

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

**TIME: 7:30PM**

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq. you are hereby advised that the Manchester Utilities Authority advertised its Annual Meeting Notice on February 14, 2021 in the North Jersey Herald News and The Record. The Annual Meeting Notice was also posted on the Bulletin Board at the Municipal Building on February 14, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as requirement by statute. Formal Action will be taken.

This electronic public meeting is being conducted due to the current situation involving the COVID-19 virus and directives of State and County governments that restrict public gatherings and direct residents of New Jersey to stay at home.

The electronic public meetings will be held via Zoom conferencing (<https://zoom.us>). A link to attend each meeting electronically and/or telephonically will be posted on the website of the Manchester Utilities Authority ([www.muawater.net](http://www.muawater.net)) as well as on the door to the municipal building located at 510 Belmont Avenue. These postings will include the meeting identification number and passcode to join the meeting.

All attendees will be automatically muted upon entering the virtual meeting, everyone will have the opportunity to be unmuted in order to speak and be heard during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. At that time, the Chairman will give the members of the public an opportunity to make any statements during the public hearing. Each member will be fully heard. Afterwards the Public Comment hearing shall be closed and the Commissioners may respond. All relevant meeting documents for the meeting, if any, shall be posted prior to each meeting on the website of the Manchester Utilities Authority: [www.muawater.net](http://www.muawater.net).

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, Moczo,

Absent: Van Sickle

Other notable attendees: Casey Cordes, Attorney  
Jerry Mitchell, Engineer  
Robert De Block, Licensed Operator

**PUBLIC HEARING-            2022 CONNECTION FEE INCREASE  
   2022 RATE INCREASE  
   2022 BUDGET**

Motion by Flach seconded by Chowdhury to open the public hearing.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

12/13/21

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

*No Public Present.*

Motion by Moczo, seconded by Chowdhury to close the public hearing.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

**CHAIRMAN**

Victor D'Ambrosio discussed the following items:

He explained that the MUA does its best to keep costs down. All of the Commissioners are volunteers. The past few years have presented many challenges between the pandemic and efforts to address the raised non-revenue water numbers. Last year, the MUA was forced to raise rates by 10% and this year the increase is only 2%, which will simply address the increase in costs, primarily from PVWC, which increased its bulk water rates by 2%. The MUA is hoping to significantly reduce the non-revenue water number and is always sensitive to any rate increases.

The Borough of Haledon approved the stand-by stipend effective December 9<sup>th</sup>; therefore, the hope is that it will be implemented as soon as possible.

He deferred to the professionals on additional matters.

**ENGINEER**

Jerry Mitchell submitted report, which is on file and discussed the following items:

Acoustical Testing Pilot Program - Northeast Water Technology has received the acoustic loggers and has delayed the locations for installation. The MUA is marking the valve locations with the valve number and confirming the valves are clean. Garcia Construction is exercising, cleaning and marking valves also as part of the valve exercise program. Installation of the loggers should start on about December 20<sup>th</sup>. The first quarter of leak detection should start in January of 2022. The grant program covers the first year of monitoring costs.

NJDEP is requiring an Evaluation Report due to THMMs at 555 Preakness Avenue and James Court. Arcadis and DeBlock are currently evaluating measures to be taken to reduce elevated THMM levels at both locations.

Hurricane Ida exposed the 6-inch and 12-inch water mains crossing a stream at the Circle Avenue Bridge. FEMA funding is not available but Arcadis is speaking with the County about possible funding.

Arcadis is working with the MUA staff to schedule and complete four isolation tests under the Phase 2 Leak Detection project. On December 9<sup>th</sup> the MUA confirmed that the service connection at 82 Church Street is a service connection leak and the homeowner has been informed of the leak to repair.

Patrick Poraro of PVWC has been identified as the PVWC contact person. Arcadis is preparing a monthly meeting schedule for more efficient flow of information between PVWC and the MUA. Review of the potential use of ultrasonic flow meters in lieu of compound meters is ongoing.

12/13/21

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

Monthly review of billing data is continuing to look for any unusual deviations between customer bills versus daily pumping.

920 Belmont Avenue, North Haledon- The project is nearly complete and a punch list is being prepared to have the contractor complete and submit a few remaining items. Then the NJDEP will be informed that the project is complete.

555 Preakness Avenue, Haledon- The service connection is installed and has passed pressure testing. Disinfection procedures are being prepared by the Contractor for review and approval by Arcadis before additional work be scheduled.

The Squawbrook Run main break was identified as a MUA line. The first stage of work was completed by North Haledon; however, the second stage of work was completed by the MUA.

**ATTORNEY**

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

The Public Notice concerning the annual Request for Professional Proposals/Qualifications was prepared and submitted for consideration.

The draft language for the Rate Schedule was prepared outlining new fees & procedures (estimate policy & Winter Termination Program). Discussion was held concerning same.

Discussion occurred concerning next steps for communicating the MUA's effort to assist to North Haledon residents in any way possible for the PFAS well contamination that the community is facing.

Work is continuing with the Billing Clerk to prioritize and address the delinquent accounts in the most efficient way possible. The *third* round of letters offering deferred payment plans will be sent to delinquent accounts with balances exceeding \$750.00. To date, the staff has received two responses to the offer of deferred payment plans.

**AUDITOR**

Robert McNinch did not attend this meeting.

**LICENSED OPERATOR**

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

Weekly flow data is collected and reported. It was noted that the flows in the 515 service zone were very high. It was uncovered that the PVWC interconnection at Jasper was open and there will be a billing adjustment accordingly of over 2 million gallons of water.

The Fourth Quarter TTHM results have been received. The MUA exceeded the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) for one site. A draft notice is under development and will be transmitted to NJDEP for review. Once approved, the notice must be sent to all MUA customers. Discussion held.

MUA Clerk uncovered a PVWC billing error.

The November consumption number was extremely low. In fact, it was the lowest amount that has been registered since 2019.

12/13/21

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

• **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Motion by Moczo seconded by Flach to approve Minutes for November 8, 2021.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN:-0-

NO: -0-

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Passaic Valley Water Commission/2022 Rate Increase
2. Borough of North Haledon Planning Board/28 A Peters Lane, NH
3. Borough of North Haledon Subdivision/97&109 Westervelt Ave., NH
4. Borough of Haledon Legal Notice/397-407 Haledon Ave
5. City of Paterson/322-324 Berkshire Ave-555 Preakness Ave., Totowa
6. NJDEP/January Water Supply PT Study

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

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN:-0-

NO: -0-

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE- Commissioner Flach spoke with North Haledon Mayor George to discuss posting the MUA’s letter regarding the well contamination issues faced by North Haledon residents. Discussion held regarding the response to residents.

• **OLD BUSINESS**

1. ARCADIS/Professional Engineering Services Heights Tank Improvements-On Hold.

• **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fire Hydrant Price Quote
2. Badger Meter Order/555 Preakness Ave.
3. Go Organic Vegetation/2022 Season Service
4. GO Organic/ 2022 Season Services Discount Offer
5. Rate Payer Water Bill Dispute/Account # 2170-0-Discussion held.
6. Water Bill Dispute/591 High Mountain Road, North Haledon
7. Water Bill Dispute/416 Haledon Avenue, Haledon-Held until Licensed Operator reviews account.
8. Water Bill Dispute/114 Hillside Drive, North Haledon-Discussion held.

12/13/21

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Moczo to approve price quotes for Fire Hydrants and Badger Meter.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN:-0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury to approve Go Organic 2022 Services.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN:-0-

NO: -0-

**• PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made by Flach seconded by Chowdhury to open public hearing.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

***No Public Present***

Motion made by Moczo seconded by Flach to close public hearing.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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

***None***

Motion by Flach seconded by Chowdhury to amend the February 2021 Minutes concerning Resolution No. 2021-12 to read “**AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONSTRUCTION AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS CONTRACT.**”

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN:-0-

NO: -0-

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT**

**2021-32      AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED DECEMBER 13, 2021**

12/13/21

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2021  
HALEDON MUNICIPAL COMPLEX –HALEDON, NJ  
7:30 P.M.**

- 2021-33      AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED DECEMBER 13, 2021**
- 2021-34      INTRODUCTION OF THE 2022 BUDGET**
- 2021-35      LATE INTRODUCTION OF THE 2022 BUDGET**
- 2021-36      INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2022 CONNECTION FEE**
- 2021-37      INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF 2022 RATE INCREASE**
- 2021-38      AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE THE 2022 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Motion by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury amend and remove Resolution 2021-33 entitled **“AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED DECEMBER 13, 2021.”**

YES: D’ Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury to pass Resolutions by Consent as amended.

YES: D’ Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

**TIME 9:04PM**

**• MEETING ADJOURNED**

Motion by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury to adjourn meeting.

YES: D’ Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denise Wahad,  
Recording Secretary

12/13/21