

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING JULY 15, 2019  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

**TIME: 7:33PM**

**• MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE READ**

*IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS PROVIDED BY A NOTICE SENT TO THE NORTH JERSEY HERALD NEWS AND THE RECORD FEBRUARY 12, 2019. THIS NOTICE WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AND HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY POSTED AS REQUIRED BY STATUTE. IN ADDITION, A COPY OF THIS NOTICE IS AND HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK.*

Proper notice having been given, the Secretary is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

**• FLAG SALUTE**

**• ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE**

ROLL CALL

Present: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

Absent: Moczko

Other notable attendees: Casey Cordes, Attorney  
Justin Mahon, Engineer  
Robert McNinch, Auditor  
Robert De Block, Licensed Operator

**• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

**CHAIRMAN**

Victor D'Ambrosio discussed the following:

Discussion held concerning the necessity of the Emergency Expenditure of \$34,000.00 to address the malfunctioning alarms. These upgrades will be compatible with the future work outlined to address additional telemetry issues.

The cash flow is tight due to unexpected expenditures and the substantial debt service payment due in August.

Two (2) responsive bid submissions were received in response to the Valve and Hydrant Inspection Services Bid. The Engineer has determined that John Garcia Construction was the lowest bidder and General Counsel has confirmed that its bid met all legal requirements. Both

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recommended awarding the contract to John Garcia Construction. The agreement will cover the next three (3) years at an annual cost of approximately \$11,000-\$16,000.

Badger Meter has advised that the meter reading software will be outdated as of June 2020. This issue needs to be addressed by the professionals.

Grand Summit Right-Of-Way retaining wall was discussed. The issue will be addressed under the Attorney Report.

**ENGINEER**

Justin Mahon submitted report, which is on file and discussed the following items:

Confirmed his recommendation concerning the Emergency Expenditure.

Confirmed his recommendation awarding the Valve and Hydrant Inspection Services Contract to John Garcia Construction.

A more detailed discussion was held concerning Badger no longer supplying the radio endpoints currently being used by the Authority. The Authority will need to switch to a different radio endpoint requiring additional hardware and software upgrades or switch to cellular endpoints. A Badger representative is attending the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Operations Committee Meeting in order to discuss options and costs.

Evaluated results of Spring 2019 hydrant flushing to identify hydrant repair and replacement priorities. Discussion was held concerning these results.

**ATTORNEY**

Casey Cordes submitted report, which is on file and discussed the following items:

Confirmed her recommendation concerning the Emergency Expenditure.

Confirmed her recommendation awarding the Valve and Hydrant Inspection Services Contract to John Garcia Construction.

Discussion concerning various delinquent and/or problem accounts and plans to address.

Grand Summit Right-Of-Way retaining wall was discussed in more detail. In sum, the assets transferred to the Authority from the Borough in the 2004 Agreement did not include the retaining wall; therefore, the Authority is not responsible for its maintenance.

**AUDITOR**

Robert McNinch discussed the following:

No new information on the financing timeline for the 2018 Capital Improvement Project.

The cash flows discussed by the Chairman did not include the July billing so he is hopefully that the numbers will improve.

The 2018 Audit was issued.

Work has begun on early year end projections.

**LICENSED OPERATOR**

Robert De Block submitted report, which is on file and discussed the following items:

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He thanked Denise Wahad for her help on finalizing and distributing the Annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Coordinated the emergency replacement of telemetry utilizing radios and cellular modems. This will limit the Authority's reliance on the Verizon lease lines to communicate between the High Service and the Filter Plant. Neal Systems ordered the necessary equipment on Friday July 12 and mobilization is anticipated this week. One lease line will remain between Central Avenue and the Filter Plant because there has never been an issue with that line. All other lines will be radio. The Operators should be commended for their work in addressing the influx of alarms received over the past few weeks.

Hydrants that were low performing in the Spring 2019 flushing are being re-tested so that recommendations can be made.

**• REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for April 8, 2019 were held due to lack of a quorum to pass.

**• CORRESPONDENCE**

1. NH Planning Board Notice/794 High Mountain Road, NH
2. NH Planning Board Notice/475 & 495 High Mountain Road, NH

Motion by Flach seconded by Chowdhry to Accept and File Correspondence.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**• COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

1. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE- Commissioner Flach advised that meetings continue to be productive. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. INTRALOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE- Nothing new to report.

**• OLD BUSINESS**

1. Water Dispute Letter/Account # 2439-0 – Discussion held under Attorney Report.
2. Water Dispute Letter/Account #691-0 – Discussion held under Attorney Report.
3. Residential Water Service Charges – Held for future consideration.
4. Water Connection Application/920 Belmont Ave., NH-181 Units – Under Engineer review.

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**• NEW BUSINESS**

1. Water Connection Application/890 High Mountain Road, NH (Rear House) – Under Engineer Review.
2. Brown Water & Sediment issue-Squaw Brook Road, NH – Discussed under Chairman and Engineer Reports.

**• PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to open public hearing.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**(1) Dave Fiorina**

437 Southside Avenue, Haledon

He questioned whether or not the Borough or the Authority was responsible for the maintenance for the Grand Summit Right-Of-Way retaining wall.

**(2) Julian Cho**

890 High Mountain Road, North Haledon

He had questions concerning his connection application and fees related to connecting to the system.

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to close public hearing.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**MUA COMMISSIONERS RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT/INQUIRES**

**(1)** Chairman advised that the Attorney reviewed the transferring documents and the retaining wall was not included in the assets that the Borough transferred to the Authority; therefore, it is the Borough’s responsibility to repair the wall.

**(2)** The Engineer will review the application and have a response to this property owner within 7-10 days. Also the Attorney explained that the connection fee amount is based upon a statutory calculation and is much lower than what other Authorities in the area charge.

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**RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT**

- 2019-26      AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED JULY 15, 2019**
- 2019-27      AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED JULY 15, 2019**
- 2019-28      RATIFICATION OF THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION TO PROCURE AND INSTALL EMERGENCY RADIO & CELLULAR SIGNALS**
- 2019-29      AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD WATER DISTRIBUTION VALVE & HYDRANT INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT**

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to pass the Resolutions by Consent.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**• MEETING ADJOURNED**

Motion by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to adjourn meeting

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Van Sickle

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**TIME: 8:33PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Wahad

Recording Secretary

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