

THE SOUTHEAST MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2021

Due to the current COVID-19 State of Emergency and in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8, et seq., the Authority conducted its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on March 4, 2021 with some of the Members and staff participating by way of teleconference.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and began the meeting with the Statement of Public Notice (Sunshine Law), attached and caused same to be entered into the minutes of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chairman Huber; Members Baldassari, Chumer, Kissil, Marucci, Rotando, Schimpf and Webster [Members Kissil, Schimpf and Webster participated by telephone conference as permitted by the By Laws.]

ABSENT: None

All Members in the meeting acknowledged that they could hear the Secretary and other participants.

Also present were the following: Laura Cummings, Executive Director; Charles Maggio, Chief Financial Officer; and Alexis Bozza, Executive Administrative Assistant; Sidney D. Weiss, Esq., General Counsel to the Authority; Jennifer Roselle, Esq., Genova Burns; and David J. Ruitenbergh, Esq., Murphy McKeon (by telephone).

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Huber stated the next portion of the meeting was set aside for public discussion and asked if any members of the public were present and would like to address the Board, to please state their full name for the record.

Tom Sheridan of 14 Colonial Road in Morristown introduced himself:

Mr. Sheridan: I live in 14 Colonial Road which is near the beginning section of the water main replacement project, just a block off. I am calling to express concerns with how the Water Authority is dealing with breaks in the line and dealing with customers that are being adversely impacted by the water main replacement project. I don't know what the Board is doing to oversee and ensure that complaints are being responded to appropriately but I'm just putting you on notice of this issue and just know that I will be monitoring and following up with my neighbors as you go up South Street and will be providing further updates to the Board if I think that things are not being handled appropriately.

The Executive Director addressed Mr. Sheridan. Ms. Cummings reported that the Authority has made a lot of improvements in terms of rolling out various levels of communications and public outreach. She added that the Authority is meeting weekly with the Morristown Business Administrator and engineering consultant. Ms. Cummings believes the Authority has worked out the issues that occurred in the earlier parts of the project.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you. I appreciate that. I think communication is a big issue. At least, because we were the first phase, we had no notice really; water is just getting turned on and off. This is kind of a side issue from my personal property but was just speaking with some of the businesses around the corner getting my car repaired and also, they're experiencing issues as well, access to their suppliers and customers being cutoff. Like you said, this is the early days. I'm appreciative that it sounds like there is better coordination going on. I'm just letting you know that we are happy the improvements are being made. Everyone agrees, a hundred-year-old plus pipe, needs to be done. Just consideration and notification for the neighbors and the community as you proceed makes sense and I'm glad to hear that you are paying attention to it.

Ms. Cummings offered to call Mr. Sheridan separately to go over the different levels of detail in terms of the notifications.

I don't think that's necessary at this time. We've been in touch. I just happened to be at the mechanic around the corner and those businesses there and had heard similar stories to my experience initially so I'm glad to hear things are being worked on. Thank you.

Chairman Huber thanked Mr. Sheridan for his input and welcomed him back, or any of his neighbors, to future meetings should any further issues arise.

Chairman Huber asked if any other members of the public were present and would like to address the Board. No one responded. He then closed the public discussion portion of the meeting.

MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on February 18, 2021, were distributed to the Members prior to the meeting for review and comment. Member Baldassari moved that the minutes be adopted as presented. Member Kissil seconded the motion. The motion was duly adopted by the remaining Members.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION

Chairman Huber stated that the following items on the agenda may be excluded from the portion of the meeting open to the public pursuant to the exceptions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act. He then offered the following motion:

Resolved that discussions of:

1. Contract negotiations with New Jersey Water Utilities United Local No. 1; and
2. Pending Litigation: Update regarding Order to Show Cause Application; and
3. Tactics and techniques to be utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public including contract negotiations with StoneGate Associates LLC and R&J Strategic Communications, and related matters; and
4. Work performance of specific employee(s) to whom notice has been provided in accordance with law

be held in closed session pursuant to subsections 4, 6, 7 and 8 of Section 12b of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.); and

Be it further resolved that since the discussions are to be conducted in closed session as permitted by the Act, and may involve questions of attorney/client privilege, it is not known at this time when, or if, the contents of the discussions may be disclosed.

Member Baldassari seconded the motion which was duly adopted by the following vote:

YEAS: Chairman Huber; Members Baldassari, Chumer, Kissil, Marucci, Rotando, Schimpf and Webster

NOES: None

There being no further business to be discussed in open session, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

THE SOUTHEAST MORRIS COUNTY
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY


ALEXIS BOZZA
Assistant Secretary

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", in the following manner:

1. By posting a copy of the Annual Notice of the Authority's regular meetings (upon which this meeting is listed) on the Bulletin Board at the Authority's offices at 19 Saddle Road, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey, and by delivering copies of such notice for posting at similar public places in the municipal buildings of the Town of Morristown, the Townships of Hanover and Morris and the Borough of Morris Plains on February 3, 2021.

2. By delivering to, for filing, copies of the Annual Notice with the clerks of the Townships of Chatham, Harding, Mendham, Randolph and Parsippany-Troy Hills, the Boroughs of Florham Park, Madison and Wharton, and the County of Morris on February 3, 2021.

3. By delivering to, for filing, copies of the Annual Notice with the Daily Record, the Newark Star Ledger, and the Morris News Bee on February 3, 2021.



19 Saddle Road
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
(973) 326-6880
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customerservice@smcmua.org
smcmua.org

Resolution No. 33-21

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS

RESOLVED that the following discussions:

1. Contract negotiations with New Jersey Water Utilities United Local No. 1; and
2. Pending Litigation: Update regarding Order to Show Cause Application; and
3. Tactics and techniques to be utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public including contract negotiations with StoneGate Associates LLC and R&J Strategic Communications, and related matters; and
4. Work performance of specific employee(s) to whom notice has been provided in accordance with law.

be held in closed session pursuant to subsections 4, 6, 7 and 8 of Section 12b of the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since the discussions are to be conducted in closed session as permitted by the Act, and may involve questions of attorney/client privilege, it is not known at this time when, or if, the contents of the discussions may be disclosed.

ATTEST:


ALEXIS BOZZA, Assistant Secretary

THE SOUTHEAST MORRIS COUNTY
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY


MAX HUBER, Chairman

Dated: March 4, 2021

Board Members

Morristown:
Max Huber
Donald Kissil

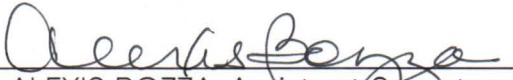
Morris Township:
Dennis Baldassari
Michael Chumer, Ph.D.

Morris Plains:
Ralph R. Rotando
Patricia Webster

Hanover Township:
Nicola Marucci, P.E.
Adolf Schimpf, Ph.D.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the resolution adopted by The Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority on March 4, 2021, at a meeting duly convened of said Authority.


ALEXIS BOZZA, Assistant Secretary

Dated: March 4, 2021