

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 30, 2024

Chairwoman Napolitani called the special meeting of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority to order at 6:34 p.m. The meeting was held at the Authority's Administration building located at 199 Foul Rift Road, Belvidere, New Jersey.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss further expansion of sewer coverage areas.

Roll Call:

Laurel Napolitani, Chairwoman
Joseph Roth, Vice Chairperson
Angelo Accetturo, Treasurer
Gerald Norton, Secretary
Anne Marie Skoog

Also, in attendance Brian Tipton, Esq., Authority Legal Counsel; John Inscho, Authority Executive Director; and Susan Wright, Authority Administrative Assistant.

As well as, County Administrator Alex Lazorisak on behalf of the County of Warren; Mayor Kathleen Miers and Planning Board Chairman Hal Halvorsen on behalf of the Town of Belvidere; Oxford Township Engineer, Michael Finelli of Finelli Consulting Engineers on behalf of Oxford Township; and Deputy Mayor Jeffrey Herb, Planning Board Chairman Timothy Matthews, and Township Clerk and CFO Kathleen Reinalda on behalf of White Township.

Chairwoman Napolitani led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and then read the Introductory Statement.

WC(PR)MUA CHAIRWOMAN

Chairwoman Napolitani advised that the intention of the special meeting is to have an open discussion regarding identifying growth areas that may be sewerred. She advised that both Authority's plants (Belvidere and Oxford) are only operating at 50% capacity and that each year the costs continue to increase and therefore, those costs fall on existing users. So, the more users that can be connected, the lower the cost per user moving forward. She further stated that the purpose is to figure out a way to all work together instead of individually.

AUTHORITY LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. Tipton elaborated on the information that Chairwoman Napolitani stated. He also reminded everyone that there are individuals at the meeting that are wearing multiple hats, as they represent the Authority as well as their respective Municipality, with no conflict.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Lazorisak commented on behalf of the County Commissioners that they also would like to see the Authority grow, as he does agree that operating at 50% capacity is not productive to any of the entities or existing rate payors.

AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Inscho suggested a sub-committee be formed so that each municipality and the authority are on the same page and discuss future projects that may affect the Authority.

Mr. Inscho also advised that he has met with Ben Spinelli (sp.) from the Highlands Council. They discussed scheduling a meeting with municipal and authority representatives in the near future.

TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

Chairwoman Napolitani inquired to each township representative what potential or future projects they may have that would benefit the Authority.

Town of Belvidere: Mayor Miers advised that there are two pockets within the Town that do not have municipal water or sewer. They would like to open up the road one time and provide those residents with a utility upgrade (water, gas and sewer) at once. She did inquire about whether there would be a need for a pumping station. Mr. Inscho and the Authority Engineer did visit the area and it was determined that there is plenty of pitch and that a pumping station would not be necessary.

Township of Oxford: Mayor Norton advised that there is a potential development project of approximately 123 townhouses and some apartment buildings. A submission should be forthcoming.

Township of White: Deputy Mayor Herb advised that the only future project at this time is the redevelopment of the old A&P complex. Mr. Herb also advised that Mr. Spinelli will be attending a future White Township meeting to discuss providing them with some financial assistance for the Route 46 project.

Mr. Lazorisak suggested that the Authority update the service area maps for each municipality.

Mr. Finelli advised that his experience with grants and ibank, etc. was well worth it and agreed that a meeting with the Highlands Council is a good idea. He also agreed with Mr. Lazorisak

about updating the service area maps.

A sub-committee was formed as follows:

Mayor Miers on behalf of Belvidere.
Mayor Norton on behalf of Oxford.
Deputy Mayor Herb on behalf of White; and
Chairwoman Napolitani on behalf of the Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

As there was no more business to discuss, Mr. Norton moved for the meeting to be adjourned.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Susan Wright
Susan Wright
Administrative Assistant