

**MANCHESTER UTILITIES AUTHORITY
MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
CONDUCTED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING
7:30 P.M.**

TIME: 7:37PM

• 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 12, 2025. A copy of the Annual Meeting Notice was advertised on February 16, 2025 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, Flach, Smith, Muzibul joined @7:42pm

Absent: Chowdhury, Moczo

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

• REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

CHAIRMAN

Victor D'Ambrosio spoke on the following:

The MUA experienced an unprecedented water emergency on August 8, 2025 at 4:00 a.m. and ended on September 2, 2025.

He thanked North Haledon Mayor George and Council for their assistance during the emergency, especially arranging the water interconnection with Hawthorne.

He thanked Haledon Mayor Johnson and Council for their assistance during the emergency.

He thanked all MUA Operators and Clerks for their dedication and work during the emergency.

He thanked the MUA Licensed Operator, MUA Engineer, Local Police Departments, Haledon Staff, Wayne, Hawthorne, NJDEP, and PVWC for their help during the emergency.

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He thanked the customers for helping each other as neighbors.

He gave the following factual summary of the emergency:

On August 8 at 4:00 a.m. the MUA was notified that a water main had broke in the PVWC system rendering PVWC unable to provide the MUA with water.

The MUA undertook efforts to preserve the water that it had (close valves, etc.); however, the MUA had no water by the next day, Saturday, August 9.

The MUA was then advised that there were two water main breaks and based on their locations, it was difficult to move water through the zone.

The MUA made sure that all hydrants and lines were functioning and ready for when PVWC could provide water.

On August 14, the MUA was notified that PVWC completed the repairs and could provide water.

On August 15, water was moving at normal pressure; however, a Boil Water Advisory was in effect.

The MUA had to undergo significant flushing in order to remove the Boil Water Advisory; however, the MUA flushing could not begin until PVWC completed their flushing.

PVWC experienced another main break, which further delayed their flushing process.

On August 29 PVWC completed their flushing.

On August 30 the MUA began the flushing in its system. Despite it being a holiday weekend, the MUA completed the flushing in unprecedented time: 2 days.

On September 1 the MUA took samples and received verbal confirmation that the results were good.

On September 2 the NJDEP approved lifting the Boil Water Advisory.

Bills associated with the emergency are accumulating and are under review.

He summarized the next steps:

The MUA will complete a full vulnerability assessment on all interconnections, pumps, valves, etc.

The MUA's infrastructure will be examined to determine new interconnections in other systems. Communications involved many agencies and entities. The MUA is considering adding a position to have a point person for Communications. This position would also create a plan for social media and other communication platforms to reach our customers.

The MUA's Budget must include a line item for Emergency Supplies. Currently repairs are itemized but not supplies.

Reimbursements will be sought.

All funding will be reviewed and sought.

The MUA is committed to moving forward and making every effort to ensure that this type of emergency does not happen again.

The Heights Tank Project has begun and that tank will be emptying today so some customers may experience low pressure in certain areas.

The Reservoir Pointe repairs are happening this week so some customer may experience low pressure in that area.

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ENGINEER

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

Action Items: Recommend approval of the water connection application for 320 Belmont Avenue/424 West Clinton Street.

Recommend approval to award the 2025 Valve and Hydrant Inspection Services Bid to John Garcia Construction.

Water Quality: The Heights Tank Improvements Project construction is beginning September 5, 2025.

Facilities: Circle Avenue exposed and leaking water mains: Temporary repair completed by Garcia to avoid a potential break when water service returned after the PVWC water main break. Arcadis will still be designing a permanent repair.

The acoustic leak detection program has started. Arcadis is coordinating two water main leak repairs with Garcia and the MUA.

Non-Revenue Water: The annual rolling average for NRW ending in June was 13%. Monthly average for June was 5%.

Capital Improvements: Arcadis to develop a priority list of improvements to be made post-PVWC Water Main Break with estimated costs and timelines for the projects, as an update to the MUA's Capital Improvement Plan.

ATTORNEY

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

Capital Improvement Projects: Recommendation to award the 2025 Valve and Hydrant Inspection Services Contract.

AUDITOR

Robert McNinch discussed the following:

2026 Budget is in the works and will be presented next month. Emergency line items were discussed.

LICENSED OPERATOR

Robert De Block discussed the following items:

The Chairman summarized the facts surrounding the recent emergency.

Letters regarding galvanized and lead services were sent out.

LONGO Electrical-Mechanical, Inc. and Neal Systems Quotes were discussed.

• REVIEW OF MINUTES

Motion made by Flach seconded by Muzibul to approve the Minutes for July 14, 2025.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: Smith

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NO: -0-

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE-Next meeting scheduled for September 24, 2025

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Water Connection Application/320 Belmont Ave, North Haledon-Discussed under Engineer Report.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. HSR Radio Signaling Price Quote #E27895/ Neal Systems Incorporated-Discussed under Licensed Operator Report.
2. Reservoir Point Roto Phase/LONGO Electrical-Mechanical Sales and Service-Discussed under Licensed Operator Report.
3. Water Connection Application/345 Haledon Avenue, Haledon-Under Review.
4. Water Connection Application/409 High Mountain Road, North Haledon-Under Review.
5. BRAVE Industrial Paint Payment Application 001-Heights Tank Project Payment discussed.

Motion made by Smith seconded by Flach to approve Neal Systems price quote #E27895 for an amount not to exceed \$5,862.00.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Motion made by Flach seconded by Smith to approve LONGO Electrical-Mechanical, Inc. price quote #45658 for an amount not to exceed \$16,464.00 for Emergency Repairs at Reservoir Point.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Motion made Smith seconded by Flach to open public hearing.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Lauren Ferrer
74 West Haledon Avenue

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Haledon, NJ 07508

She suggested adding or highlighting the Financial Aid Application for customers.

She questioned the Emergency Expense line item.

She advised that people are keeping receipts for reimbursement requests.

She stated that her water bill went up prior to the main break.

Motez Ramadan

141 Avenue B

Haledon, NJ 07508

He thanked the MUA for the emergent efforts.

He asked about reimbursement for the public for expenses.

He said his major concern is the contingency plan for the future.

He asked who pays for the capital improvements.

He believes that the MUA is responsible because he pays them.

Charles Ferrer Sr.

74 West Haledon Avenue

Haledon, NJ 07508

He asked if decoupling with PVWC could be considered.

He stated that if the MUA expands with PVWC there will be continued problems.

He stated that the MUA needs an emergency interconnection.

Mayor George

Borough of North Haledon

103 Overlook Avenue

North Haledon, NJ 07508

He commended the MUA's efforts during the emergency.

He stated that the emergency was the fault of PVWC and not the MUA.

He stated that he is working with the NJDEP to address the PFAS issue in his community and assurances and upgrades will be needed in order to expand the MUA's system.

North Haledon uses the RAVE System to notify all residents and recommends that system.

He stated emergency interconnection are needed.

A resident asked him about using the reservoir for emergency use.

He asked how many lines have been identified with lead.

Hawthorne shuts off delinquent accounts for non-payment.

He impressed upon the Congresswoman that funds will be needed to address the infrastructure concerns.

He said PVWC must be pushed to replace these older lines.

He received a Facebook complaint that the water bills are higher. The MUA needs to explain.

He believes that the MUA has no responsibility to pay anyone back. The Federal Government will hopefully provide some funds; however, the Governor would not declare a State of Emergency.

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

COMMISSIONERS RESPONSES

The Chairman addressed the members of the public's concerns as follows:

Communication upgrades are being considered.

The Financial Aid information has been discussed at every MUA meeting for over 2 years and is on the MUA's website.

Emergency Repairs are currently in the MUA Budget; however, Emergency Supplies (in this case, for example, the water provided to customers) are not currently in the Budget.

The MUA is not the agency to request reimbursement from.

The MUA's revenues are based on the customers usage. Customers did not use the water so they will not be billed for use; therefore, no credit would be necessary.

The MUA's total Budget is approximately \$4,000,000. Every dollar is spent on maintaining and upgrading the system. Last year the MUA rate increase was 2% while PVWC increased its bulk water rate by 5%. The MUA absorbed the additional PVWC increase.

The MUA does not have the revenue to provide reimbursements. In order to generate the revenue, the MUA would need to raise the water rates.

Please contact elected officials and request emergent funds to address these needs.

If you have business interruption insurance, please contact your insurance agent to put in a claim. Decoupling from PVWC is not an option; however, prioritizing projects that will impact the MUA is definitely something that the MUA will be pursuing.

Additional emergency interconnections are definitely being investigated.

The Reservoir is no longer owned by the Borough of Haledon and cannot be used for an emergency water source. The Filtration Plant has not been in use for decades and is not in any way operational.

The reason the bills may be higher is likely because the recent bills included an additional 3 weeks of usage. Water rates have not been increased since last January.

He thanked the members of the public for attending and encouraged them to attend again.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED BY CONSENT

**2025-42 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE FOR PAYMENT THE
WATER OPERATING BILLS AS SET FORTH IN THE
WATER OPERATING BILLS LIST DATED SEPTEMBER 8,
2025**

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- 2025-43 AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE WATER CONNECTION APPLICATION FOR 320 BELMONT AVENUE/424 WEST CLINTON STREET SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS**
- 2025-44 AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD 2025 VALVE AND HYDRANT INSPECTION SERVICES**
- 2025-45 AUTHORIZATION TO ADD TO BILL’S LIST FOR APPROVAL BRAVE INDUSTRIAL PAINT LLC PAYMENT APPLICATION #001 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,880.00**

Motion by Smith seconded by Flach to add Resolution 2025-45 entitled “**AUTHORIZATION TO ADD TO BILL’S LIST FOR APPROVAL BRAVE INDUSTRIAL PAINT LLC PAYMENT APPLICATION #001 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,880.00.**”

YES: D’Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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

YES: D’Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0

TIME: 9:28PM

• 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- Interlocal Service Agreement with the Borough of Haledon
- B. LEGAL- Reimbursement Requests

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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.

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

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

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

TIME: 10:04PM

• MEETING ADJOURNED

Motion by Flach seconded by Smith to adjourn meeting.

YES: D'Ambrosio, Flach, Smith, Muzibul

ABSTAIN: -0-

NO: -0-

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Wahad, Recording Secretary