Chairman Bronson called the March 19, 2019 Plumsted Municipal Utilities Authority Meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for the Flag Salute. Attorney McGuckin read the Open Public Meetings Act.

Those in attendance were Walter Bronson, Edward Weirsky, Robert Minter, Ronald Dancer, Richard Brown and Nancy Lawrence. Committeeman Marinari was also present.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Ylvisaker reported that the Escrow Account with Investors has a balance of $9,750.98 which remains unchanged from February 2019.

He also reported the General Checking Account with Investors had an opening balance in February 2019 of $48,806.85, with expenses of $36,106.14 and deposits of $13,322.91 ending with a cleared balance of $26,033.62. The check register balance as of March 19, 2019, with payment of the items listed on the Bill List, is $3,523.88. He further noted that there are sufficient funds available to pay the bills. He also noted that going forward funds to pay the bills in the 3rd Q may be delayed as all surplus funds have been exhausted and the MUA has not received administrative payments from the Township for its operation. There was discussion regarding this. It was also noted that several consultants as well have not received payment for their services since August 2018. This is primarily due to the delayed closing on the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank construction loan and short term financing for the wastewater project as requests by NJIB for information on a number of items and the MUA’s and Township’s response have been deemed incomplete by the NJIB much to the frustration of the MUA and Township.

Mr. Bronson raised the idea to pass a Resolution recommending the Township proceed to issue a Bond Anticipation Note for $250,000 which would enable the Township to pay the current outstanding amount of invoices due of approximately $200,000 and an additional amount of $50,000 to pay invoices not yet received until the financing issue with NJIB is settled. On a motion of Mr. Minter, seconded by Mr. Dancer, a motion was made to approve a resolution to recommend the Township Committee approve a Bond Anticipation Note for an amount of $250,000 to pay the amount of outstanding invoices due and other obligations for payments that may be received on the wastewater project until the issues between the NJIB and Township and MUA can be resolved.

ON MOTION OF MR. MINTER, SECONDED BY MR. DANCER, RESOLUTION NO. 2019-15 RECOMMENDING THE TOWNSHIP AUTHORIZE $250,000 TO PAY CURRENT AS WELL AS FUTURE INVOICES RELATED TO THE WASTEWATER PROJECT WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mr. Bronson asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Weirsky expressed concern again that the MUA would, in the very near future, not be able to pay its bills for the solid waste operation without payment by the Township of its portion of the MUA’s administrative operation. There were no further questions or comments on the Treasurer’s Report. On a motion of Mr. Dancer, seconded by Mr. Brown, the Treasurer’s Report was approved. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.
Bill List

There were no questions or comments on the Bill List. On a motion of Mr. Minter, seconded by Mr. Weirsky, the Bill List was approved. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

Minutes

Mr. Bronson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2019. There were none. On motion of Mr. Weirsky, seconded by Mr. Minter, the Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2019, were approved. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

T and M Associates Monthly Report (at this point the recording was activated)

Stephen Schreiber from T and M Associates was present and provided their monthly status report. Mr. Schreiber updated the members on the status of the WWTP project. He stated that three bids were received on February 13 and the RFPs will be evaluated by the Project Review Team as outlined in the RFP. Mr. Schreiber reviewed the milestones for completing the review process which requires a public hearing and the approval of the NJDEP. The schedule lists July 30, 2019 as the date the process is completed and an award can be made.

There was general discussion with Mr. Schreiber regarding the need to keep residents and businesses informed on the construction of the collection system, the schedule for it and minimizing the impact of this construction on traffic movement particularly in the core area of Main Street. A number of meetings are planned with the contractor, state and other officials leading in to the construction.

Mr. Weirsky brought up the proposal for the preparation by T and M of an Asset Management Plan as required by NJIB for the operation and maintenance of the WWTP and other sewer infrastructure. Mr. Bronson noted that no action would be taken on T and M’s proposal tonight but it was something the MUA would have to address soon. The sewer subcommittee will meet with Mr. Schreiber to discuss further.

Executive Director’s Report

Audit

Mr. Ylvisaker noted the State has still not provided the information for the auditor to finish their audit for FY17 and 18.

2019/20 Budget

Mr. Ylvisaker reviewed the draft of the 2019/20 Budget he had prepared and commented that it mirrored past budgets of the MUA. He plans to send it to the Auditors to review. The Budget will be presented in April for introduction and for approval in June 2019. He noted that the budget includes reimbursement by the Township for the shared cost of the MUA’s operation (solid waste and redevelopment) which would significantly help the MUA’s financial position. Mr. Dancer asked whether the budget included revenue to the MUA for the $150,000 it is to receive
from each of the 454 units to be built. The $150,000 reflects a payment to the MUA for its assistance in brokering the redevelopment project with Lennar. Mr. Ylvisaker replied he would check to see if these payments would begin in the 2019/20 budget year and, if so, he would include this revenue in the proposed budget.

Solid Waste

Mr. Ylvisaker noted that he would update the financial picture for the solid waste program with 3rd Quarter revenue figures and meet with the Solid Waste Sub Committee to determine if an increase in the solid waste rate was necessary. If a rate increase is necessary, the MUA will have to hold a rate hearing in May. He indicated that if the MUA receives money for its operation from the Township, this would build up surplus revenue in the budget for solid waste which has been used to support the MUA's overall operation.

Energy

Mr. Ylvisaker reported that Manchester had rejected the one (1) bid it received on March 12, 2019. Manchester plans to go back out for pricing in a month or two. With this general schedule, if Manchester failed to award a contract there would still be time for the MUA to issue its own bid prior to the expiration of the Township’s current contract with Constellation New Energy. Mr. Ylvisaker will update at next month’s meeting.

Redevelopment Project

Lennar has scheduled a ground breaking for April 17. Lennar also provided a letter stating construction would begin on or about April 8. The MUA has filed a request for an extension of its subdivision and site plan approval. The County Planning Board meets on March 20, 2019 to consider this request. Mr. Dancer asked if the escrow accounts Lennar has set up with the Township are up to date. Mr. Ylvisaker replied the escrow account set up with the MUA for the wastewater aspects of the project is. He further noted that the status of the escrow account he reports on every month (see Treasurer Report). Mr. Ylvisaker also briefly noted that the Township Committee was considering revisions to the Redevelopment Plan to allow Lennar to build up to 80 townhomes on Block 40, Lot 1. The Township Land Use Board will be discussing the proposed changes with Dave Roberts, Professional Planner, who authored the original Redevelopment Plan. Mr. Dancer asked who was responsible for payment of the roll back taxes on the property purchased by Lennar. Mr. Ylvisaker responded the seller of the property was. He also asked who would receive the rollback payment. Mr. Ylvisaker will look into this.
Public Comments:

Mr. Bronson asked if there were any public comments. Committeeeman Marinari noted it was very important that information is distributed regarding the sewer project and to minimize the construction impacts on residents and businesses. Ms. Barbara Mislick, who lives on Jacobstown Road, supported Mr. Marinari’s assessment. Mr. Bronson noted the MUA would be getting a schedule from the contractor. He also noted that there will be meetings with the police and others. There was some general discussion regarding the need to review the Sewer Rules and Regulations.

Since there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2019 at 6:30PM.

Respectively submitted by:

Peter Ylvisaker
Board Secretary