

## **EVESHAM MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

### **Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2015**

Assistant Secretary Tencza read the opening statement as follows:

Adequate public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Assistant Executive Director of Business of the Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority, Evesham Township Building, 984 Tuckerton Road, Marlton, NJ on March 12, 2015.
2. E-mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, Courier Post, and Central Record on March 12, 2015.
3. Posting written notice on the official Evesham MUA website on March 12, 2015.
4. Filing written notice with the Clerks of Evesham and Medford on March 12, 2015.

This statement shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting.

#### **Roll Call**

Present: Fiscaro, Morton, Tencza, Waters

Alternate: Lutner, Hassall

Absent: Wessner

Also Present: Engineer Simpson, Executive Director Rollins, Deputy Executive Director of Operations Lender, Assistant Executive Director of Business Puszcz, Assistant Executive Director of Personnel Locantore, Operations Manager Croft, General Counsel Drollas (7:36)

#### **Members of the Public (who offered public comments):**

Steve Blankenship (non resident), Kenneth Mills – 119 Meadow Lane, Joe (No last name or address provided), Dan Meyers – 12 Arrowhead Dr., Michael Hayden – 1715 Roosevelt Ave., Phil Warren – 357 Holly Rd., Tom Czerniecki – Evesham Township Manager, John Foster – 10 Verona Rd, Lisa Drahorad – 2245 Old Marlton Pike and Byron Druss – 5 Sweetgum Ct.

Chairman Fiscaro called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**October 5, 2015** – On motion by Waters, seconded by Lutner, it was moved to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015.

RECORDED VOTE:            AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fisicaro  
                                      NAY: None  
                                      ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

Chairman Fisicaro requested that Agenda item #7, be moved to the #1 on the agenda for discussion. The board concurred.

## **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Heritage Village Condition Assessment of sanitary sewer mains:** Executive Director Rollins provided a history of the Authority's infrastructure and past capital improvement projects, including a timeline of improvements and costs including redesigning and upgrading the Elmwood Plant, Woodstream Plant, Kings Grant Plant, Road Side Pump Station and New World Pump Station as well as planned above ground projects, including Locust Ave., Cropwell Rd., Westerly Drive and Quail Run Pump Stations. The Authority must now turn its attention to that which comprises 80-90% of the water/sewer system which is the buried infrastructure. To undertake this challenge the Authority deployed its new TV truck to the Heritage Village section and began condition assessment.

Deputy Executive Director Lender continued with his presentation starting with a history stating Georgetown was built in the 1950's and Heritage Village in the early 1960's. Cement asbestos water mains and clay pipe sewer mains were the norm at that time. In 1989 to 1990 the MUA replaced 32.5% of the sewer mains with laterals and man holes. In 2005 there was a water main break of the asbestos pipes. When asbestos pipe breaks, it disintegrates. Deputy Executive Director Lender displayed picture slides of this break including one in 2013 showing how catastrophic these breaks can be because when it breaks it wipes out other utilities in its path including the clay sewer mains, causing extreme damage. He explained all the work that needed to be done and the expenses incurred. The life expectancy of the asbestos pipes is 50 to 75 years in which we are reaching the end. The Heritage Village sewer pipe was TV'd this year. Some of the pipe was replaced in the 1980's, but there are still clay pipes that need to be replaced. Deputy Executive Director Lender displayed video of the current condition of the clay pipes which are showing cracks and infiltration which adds to the load processed by the treatment plants as well as a video that showed how sewer stoppages occur. All data was transferred to the GIS team which mapped all the pipes that were replaced and what still needed to be replaced; the placement of all manholes and how

many breaks there are in pipes from one manhole to the next. A copy of this video and report will be provided to the Authority engineers. A board committee will be appointed to review and prioritize this project to replace both water and sewer pipes in Heritage Village, which includes road resurfacing. Arrowhead is currently being assessed by the TV truck crew and should be completed shortly. Other areas with pipes of the same materials and which are approaching the end of their useful life will also be assessed going forward. Deputy Executive Director Lender broke down costs. Chairman Fiscaro stated that the current systems were installed by developers; therefore, there is no uniform pipe material type throughout Evesham. The board approved this presentation to the Evesham MUA's Engineers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Blankenship (non resident) advised what he thought an MUA should be used for – safe water, public health, protect the environment and an economic driver for the township. Experience shows that when an MUA becomes part of a township, the MUA can no longer focus on these things because of too much competition (for funds) in other areas of the township. He believes that the Evesham MUA is forward thinking and that MUA's typically have an asset management program. This makes an MUA prepared for situations that may come up and plan for preventative maintenance - not just material assets, but human assets. This MUA in particular is very professional. It would be a detriment to the citizens of Evesham if this MUA was to be dissolved.

Kenneth Mills of 119 Meadow Lane stated that he appreciates the open forum and is troubled by the discussion of the takeover and information that has come out. He requests that Mr. Rollins and Mr. Lender take care of their employees regardless of the outcome. He is concerned about the "infrastructure going to heck" and talked about recent water main breaks. He questioned the salary increase of the Assistant Executive Director of Personnel of \$16,000 and wanted to know the documentation on that. Chairman Fiscaro responded that there was an investigation into other area MUA salaries compared to the Evesham MUA's and we discovered that we were one of the lowest paid utilities.

Joe (no last name or address provided) stated in reference to replacement of mains, and as a resident, he feels he has some expertise in this field. He worked for 35 years in the city of Philadelphia for the gas company, mainly replacing mains. He feels this should have been started a long time ago. Chairman Fiscaro responded that when he became a part of this board, a replacement program was underway. He can't speak on what transpired before him. Joe explained a system that he discovered through his employment that was an easier, less expensive way to replace mains. He asked if this option had been investigated. Chairman Fiscaro responded that they are aware of this procedure and this was used on Cropwell Rd and assured the resident that this less expensive procedure will be used with the rest of the improvements.

Dan Meyers of 12 Arrowhead Drive stated he is concerned over the dissolution of the Evesham MUA. He feels the organization is very responsive to the needs of the community. In turn, there are issues he's had with the township that he has not been happy with the outcome. Therefore, he feels this may pose a problem. "Can they handle something like this and keep the quality?" There are small advantages, but he believes over time this would turn into a privatization causing rates to increase considerably. He trusts that the people of the township are good people that will try to create a plan, however he's seen council members, mayors, etc change and priorities change. He is very concerned that these changes will lead to the privatization. He feels the way the Evesham MUA is run currently should remain. He stated that he was sure it would still be clean water but the personal attention to water/sewer matters would be gone. He stated that the Evesham MUA already gives funds to the Township. Chairman Fiscaro responded 5% of the operating budget. Mr. Meyers suggested if the Township needs more maybe there is something to be discussed in increasing the percentage. Members of the public in attendance expressed apparent unanimous dissent.

Michael Hayden of 1715 Roosevelt Ave requests that the board do not dissolve the MUA. He has been involved in municipal government for the past thirty years and has never met a township council or mayor who hasn't tried to squeeze money out wherever they could to get the things they wanted. He doesn't want his rates to go up to support other town projects.

Phil Warren of 357 Holly Rd stated with no disrespect, that the MUA board are not elected officials. He suggested they vote "no" on the dissolution but if mayor and council decide to go forward, this is the job they were elected to do and the MUA needs to continue to do their job.

Tom Czerniecki – Evesham Township Manager, stated that he works for the Mayor and council and is the Chief Operating Officer for the Township. Department heads report to him which in turn he recommends policies to the governing body and implements them. He stated (the Township) has a great working relationship with the MUA and are grateful for what they have developed over the years. He explained the resolutions on the table, their importance and the process following. He encourages the residents to come to the council meeting to express the same questions and concerns they have stated at the MUA meeting. He presented a slide show explaining how the idea of taking over the MUA came about and his findings that make him a proponent of the idea from a business perspective. Mr. Czerniecki stated he knows of townships that were successful and unsuccessful when dissolving their MUA's and that it all depends on the standards the community and governing body puts in place. In reference to employees, he stated that the laborers' contract(s) would be honored and he would like to bring everyone over and treat this as a name change only.

Kenneth Mills of 119 Meadow Ln questioned if his study was available to the public. Mr. Czerniecki stated that it is not complete, but if this goes forward it will be available to the public.

Vice Chairman Waters inquired how the municipality Mr. Czerniecki referenced as not working out was remedied. Mr. Czerniecki stated that it was the cause of the culture of the town and the utilities reflected that and were not run well. This is not the same case with Evesham MUA. We can't ignore the debt structure.

A resident who did not identify himself questioned that since most of the savings is coming from debt restructure and interest is there any protective language that Mr. Czerniecki can put in the ordinance that states the money stays with the MUA. Mr. Czerniecki stated that Councilman Zeuli is an advocate of this and moving in that direction. Ultimately it is the decision of the council. If they created a water / sewer department with standards in their administrative code with financial policies, they would not bind but would require a separate vote to deviate from the standards set.

A resident who did not identify herself stated her concern that these policies put in place will be too easily disregarded and (could) eventually (lead to) privatization. Mr. Czerniecki stated that Councilman Zeuli is trying to strengthen the capital improvements a little bit and there has been no mention of privatization and both these issues could happen whether the township takes over or not. The resident stated in all these years there has been no concern and also stated that privatization will raise rates and what happens to the employees 5 to 10 years down the road.

John Foster of 10 Verona Rd questioned if it were possible to put in the agreement that if privatization came up that the council could not vote on that? Chairman Fisicaro stated that the state passed a bill that votes are not required. Mr. Foster stated that there is at least a 2% increase if American Water were to take over. Chairman Fisicaro stated that we charge our Fire Dept \$170 per fire hydrant and American Water charges over \$500. Mr. Foster stated in privatization we pay for other people's problems not just ours. Mr. Czerniecki stated again that this could just as easily happen whether or not the township takes over and it falls on the residents to attend the meetings and voice opinions.

Lisa Drahorad of 2245 Old Marlton Pike stated that Evesham MUA has done an excellent job at maximizing our low rates and making improvements. She stated she does not see the same good management happening with the township. There is already shared service agreements in place. Ms. Drahorad also commented on the current employees' hard work and family type environment. Ms. Drahorad questioned the fact that Evesham MUA is already contributing the 5% (to the Township) and what does that equate to in the long term debt plan? Chairman Fisicaro stated it was almost \$900,000. Ms. Drahorad stated that this is not netted out of the dollars to take care of the debt (in the event of Township dissolution). Therefore, the township is losing almost a million dollars a year and "". Mr. Fisicaro gave examples of the dedication of our employees and stated he was very proud of the Authority's personnel.

Byron Druss of 5 Sweetgum Ct stated he studies large investor owned utilities and provides budget planning software to them. Business is growing for privatization. Our town is run very well. Mr. Druss stated that privatization does not raise rates. The lack of

capital improvements each year over a long period of time is what causes infrastructure to have to give up to privatization. Mr. Druss questioned, what is the township's plan to keep up with the capital improvements beyond the next 5-10 years? Mr. Fiscaro gave a list of the Evesham MUA's planned projects, but can't speak for the Township. Mr. Czerniecki stated he feels this will be one of the benefits in working together and having a more integrated planning process.

Mr. Fiscaro closed public comment.

**Resolution 2015-136: Resolution authorizing the Dissolution of Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority**

No motion – Resolution did not pass.

**Resolution 2015-137: Resolution certifying Liabilities/Obligations/Assets of Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority**

No motion – Resolution did not pass.

**FINANCIAL**

**Resolution 2015-129: Payment of Bills**

There was a review and discussion of the bills. On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to adopt **Resolution #2015-129** approving the payment of the October 2015 bills.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Morton, Lutner, Waters, Fiscaro

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-130: Refunds, Credits & Cancellations** – On motion by Morton, seconded by Tencza, it was moved to adopt **Resolution #2015-130** approving the October 2015 refunds, credits & cancellations.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-131: Award of Contract in excess of \$6,000** –On motion by Tencza, seconded by Waters, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-131** awarding a contract in excess of \$6,000 to Garrison Printing Company in the amount of \$12,450 for printing of 2016 EMUA calendar.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-132: Award of Contract in excess of \$12,500** – On motion by Waters, seconded by Morton, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-132** awarding a contract in excess of \$12,500 to Adirondack Energy Conservation, LLC in the amount of \$25,407 for Energy Conservation Optimizing equipment – Well 12. Executive Director Rollins explained about the pilot project at Kings Grant this product was expected to provide an 8% savings on our energy costs and it was actually a 13% savings, so we plan to use this same product at Well 12.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-133: Authorization to advertise for Fire Hydrant Replacement Contract from qualified firms** - On motion by Morton, seconded by Waters, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-133** authorizing the advertisement for Fire Hydrant Replacement Contract from qualified firms.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-134: Authorization to advertise for the replacement of 7 Gear Boxes at Elmwood Plant** –On motion by Morton, seconded by Waters, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-134** authorizing the advertisement to replace 7 Gear Boxes at the Elmwood Plant. Operations Manager Croft stated we had a failure on one of the gear boxes last year; all boxes are original with equipment approaching 25 years so they need to be replaced.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-138: Emergency Award of Contract in excess of \$6,000** – On motion by Waters, seconded by Morton, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-138** awarding an emergency contract in excess of \$6,000 to Henkels & McCoy, Inc., in the amount of \$20,000 for the repair of a water main break on Rt. 70 at Burns GMC. Chairman Fiscaro stated that Rt 70 & Rt 73 have a high volume of traffic and we do not have the equipment needed to close the roads for in house repairs.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-139: Award of Contract in excess of \$6,000** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Lutner, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-139** awarding a contract in excess of \$6,000 to PIM Corporation in the amount of \$14,550 for the building/recoating of the sulfuric acid feed box at Kings Grant Plant. Operations Manager Croft stated that the sulfuric acid is added to treated water prior to heading out to the basins, which has deteriorated the feed box over time. The box will be coated with an acid resistant epoxy resin that is expected to last 15-20 years minimum.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Resolution 2015-140: Authorization for sale of property no longer needed for public use through on-line auction at GovDeals** –On motion by Waters, seconded by Lutner, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-140** authorizing the sale of property through on-line auction at GovDeals. Operations Manager provided a list of the items that will be going to auction.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No violations since our last meeting in October.

Two sewer main stoppages caused by excessive grease at 36 W Rt. 70 and in the area of 52 Kent.

Two water main breaks last month: One was at Candlestick and Conestoga. This was repaired by Authority personnel and timed so that a nearby school would not be in session before we had to shut water off.

The other water main break was on Route 70 in front of Burns GMC. The right eastbound lane needed to be shut down, so repairs could commence. NJDOT had to be out there to assist.

There was a valve repair on Begonia and Daphne.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Motion to approve a proposal by Richard A. Alaimo Associates in the amount of \$10,000.** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Lutner, it was moved to adopt a motion approving a proposal by Richard A. Alaimo Associates in the amount of \$10,000 for a Condition Assessment Study of the Authority's Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Update: South Side Water Storage Tank** – Continuing to search for sites and waiting for new water allocation permit from DEP to see if there are any changes.

**Update: Merchants Way Water Tank Painting** – Painting is being done by Allied Painting. The tank is being re-painted due to the failure of the previous contractor and their bonding company has been placed on notice. To ensure proper painting this time we have contracted with Mumford-Bjorkman Associates (MBA) for tank inspection. Previously MBA was authorized a contract not to exceed 30 days of inspection, but the painter has taken 3 extra weeks due to failures from the previous contractor that needed to be corrected which were not anticipated. This will not cost any more for the painters, but we need the inspectors on site, for another 20 days. Engineer Simpson is requesting a change order to approve an increase to 50 days of inspection where 30 days were approved previously. Chairman Fiscaro questioned whether there was ample water

supply for any emergencies and Deputy Executive Director Lender assured there is plenty.

On motion by Tencza, seconded by Waters, it was moved to adopt a motion granting Mumford-Bjorkman Associates an additional 20 days for tank inspection services.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
 NAY: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Update: ASR Well 13/14 Treatment Program** – On hold. Waiting for the water allocation permit from the state which we expect shortly.

**Update: Elmwood/Woodstream SCADA** – Contractor is still working at Woodstream Plant getting the equipment on line.

**Update: Elmwood/Woodstream Energy Improvements** – Working with Authority personnel for the project that was designed by T&M Engineers. Chairman Fiscaro requested a report on how much we've saved since the start of this project. Executive Director Rollins stated that the project started in July so we need to wait till the end of June 2016 to compare electric bills.

**Update: Locust Avenue Pumping Station** – In design. Will probably be a few more months.

**Update: Waterview Court Water Main Replacement** – Contractor has submitted shop drawings that have received approvals. We will be working with the homeowners association to keep residents informed as construction commences.

**Update: Defense Drive Utility Replacement** – Still in design.

**Update: Elmwood Sludge Dewatering** – A second manufacturer came in this month. No report yet. A third manufacturer will come in in November.

**Update: Elmwood Return Sludge Pipe Replacement** – Job complete. Final change order is a deduction for the contingency allowance that wasn't required.

**Resolution 2015-135: Change Order #1 in the amount of (\$10,000)** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to adopt **Resolution 2015-135** approving Change Order #1 in the amount of (\$10,000) from Clyde N. Lattimer & Son Construction Company, Inc., a deduction for the contingency allowance.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Update: Well 6 Redevelopment** – A.C. Schultes is working on this now and will probably be there for a few more weeks.

**Update: Well 7 Redevelopment and Pump Replacement** – Job completed.

**Update: South Cropwell Road Water Main** – Job completed.

**Update: South Cropwell Road Sewer Main Lining** – Completed at end of October. Waiting for final report and video inspection of that pipe rehabilitation.

**Update: Hamilton Road Manhole Casting Resetting** – Project has expanded to include milling and paving of road. Will be designing this month. Proposal was submitted for that change.

**Motion to approve proposal in the amount of \$19,000** – On motion by Waters, seconded by Morton it was moved to approve a proposal of \$19,000 made payable to Richard A. Alaimo Associates for additional work to include curb to curb milling and overlay.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Update: Well 4 Emergency Generator** – Will be in design for the next few months.

**Motion to approve S-1/W-1** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to approve the S-1/W-1 for Fieldstone Assoc., for Barclay Chase at Marlton.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**MOTION to approve S-2/W-2** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton it was moved to approve the S-2/W-2 for 79 N. Locust Ave.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Motion to approve S-3/W-3** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to approve the S-3/W-3 for Cugini Italian Deli for Shoppes at Elmwood.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Motion to approve S-1** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to approve the S-1 79 N. Locust Ave.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

**Motion to approve S-3/W-3** – On motion by Tencza, seconded by Morton, it was moved to approve the S-3/W-3 for 79 N. Locust Ave.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

There was a motion to adjourn by Morton, seconded by Lutner. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

RECORDED VOTE: AYE: Tencza, Lutner, Morton, Waters, Fiscaro  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0-0

The next regular meeting of the Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority is scheduled for December 2, 2015 at 7:30pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan A. Ludlam  
Secretary

APPROVED BY THE BOARD: \_\_\_\_\_