

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 14, 2013
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ
7:30 P.M.**

TIME: 7:34PM

• 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, THE RECORD AND HAWTHORNE PRESS FEBRUARY 24, 2012. THIS NOTICE WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2012 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, Malgosh, Van Sickle (arrived at 7:45pm)

Absent: Jones, Zofrea

Other notable attendees: Casey Cordes, Esq.
Gary Spiesbach, Eng.
Angelo Passafaro, LO

**• PUBLIC HEARING- 2013 CONNECTION FEE INCREASE
2013 RATE INCREASE
2013 BUDGET**

Motion by Malgosh seconded by Chowdhury to open the public hearing as and for the above items.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Malgosh

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Fausto Mancero
48 Kossuth Street, Haledon NJ 07508

Mr. Fausto states that he believes that a rate increase is not well intended for the public during this tough financial time and it will make it harder to pay bills.

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*Testimony was previously provided from the Auditor concerning the 2013 Budget, the need for the 2013 Rate Increase of 2% and the statutorily calculated 2013 Connection Fee increase at the December 2012 meeting and are incorporated by reference herein.

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Malhosh to close the public hearing.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Malgosh

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

MUA COMMISSIONERS RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT/INQUIRIES

The Chairman explained that the MUA has complied with the Governor's suggested 2% cap on all municipal increases on assessments although the MUA is not required to do so. He stated that the older water lines need to be replaced and the MUA has undergone aggressive capital improvements to do so since its inception. He explained that the connection fee is calculated based upon state law and is used as a method for new users to pay into the system, which has been maintained by older users. The Chairman advised that the majority of the MUA's Budget is payment for capital improvements and the bulk purchase of water, which is provided to the users. Of the approximate \$2,600,000 2013 Budget, almost \$1,000,000 is allocated to Passaic Valley Water Commission ("PVWC") for the purchase of bulk water. In fact, this year, PVWC has implemented a 4% rate increase. The MUA is not passing this entire increase to its users since it is only increasing its rates by 2%.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion by Malgosh seconded by Chowdhury to approve the Minutes for December 10, 2012.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Malgosh

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIRMAN

Victor D'Ambrosio spoke on the following:

The MUA's remaining Temporary Note of \$250,000 (it was \$500,000) is too small of a deal for TD Bank so it will be rolled to a different institution.

He spoke with the Borough's OEM in reference to NIXEL communication system. This system is a free secondary system to the reverse 911 calls to users. It is designed to notify users of water main breaks by text or e-mail. The Borough Administrator has explained that users can sign up or register from the website. With Board approval, the MUA can post a link on its web-site and a notification letter can be sent to the Clerks for our servicing towns.

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He spoke with the Borough Administrator about backing upon the MUA's computer and billing systems. The standard computer back-up is now working. However, Edmunds provides off site billing back-up. He asked Denise Wahad to follow-up and request more information from Edmunds concerning their service.

He advised that some Bids have been submitted for the recently advertised capital improvement projects:

1. Filter Plant Renovation-No Bids submitted
2. Central Ave. Tank Renovation-1 Bid submitted and it was non-responsive
3. Water System Improvements- 6 Bids submitted

N.J.D.E.P.'s written approval is needed to formally award Bids.

He also stated that RFQs were received in accordance with the MUA's published request and will be reviewed for the next meeting.

ENGINEER

Justin Mahon submitted report and is on file.

Letter of recommendation- lowest Bidder is Reivax Contracting Corp. Bid was submitted with one minor typographical error.

There has been no response from USDA of funds to be used to purchase truck.

Discussion on Easements. Engineer and Attorney will follow-up on the properties that they can for the Water System Improvements project since that is a priority.

ATTORNEY

Casey Anne Cordes submitted report and is on file.

Letter of recommendation- lowest Bidder is Reivax Contracting Corp.

AUDITOR

Chuck Fierraioli spoke on the following:

December 2012 billings exceeded 2011 billings for the same month.

MUA should move forward with Lien Sales on delinquent water accounts.

LICENSED OPERATOR

Angelo Passafaro submitted report and is on file.

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. DEP/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program
2. NJEIT/2011 WSI Approval of Addendum #1
3. DEP/Submission of OEO-002
4. Badger Meter/Service Renewal Notice

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5. AWWA/Correspondence
6. MP/ 2011 WSI Correspondence
7. NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Individuals Permit and Freshwater Wetlands- Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve
8. Planning Board Application/530 High Mountain Road, NH

The listed Correspondence were reviewed and accepted by the MUA Board.

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to Accept and File Correspondence.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

• COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

RULES AND REGULATION COMMITTEE- No report

• OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Connection Application-350 Belmont Avenue, Haledon-The MUA is waiting on info from the applicant.

• NEW BUSINESS

1. Award of the 2011 NJEIT Project-Discussed in Chairman, Engineer and Attorney Reports.
2. Water Connection Application-Acquakanonk Village 1 Lupton Lane, Haledon

• PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Fausto Mancero

48 Kossuth Street, Haledon NJ 07508

Mr. Mancero spoke about his fire and water connection to his project on 1 Lupton Lane, Haledon. He advised that he has been working on this project for several years and is requesting to be grandfathered in and either not pay any connection fees or to pay for one 2" Water Connection Fee and one Fire Connection Fee only. He has done several projects in New Jersey and never ran into a high connection fee like the MUA's fee.

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Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Malgosh to close the public hearing.

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

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0

MUA COMMISSIONERS RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT/INQUIRIES

Chairman D'Ambrosio states unfortunately the MUA cannot waive the fee. All new connections are required to pay this fee and it is calculated based upon when the application is filed. Although Mr. Mancero's project may have been ongoing for some time, his application was just recently filed. The Chairman also states that the MUA is one of the lowest connection fees and is based on an applicant's usage. This information was confirmed by the MUA's Auditor who serves as Auditor for other authorities who charge much larger connection fees.

TIME: 8:20PM

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

2013-01 ADOPTION OF THE 2013 CONNECTION FEE OF THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY

2013-02 ADOPTION OF THE 2013 RATE INCREASE OF THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY

2013-03 APPROVAL OF 2013 BUDGET \$2,688,131

2013-04 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED JANUARY 14, 2013

2013- 05 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED JANUARY 14, 2013

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdury to add Resolution 2013-06.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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**2013-06 AUTHORIZATION TO CONDITIONALLY AWARD 2011 WATER
SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT**

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Malgosh to pass Resolution by Consent as amended.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion made by Van Sickle seconded by Chowdhury to add and pass Resolution 2013-07 entitled "LATE INTRODUCTION OF 2013 BUDGET".

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• MEETING ADJOURNED

TIME: 8:26PM

Motion made Van Sickle seconded by Malgosh to adjourn meeting.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Wahad
Recording Secretary