

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 13, 2023
CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
7:30 P.M.**

TIME: 7:31PM

• 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 17, 2023. A copy of the Annual Meeting Notice was advertised on February 17, 2023 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, Alfano

Absent: Moczo, Smith

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

• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIRMAN

Victor D'Ambrosio spoke on the following:

Deferred updates on the following items to the professionals: Non-Revenue Water; Holland Christian Homes Agreement; and NJDEP efforts to address the PFAs contamination in North Haledon.

Notice was received concerning property damage to a residence, which was forwarded to the insurance company for handling.

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.

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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 or contact Water Billing Clerk, Rama Jamoukha, by calling her at (973) 942-6538 extension 2 or emailing her at rjamoukha@haledonboronj.com for additional information.

ENGINEER

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

Action Items:

Discussion concerning approval to direct John Garcia Construction to complete the Hydrant Flow Test Request at a cost not to exceed \$2,560.00 to complete 16 tests.

Discussion concerning approval for new service application at 110 West Haledon Avenue, Lot 16.01 (66 Pompton Road)

Discussion regarding approval to send letters to the following property owners: 27 Jasper Street; 102 Lee Avenue; 554 West Broadway; 920 Belmont Avenue.

Contact to Town and County to see if ARPA funding can be allocated to repair the two exposed water lines at the Circle Avenue Bridge in Haledon.

Discussion concerning approval for a new automatic flusher unit for Preakness Avenue sampling station at a cost not to exceed \$4,397.00.

Grant Application for Acoustical Testing Pilot Program: The current list of MUA leaks to still be addressed are 10 hydrant leaks, 1 main leak and 4 service leaks.

Water Quality: I-Bank funding approval for the Heights Tank Project has been received. The MUA is researching combining this project with another project to improve administrative cost to technical cost ratio.

Arcadis is preparing documents to get Lead Service Piping Investigation and Remediation Project on NJDEP I-Bank Funding list.

I-Bank funding approval for the High Service Pump Station Replacement project has been received.

Efforts are being coordinated to identify lead service connections.

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Facilities: Investigation in possible unknown PVWC interconnections are still underway. The annual Non-Revenue Water numbers have risen to about 35% and efforts continue to identify the causes.

ATTORNEY

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

Holland Christian Homes Water Service Connection Project: Revisions were made to the Agreement and a new draft was provided to HCH. The HCH Board is meeting this week and is leaning towards acceptance of the Agreement. Timing of the Agreement was discussed.

Maintenance Construction and Emergency Repair Contract Award: The Contract was prepared and forwarded to John Garcia Construction after the contract award at last month's meeting.

AUDITOR

Robert McNinch did not attend the meeting and no report was provided.

LICENSED OPERATOR

Robert De Block discussed the following items:

The January 2023 Proficiency Testing was successfully passed.

The NJDEP Laboratory Renewal Application has been completed and submitted.

DES is preparing the Annual Consumer Confidence Report.

TTHM: Results for the First Quarter have been received. The Locational Running Annual Averages range from 53 ug/L to 70 ug/L and are complaint with the MCL of 80 ug/L.

Non-Revenue Water: Onsite review of all interconnections with PVWC staff is scheduled for March 20.

Motion by Chowdhry seconded by Flach to approve John Garcia Construction to complete the ISO Hydrant Flow Test for an amount not to exceed \$2,560.00.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

Motion by Flach seconded by Chowdhury to place order with Mueller for an Auto Flusher not to exceed the amount of \$4,397.00.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

- **REVIEW OF MINUTES**: Minutes for October 17, 2022 -Held Over due to lack of quorum. Motion by Flach seconded by Alfano to approve the Minutes and Executive Minutes for February 13, 2023.
YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

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ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-Next meeting scheduled for April 5, 2023.

- **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. NJDEP Laboratory Certification Program

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Water Connection Application/HCH-151 Graham Ave., North Haledon-Discussed in Executive Session.
2. 27 Jasper Street, Haledon/Investigate Location of Meter-Letter to be sent.
3. Water Bill Dispute/25 Venna Ave. North Haledon-Letter to be sent.
4. Water Bill Dispute/554 West Broadway, Haledon-Letter to be sent.
5. ARCADIS/Professional Engineering Services Heights Tank Improvements-Held for review at next meeting.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Water Connection Application/110 West Haledon Avenue, Haledon-Engineer provided letter recommending approval.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

No Public Present

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

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RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

2023-15 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED MARCH 13, 2023

2023-16 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY ESCROW ACCOUNT BILLS LIST DATED MARCH 13, 2023

2023-17 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE WATER CONNECTION APPLICATION FOR 110 WEST HALEDON AVENUE, HALEDON SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

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. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS-Holland Christian Homes Water Service Agreement

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

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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: 8:35PM

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

TIME: 8:52PM

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN:

NO: -0-

TIME: 8:53PM

• MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Chowdhury seconded by Alfano to adjourn meeting.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Chowdhury, Flach, Alfano

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Wahad, Recording Secretary