

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2025
CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
7:30 P.M.**

TIME: 7:33PM

• MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE READ

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE-TAKE NOTICE that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8 and N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Haledon Municipal Building, located at 510 Belmont Avenue, Haledon, NJ on February 16, 2024. A copy of the Annual Meeting Notice was advertised on February 18, 2024 in the North Jersey Herald News and The Record.

A LINK AND A TELEPHONE NUMBER TO JOIN THE MEETING VIRUTALLY CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE MUA WEBSITE AT WWW.MUAWATER.NET. ELECTRONIC PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING.

Formal Action will be taken.

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

• FLAG SALUTE

• ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Muzibul, Smith

Absent: Moczko

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

*The attorney managed this portion of the meeting.

Motion to nominate and elect Victor D'Ambrosio as Chairman of the Authority by Flach seconded by Chowdhury.

YES: Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: D'Ambrosio

NO: -0-

*At this time, the meeting was administered by the new Chairman.

Motion to nominate and elect Dewan Chowdhury as Vice-Chairman of the Authority by Smith seconded by Flach.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: Chowdhury

NO: -0-

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Motion to nominate and elect Carlos Moczo as Treasurer and Certifying Finance Officer of the Authority by Chowdhury seconded by Smith.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion to nominate and elect Geraldine Flach as Secretary of the Authority by Smith seconded by Chowdhury.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: Flach

NO: -0-

**2025-07 QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR ITS REQUEST
FOR QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE
MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE
2025 TERM**

Motion by Flach seconded by Chowdhury to appoint Fronzuto Law Group as Attorney.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Flach seconded by Smith to appoint ARCADIS U.S., Inc. as Engineer.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Smith seconded by Chowdhury to appoint Wielkotz & Company, LLC as Auditor.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Muzibul to appoint Hawkins Delafield & Wood as Bond Counsel.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Smith seconded by Flach to appoint De Block Environmental Services, LLC as Licensed Operator.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

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ABSTAIN: -0-
NO: -0-

Motion by Smith seconded by Chowdhury to award the Water Distribution System Maintenance Construction and Emergency Repairs Contract to John Garcia Construction Co., Inc.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

2025-08 ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES OF MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR 2025

2025-09 DESIGNATING DENISE WAHAD AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS FOR THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY

2025-10 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING DATES OF THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY

2025-11 ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR 2025

2025-12 ADOPTION OF THE OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES OF THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY

2025-13 AUTHORIZATION TO ADOPT A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Motion by Smith seconded by Flach to pass the Resolutions 2025-08 through 2025-13 by Consent.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIRMAN

Victor D'Ambrosio spoke on the following:

Thanked the Commissioners for the appointment of Chairman. He is proud of the progress the MUA has made. He acknowledged that sometimes progress seems slow but there is no doubt that it should be acknowledged.

The MUA is a valuable entity with a sole focus on providing quality water to customers.

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There is a personnel matter to be discussed during Executive Session.

The Water Assistance Program has ended; however, **if you are seeking assistance with your water bill, apply for DCAid or call NJ211.**

ENGINEER

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

Action Item: Authorization to complete final Leak Detection Program by George Walters of Northeast Water Technology is requested. At the January meeting, the Engineer recommended that one more year of acoustic leak detection monitoring be conducted utilizing the final BPU funds being paid to the MUA as the final payment for the Leak Detection Grant. The final payment is \$63,161.65 and the cost for the one year of leak detection is not to exceed \$49,750.00.

Water Quality: The Heights Tank project is ready to go to bid; however, NJDEP approval to bid is needed and has not been received yet.

Plans are being prepared to complete a Lead Service Line Investigation in order to seek NJDEP Funding for the remediation of galvanized and lead service lines.

Facilities: Awaiting project approval from NJDEP on the Holland Chrisitan Homes Water Main Extension Project. Anticipating bidding this project in March or April of 2025.

Coordination for the installation of a new flushing station on Preakness Avenue as required by NJDEP as a remedial measure for THMM exceedances is progressing. Once the County approves the project, it can move forward to construction.

Work is ongoing to provide a preliminary cost estimate of all infrastructure improvements needed to provide water service to the North Haledon residents with PFAS contamination of groundwater wells.

Meter and pump replacements are pending discussion with Badger and a cost analysis.

Non-Revenue Water: The annual rolling average for NRW in December was 20% and in December monthly NRW was 14%.

NJDEP Drought Notification Letter requires the MUA to conduct interconnection flow testing with PVWC by February 2025, submit a year's worth of unaccounted for water documentation and conduct a leak detection survey if the percentage is greater than 15%.

ATTORNEY

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

Contracts: Interlocal Service Agreement is still pending. Cost information is needed from the Borough to finalize.

Accounts: Updates were discussed concerning accounts for 431 Haledon Avenue and 555 Preakness Avenue.

AUDITOR

Robert McNinch did not attend meeting.

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LICENSED OPERATOR

Robert De Block discussed the following items:

Municipal Maintenance has installed the new Central Avenue 575 pump and motor. The old pump and motor are to be evaluated.

Delivery of the new 515 Pump is pending.

TTHM: Authority staff are continuing to adjust flushing schedules based on chlorine residual results to maintain water quality.

Fourth Quarter samples were collected on November 13. The LRAA for the four sample locations are below the MCL. First Quarter sampling is scheduled for this week.

• **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Chowdhury seconded by Flach to approve the Minutes for December 9, 2024.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: Smith

NO: -0-

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Haledon Zoning/419-421 South Side Avenue

2. Notice of Public Hearing/424 W Clinton St./AKA 320 Belmont Ave., Haledon

Motion made by Smith seconded by Chowdhury to accept and file correspondence.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-Next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2025. The Committee will review internship opportunity.

• **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Acoustical Leak Detection Proposal/ North East Water Technology-Discussed under Engineer Report.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

No Public Present

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Motion made by Smith seconded by Chowdhury to close public hearing.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

**• EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIED PURPOSES: LITIGATION
AND/OR CLAIMS, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, PERSONNEL, OTHER**

WHEREAS, the MUA is a public body subject to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act requires a Resolution of this MUA in the event the MUA determines it has a need and is permitted by law to exclude the public from an executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the MUA that the public be excluded from its meeting for the purpose of discussing matters covered under N.J.S.A. 10:4-12B, set forth as follows:

- A. PERSONNEL-Billing Clerk Stipend
- B. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS- PVWC

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the public shall not be admitted to the portion of the meeting at which time the foregoing matters will be discussed, and it is not known when or if the matters to be discussed in closed session can be disclosed to the public; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that at the conclusion of Executive Session, formal action may be taken.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the within shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as provided by law.

TIME: 8:25PM

Motion by Flach seconded by Smith to go into executive session as indicated above.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

TIME: 8:53PM

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Flach to reconvene the regular meeting.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

- 2025-14 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2025**
- 2025-15 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED FEBRUARY 10, 2025**
- 2025-16 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL STIPEND INCREASE FOR WATER BILLING CLERK, RAMA JAMOUKHA**
- 2025-17 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 PROPOSAL FROM NEW TECH NORTHEAST WATER TECHNOLOGY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,750.00**

Motion by Flach seconded by Smith to amend and add Resolution 2025-17 entitled **“AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 PROPOSAL FROM NEW TECH NORTHEAST WATER TECHNOLOGY FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,750.00.”**

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul
ABSTAIN: -0-
NO: -0-

Motion by Smith seconded by Chowdhury to pass the Resolutions by Consent as amended.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul
ABSTAIN: -0-
NO: -0-

TIME: 8:54PM

• MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Flach to adjourn meeting.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Muzibul
ABSTAIN: -0-
NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Wahad, Recording Secretary