

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY MEETING JULY 24, 2023  
CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING  
7:30 P.M.**

**TIME: 7:36 PM**

**• 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 18, 2023. A copy of the Annual Meeting Notice was advertised on February 17, 2023 in the North Jersey Herald News and The Record. The July 10, 2023 meeting of the MUA was cancelled due to the lack of quorum. According to the by-laws of the MUA, the meeting cannot be held without a quorum; therefore, the July meeting was rescheduled to July 24, 2023 at 7:30 PM. The rescheduled meeting date was properly noticed in accordance with the law.

A LINK AND A TELEPHONE NUMBER TO JOIN THE MEETING VIRUTALLY CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE MUA WEBSITE AT [WWW.MUAWATER.NET](http://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, Smith, Moczo

Absent: Alfano

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

**• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

**CHAIRMAN**

Victor D'Ambrosio discussed the following items:

The MUA received a very high invoice from Passaic Valley Water Commission. Due to the high numbers, it needs to be investigated further.

A shut off request has been received from Heights at Haledon for the irrigation service. The request is being processed.

There was a productive but very preliminary zoom meeting with representatives from the NJDEP and North Haledon to discuss PFAS contamination in groundwater wells in North Haledon. The

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MUA Engineer is going to prepare a Cost Estimate for all costs that may be associated with connecting North Haledon residents to the MUA system. The NJDEP will not pay for the costs of preparing the estimate.

The State requires that the following Notice be read into the Minutes of this Meeting:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is important information regarding: COVID-19 PANDEMIC RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES**

*This notice announces an outline of the relief measures for residential ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**INSTALLMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY**

BE ADVISED that State law requires residential customers to be offered an installment plan for any water arrearages accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022.

**LATE FEES, CHARGES AND PENALTIES**

BE ADVISED that state law prohibits local governments from charging residential customers interest, fees, or charges for late payment of water charges accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022 until after March 15, 2022 at which time interest and penalties may begin to accrue.

**BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS**

The application period for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open. This federally funded program will provide financial assistance to low-income households to reduce the balances on their residential water and sewer bills.

People can apply online through the DCAid application portal at <https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/dcaid-services/>. Those without computer or internet access can call 1-800-510-3102.

*Please review this special Notice in its entirety at our website at [www.muawater.net](http://www.muawater.net) or contact Water Billing Clerk, Rama Jamoukha, by calling her at (973) 942-6538 extension 2 or emailing her at [rjamoukha@haledonboronj.com](mailto:rjamoukha@haledonboronj.com) for additional information.*

The State Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can help you pay arrears for your water and sewer bills. The program may also be able to help address tax liens due to water and sewer arrears. To get more information and apply, go to [waterassistance.nj.gov](http://waterassistance.nj.gov) or call NJ211.

**ENGINEER**

Jerry Mitchell submitted report, which is on file and Liliana Calix discussed the following items:  
**Action Item:** Recommendation to install the 12" valve on the water main from PVWC to isolate two systems at Grant Avenue. This is the only area where the MUA does not have its own valve on its side of the system. The installation would be performed under the Emergency Service Contract with Garcia Construction at a cost of \$14,701.00.

**Operations:** Arcadis is preparing the Final Program Report for the Acoustical Testing Pilot Program.

**Facilities:** The investigation into the interconnections with PVWC has continued. The latest field study confirmed that the PVWC system isolation valve on the 12-inch supply line to the MUA

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from the Red Wood Pump Station is leaking with a significant flow still returning to the PVWC service area. PVWC installed a temporary valve on July 6, 2023 and it did not have a significant impact on the non-revenue water numbers. The Action Item will provide further information. Next step is to test pressure on hydrants that border the system. A meeting is being scheduled with PVWC to address these issues.

Motion made by Moczo seconded by Flach to approve the installation of a 12” valve on the water main from PVWC to isolate two systems at Grant Avenue with the work to be performed under the Emergency Service Contract with Garcia Construction at a cost not to exceed the amount of \$14,701.00.

YES: D’Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Smith, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**ATTORNEY**

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

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Agreements: The State has confirmed that two (2) of the approximately sixteen (16) customers have qualified for relief. The State has implemented certain notification requirements concerning the program. Notifications have been posted on the website and delinquent bills. Denise has requested clarification concerning the need to send notifications to ALL customers; however, to date, the state representative has not responded. No response has been received from the State.

Delinquent Accounts: *Heights at Haledon Condo Association* – The Association accepted the payment plan proposals with no further adjustment to the amount owed on the account. In addition, the Association asked that the irrigation accounts be closed. Arcadis and my firm are preparing a response to the request. *MRHS* – Letter explaining the accounts was sent. No response has been received as of this date.

**AUDITOR**

Robert McNinch did not attend meeting.

**LICENSED OPERATOR**

Robert De Block discussed the following items:

Operations: The Annual Consumer Confidence Report has been distributed and submitted to NJDEP. The CCR Certification is pending.

Assistance was provided to the MUA staff in the installation of the new compressor for the Reservoir Drive Booster Station.

Neal Systems is evaluating the modem that maintains the communication between Burhans, Central and the old filter plant. The modem appears to be overheating. Temperature controls have been put into place by the MUA staff.

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Customer concern at Pettee Avenue with remote reader interference with Wi-Fi was referred to Badger Meters for response.

Customer concern at Dorothy Drive was addressed.

Non-Revenue Water: Next step is to test all hydrants along the boarder of our service area to determine potential locations of additional unmetered interconnections.

PVWC has requested a one week test on the HAL2 interconnection. This data may provide more information on the ongoing investigation.

Lead & Copper: The updated lead service line inventory and progress report was submitted on July 10; however, updates continue. One location of galvanized pipe was located that was otherwise unknown.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Motion made by Chowdhury seconded by Moczo to approve the Minutes for October 17, 2022.

YES: Chowdhury, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: D'Ambrosio; Smith

NO: -0-

Motion made by Smith seconded by Flach to approve the Minutes and Executive Minutes for June 12, 2023.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith

ABSTAIN: Chowdhury; Moczo

NO: -0-

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-Next meeting scheduled for July 26, 2023.

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. NJDEP/Lead Service line Replacement Law: Upcoming Submissions Reminder
2. North Haledon Hearing of Appeal/27 Indian Trail, North Haledon
3. Haledon Land Use Board/470 Haledon Avenue, Haledon
4. North Haledon Zoning Board/86 Ballentine Drive, North Haledon

Motion made by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury to Accept and File Correspondence.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• **OLD BUSINESS**

1. LIHWAP Language Requirements- Discussed under Attorney Report.
2. 27 Jasper Street, Haledon-Time Extension Request- Chairman to follow-up.
3. Water Bill Dispute/25 Venna Ave. North Haledon-Letter sent; however, no payment has been received yet.

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4. ARCADIS/Professional Engineering Services Heights Tank Improvements-on Hold

• **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Service Request/Account numbers 85-0, 109-1, 110-1- Discussed under Chairman Report.
2. Price Quote/Installation of a new Valve at Granite Avenue- Discussed under Engineer Report.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made by Smith seconded by Moczo to open public hearing.

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

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

*No Public Present*

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

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT**

**2023-27      AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE  
WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE  
WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED JULY 24, 2023**

Motion by Moczo seconded by Smith to pass the Resolutions by Consent.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

**TIME: 9:04 PM**

• **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Motion by Moczo seconded by Chowdhury to adjourn.

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

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,  
Denise Wahad, Recording Secretary