day per EDU. It is almost 1/3 of what the DEP requires. Mr. Shea stated that the estimated flow rate from the Lennar development is about 100 gallons, and that the downtown area is probably slightly more. The downtown area also lacks water saving devices, making the flows a little higher. Mr. Bronson said that he had anticipated the figures because Lennar has 100 units and 63 equivalent units in town.

Mr. Bronson asked if there were any question from the board.

Ms. Lawrence stated that she had a question regarding the grinder pump. She stated that 10 homes that are going to need pumps. She stated that she had received her first quote and that her sewer hook up is going to be approximately \$15,000, which will not include a generator if the home loses power. Ms. Lawrence stated that there are 9 other homes that will also need to pay this fee. She stated that she is still in favor of the sewers, however, she does acknowledge that they are for the good of the town and that it needs to happen for the environment and for the town and downtown businesses.

She stated that she was anticipating a \$6,000 bill and instead, received a bill for \$14,000 which did not include a fee for a generator. She feels that it is the duty of the PMUA to inform the residents of the downtown area of the anticipated expense and that not only will they have to pay for their connection to the sewer, but due to their location that they will need the pump for the sewage to go to the main and will incur approximately triple the amount of the anticipated fee. She also stated that the \$15,000 did not include the upgrade to the electricity for the project. She also stated that the extra expenses were not anticipated or saved for by the residents. She does not want he residents to feel as if the contractor is being dishonest with their quotes.

Mr. Bronson opened the floor to comments.

Mr. Grosso asked, “Who maintains the pumps?” Mr. Shea answered that the homeowner is fully responsible for the pumps. Mr. Bronson suggested that the residents hire a contractor together.

Mr. Grosso inquired about the location of the connections by Ms. Lawrence’s home for the closest connection point. Ms. Lawrence stated that she and her neighbors are several feet away from the road, but it is being run through the house so she will not need much ditching because of her basement. She unsure what the other neighbors are going to do because they have crawlspaces.

Ms. Lawrence made a motion to have the executive director inform the residents who will be impacted of the additional fees and the requirement to have a generator by letter. Mr. Grosso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Lawrence  
Grosso

Abstain:

Bronson

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondences.

## **13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Completed earlier in the meeting.

## **14. RESOLUTIONS:**

### **a. 2022-02 RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY ENERGY JOINT MEETING.**

No questions or discussions from the board.

Motion was made to approve the resolution by Ms. Lawrence. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

**b. 2022-03 RESOLUTION APPOINTING CYNTHIA  
MACREYNOLDS AS BOARD SECRETARY.**

No questions or discussion from the board.

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

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

**c. 2022-04 PLUMSTED MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION AWARDED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
AGREEMENTS FOR THE PLUMSTED MUNICIPAL  
UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2022.**

Mr. Bronson inquired as to who will be recommended. Mr. Shea  
stated that the list was reviewed and made the following  
recommendations:

Financial Advisor - GB Associates  
Engineer – Environmental Resolutions, Inc.  
Bond/ Redevelopment Counsel – McManamon and Scotland  
Attorney – Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky and Katsoris- Greg  
McGuckin  
Auditor - [REDACTED]

No other discussion or questions from the board.

Motion made by Mr. Grosso. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Lawrence.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

**d. 2022-05 Authorizing [REDACTED]**

Mr. McGuckin asked if the position would be advertised. Mr. Shea  
stated that it would and that he is looking for a full time hire.

Mr. Bronson asked if the agency pays the temp. Mr. Shea stated that the agency will pay for the temp and that the authority will pay the agency. He also said that the new hire would not be a public employee.

No other questions or discussion from the board.

Motion to pass the resolution was made by Mr. Grosso. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Lawrence.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

#### **15. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Motion was made by Ms. Lawrence to open the floor to the public. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

No Comments via Zoom.

Committeeman Dominick Cuozzo asked if the extra fee for the pump was covered under what the township is giving the residents. Ms. Lawrence stated that up to \$4,000 will be covered by the standard for those receiving sewer services.

Committeeman Cuozzo asked if it there was possibility to have HOA and have one shared generator to service the residents. He also stated that if the MUA does it, then it belongs to the MUA and not the township. He asked if it is possible to tie the 5 houses together and placing a common pump station.

Mr. Grosso stated that it would probably exceed the cost of the estimated \$15,000 per home. Mr. Shea stated that a small pump station would exceed that amount. Committeeman Cuozzo stated that the fee would probably be lower for everybody. Ms. Lawrence stated that the homes are small and are close together and that the board has not talked to anyone yet and is open to asking about the possibility to the residents and that there is not a lot of room on North Main Street to place a big industrial pump as opposed to a homeowner pump due to the layout of the residential area. Mr. Bronson stated it would not be bigger for 4 homes isn't going to be a lot bigger than for a single



home. Ms. Lawrence stated that it would be 3 homes on one side and 2 homes on the other side.

Committeeman Cuzzo stated, "Is there, so there is nothing there, or you guys don't want to touch that."

The board members stated that they cannot. Mr. Bronson stated that other than the \$4,000 that has already been committed. Committeeman Cuzzo suggested that they gather as many quotes as possible.

Committeeman Cuzzo asked about the shared service agreement. He recalls that the committee had passed resolution for shared service agreement. Committeeman Marinari stated that it has not passed yet. He then asked if they were going to be part of the same service agreement. Mr. Shea stated that all 150 communities will be on the same bid. Mr. Bronson stated that they still had their 2-3 meters that need to be authorized by the board and the committee would need to authorize 12 meters.

Deputy Mayor Marinari stated that Committeeman Cuzzo is the liaison for the committee, and if the authority has any questions, to contact Mr. Cuzzo. Deputy Mayor Marinari acknowledged and praised Mr. Trotta's involvement in the project. He also acknowledged the authority for their involvement in the project. Mr. Bronson thanked the Deputy Mayor and acknowledged that many others were involved.

No other comments from the public.

Motion made by Ms. Lawrence to close the public comment portion. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Grosso.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

## **16. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. No Old Business.

## **17. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Mr. Bronson announced his resignation effective immediately after signing the checks following the meeting. He informed Committeeman Cuzzo that the board will no longer have a quorum, and that the authority will not have the authority to pay the bills. Mr. Bronson asked Mr. McGuckin if the board can make a standing resolution allowing the executive director to pay the bills if a quorum is not available next month. Mr. McGuckin stated that a quorum is required.

Mr. Bronson stated that the township committee needs to be more involved in the PMUA. He expressed his disappointment that any of the committee members

did not attend the meeting last Friday to discuss a \$1.3 million dollar settlement with the PMUA contractor. He reemphasized the importance of having a committee member present at these important meetings.

## **18. REORGANIZATION:**

- a. Mr. McGuckin asked for a nomination for the MUA Chairperson. Mr. Bronson nominated Ms. Lawrence. Mr. Grosso 2<sup>nd</sup> the nomination.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

Mr. McGuckin stated a motion cannot be made for a Vice Chairman due to Mr. Grosso being an alternate and Mr. Bronson's resignation. That motion will be tabled.

He also stated that the board cannot nominate a treasurer for the same reasons. Ms. Lawrence asked if she could hold both positions as a chairperson and the treasurer. Mr. McGuckin stated that she cannot. Mr. Bronson asked why the committee appointed Mr. Grosso as an alternate and not a regular board member because the board needs 2 people to sign checks. Mr. Bronson suggested that the committee appoint Mr. Grosso as a regular member of the board. Ms. Lawrence reminded the board that in January, the board consisted of 3 members.

Committeeman Cuzzo addressed his invitation to the meeting prior. Committeeman Cuzzo stated that he did not receive an invitation to the meeting. Mr. Bronson stated that Committeeman Cuzzo was invited to the meeting. Mr. Shea was asked to verify that Committeeman Cuzzo's invitation to the meeting. Mr. Shea stated that he sent the invitations to both liaisons and only received a response from Deputy Mayor Marinari. Ms. Lawrence asked Mr. Shea to verify if he had the correct email address for Committeeman Cuzzo so that going forward Committeeman Cuzzo is receiving the invitations to the events of the PMUA.

Appointments for Vice Chairman and Treasurer will be tabled for the next PMUA meeting.

Deputy Mayor Mariniari acknowledged that Mr. Bronson has thanked Mr. Minter and Mr. Wiersky and that he (Mr. Bronson) should be added to that. He thanked and praised Mr. Bronson for his service. He also congratulated Ms. Lawrence.

Chairperson Lawrence acknowledged the work of the board and others for the sewer systems that will hopefully revitalize the downtown area.

Ms. Lawrence also acknowledged the work from Mr. Bronson and former members of the board.

**19. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No executive session items to discuss.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Bronson made a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Grosso 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Roll Call:

Approved:

Bronson  
Lawrence  
Grosso

Minutes were prepared by the Plumsted Municipal Utilities Authority Secretary,

Cynthia MacReynolds