

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 22, 2024
CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
7:30 P.M.**

TIME: 7:32 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 January 8, 2024 meeting of the MUA was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Therefore, the January meeting was rescheduled to January 22, 2024 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. ELECTRONIC PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION OF THE MEETING.

Formal Action will be taken.

• FLAG SALUTE

• ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

Absent: Chowdhury, Smith

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

**• PUBLIC HEARING- 2024 CONNECTION FEE INCREASE
2024 RATE INCREASE
2024 BUDGET**

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

No Public Present

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIRMAN

Victor D'Ambrosio spoke on the following items:

He explained that all rate increases are taken very seriously by the Board. The Board tries to keep any and all rate increases as low as possible to really just meet budgeted operating expenses. This is not easy considering needed infrastructure improvements and the annual rate increase issued by PVWC, which was 6% this year. The Connection Fee is still much lower than the state average of \$10,000.00.

The letter was sent to PVWC outlining the billing adjustments owed to the MUA. There is a Resolution for consideration tonight to void past payment checks and to make adjustment for the estimated credits. The Resolution is recommended for approval by the Auditor.

The Notice received from the State regarding TTHMs will be explained by the professionals.

He expressed his thanks to Denise Wahad and the website consultant for addressing the MUA's recent website issues.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is important information regarding:
BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS**

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 or call NJ211.

The application period for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is currently closed. 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 Item: Recommend approval of a six (6) month extension to the Construction Valve Exercising Contract with John Garcia Construction due to delays that were beyond the contractor's control.

Operations: Additional energy data was requested from PVWC that the BPU requires be included in the final report for the Acoustical Testing Pilot Program. Once received, the final report will be completed and sent to the BPU and the grant will be completed. The MUA now owns the acoustical loggers which still have 2 to 3 years of battery useful life remaining. Implementing a scaled back

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leak monitoring plan should be considered. This issue will be addressed by the Operations Committee.

Water Quality: Coordinating with the Licensed Operator to identify lead service connections. Work Orders are being issued for inspections. Over 150 responses have been received from the lead service survey.

Facilities: Holland Chrisitan Home Water Main Extension Project: The design work has begun. Long term funding will be sought for the project once it is designed and publicly bid.

920 Belmont Project- Letter must be sent concerning non-payment of additional service connection fee for the irrigation system. The total owed is \$82,082.00.

1278 Belmont Avenue – Garage construction which is very close to the MUA’s water main.

978 Belmont Avenue – Planning Board Notice received.

269 Pompton Road – Connection request was received; however, a response has not been sent because replacement plans for galvanized water mains are not complete.

Management: The status of the North Haledon PFAS contamination of water supply wells will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

Annual rolling average for NRW has decreased slightly to 33% in December of 2023.

Capital Improvements: The 2019 Draft Asset Management Plan is being updated.

ATTORNEY

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

Policy: 2024 Rate Schedule changes were discussed.

Delinquent Accounts: Heights at Haledon Condo Association made payment.

920 Belmont was sent a letter concerning the amount owed. Denise Wahad has followed up with them on two occasions and no response has been received nor has payment be made. Recommend counsel following up at this point.

AUDITOR

Robert McNinch discussed the following items:

2024 Items: Connection Fee, Budget, and Rate Increase discussed.

Resolutions: The November and December PVWC bills on the Bills List Resolution have not been adjusted; therefore, the Board must address those bills.

LICENSED OPERATOR

Robert De Block discussed the following items:

Operations: The Annual WQAA Certification was submitted on December 27, 2023.

Options for laboratory analysis are being evaluated since PVWC advised that they will no longer process.

The Wheeling Charge needs to be implemented effective January 1.

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TTHM: The Updated Remedial Measures Report and Corrective Actions Completion Certification have been submitted to the NJDEP. An Operational Evaluation Level Exceedance Notice was received from the NJDEP and was discussed.

Lead & Copper: There are 21 services that need to be inspected. Once completed, the sampling list will be finalized, and communication can begin with targeted properties to confirm their willingness to participate. Sampling is scheduled for June through September of 2024. Responses from the survey are now at over 200.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Flach seconded by Moczo to approve the Minutes for December 11, 2023.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-Next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2024.

• **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. NJDEP Correspondence/Operational Evaluation Level Exceedance
2. Freshwater Wetlands Application/1145 High Mountain Road, NH
3. NH Planning Board/987 Belmont Avenue, North Haledon

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

• **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 920 Belmont Avenue, North Haledon/WCA Balance Due-Letter to be sent by Counsel
2. 1040 High Mountain Road, NH/Dispute Letter-Response Sent
3. 225 Pompton Road/Water Bill Dispute-Letter sent but no response.
4. Service Request/Account numbers 85-0, 109-1, 110-1-Discussed under Attorney Report
5. LIHWAP Language Requirements-Discussed under Attorney Report
6. 27 Jasper Street, Haledon-Time Extension Request-No update
7. ARCADIS/Professional Engineering Services Heights Tank Improvements-To be discussed at the next meeting.

• **NEW BUSINESS**

1. New Jersey Water Association/Membership Renewal-Additional information needed.

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• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

No Public Present

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

- 2024-01 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED JANUARY 22, 2024**

- 2024-02 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE ESCROW BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE ESCROW BILLS LIST DATED JANUARY 22, 2024**

- 2024-03 LATE INTRODUCTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET**

- 2024-04 ADOPTION OF THE 2024 CONNECTION FEE**

- 2024-05 ADOPTION OF 2024 RATE INCREASE**

- 2024-06 ADOPTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET**

- 2024-07 AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE THE 2024 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2024-08 AUTHORIZATION TO VOID AND REISSUE CERTAIN CHECKS**

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2024-09 AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND CONSTRUCTION VALVE EXERCISING CONTRACT WITH JOHN GARCIA CONSTRUCTION FOR A TERM OF SIX (6) MONTHS

Motion by Flach seconded by Moczo to amend **RESOLUTION 2024-01 TO REDUCE PVWC BILL'S LIST TOTAL BY \$40,200** and to add **RESOLUTION 2024-09** entitled **“AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND CONSTRUCTION VALVE EXERCISING CONTRACT WITH JOHN GARCIA CONSTRUCTION FOR A TERM OF SIX (6) MONTHS.”**

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion by Moczo seconded by Flach to pass the Resolutions by Consent as amended.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

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. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

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.

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

TIME: 9:16PM

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

TIME: 9:16PM

• MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Moczo seconded by Flach to adjourn.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Moczo

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Wahad, Recording Secretary