

**OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of March 17, 2025, was called to order at 11:16 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance following the Budget Workshop.

Announcement: Chairman Blair announced that this meeting is being held in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice has been published in the Asbury Park Press on January 19, 2025, and in the Home News Tribune on January 19, 2025. Notice of the meeting has been posted at 15 Throckmorton Lane, Old Bridge; at 71 Boulevard West, Cliffwood Beach; and on the OBMUA Website at www.obmua.com.

Roll Call: This Public Meeting is being recorded.

Present:

James Blair, Chairman
Frank Weber, Vice Chairman
Anita Greenberg, Treasurer (Arrived at 11:30 a.m.)
Edward Casserly, Secretary
Bruce Walker, Commissioner
Perry Simone, Commissioner

Absent:

Mark Razzoli, Commissioner

Also Present:

Michael Roy, P.E., Executive Director
Michelle Smith, Comptroller
Mitchell B. Jacobs, Esq.

Mr. Roy said that in light of the fact that we just had a Budget Workshop Meeting, and we have to approve a Budget Resolution, and that Chris Volk, of Volk Insurance, is also here to discuss insurance, he would like to move Michelle Smith's Finance Report up to the beginning of the meeting agenda.

The consensus was to move the Financial Report to the beginning of the meeting.

Financial Report: Michelle Smith Comptroller

Approval of the Budget Resolution for the Water and Sewer Divisions for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2026.

Mrs. Smith said that her first item to discuss is the approval of the Budget Resolution for the Water and Sewer Divisions for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2026, which includes an 8 ½% rate increase in the Water Division.

A motion was made by Edward Casserly and seconded by Frank Weber to approve the FYE26 Budget.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Casserly, Walker, Weber, Simone, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Greenberg, Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Renewal of Commercial Policy with Selective Insurance for the period from April 15, 2025, to April 14, 2026.

Mrs. Smith said that Chris Volk, of Volk Insurance, is here to discuss the Renewal of our Commercial Policy.

Mr. Chris Volk thanked everyone for his reappointment, and he said that we have a price quote from Selective Insurance Company for a renewal of the Commercial Package Insurance Policy.

Mr. Volk distributed the Commercial Package Insurance Policy 2025 – 2026 Renewal Quote. He said that it shows an increase of \$55,626. He said about 69% of that increase is due to the change of property values. Mr. Volk said that there is a 5% increase in property values. He said that there previously was \$99,000,000 of property coverage for the Authority, and the renewal now includes \$104,000,000 of property coverage, so that is what makes up the majority of the price increase.

Mr. Volk said that on the second page there are some options. He said that currently on the Commercial Auto Policy, all of the smaller vehicles

have a \$500 deductible and all of the larger vehicles like the dump truck have a \$1,000 deductible. Mr. Volk said that if we increase all deductibles to \$1,000, the Authority would save \$4,124, and if the deductible was increased to a \$2,000, the Authority would save \$12,550. Mr. Volk said that this year there were five accidents with the \$500 deductible applied resulting in \$2,500 out of pocket cost. Mr. Volk said that this year has been actually a little higher than in previous years. Normally, there are three to four accidents a year.

Mr. Volk said that the bigger deductible comes on the Commercial Property Coverage. He said that currently there was a \$5,000 deductible and increasing it to a \$10,000 deductible would be a savings of \$20,446. By increasing it to \$25,000, it would be a \$60,156 savings.

Mr. Volk said that with other large property accounts that he is familiar with, they take the premium savings and put it into some type of deductible fund. He said that on the property claims, there was one claim for \$15,000, which was over ten years old.

Mr. Volk asked if anyone had any questions.

Attorney Jacobs asked if we are going to approve the renewal today, do we have to approve the deductible plan as well?

Mr. Volk said no. We can change deductibles at any time.

Attorney Jacobs asked Mrs. Smith if she was going to do an analysis concerning the deductible amounts, and report back at next meeting.

Mrs. Smith said yes.

There were no other questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Walker, Weber, Casserly, Simone, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Greenberg, Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Renewal of the Vision Insurance Policy with VSP for the Period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Mrs. Smith said that there is a 0% increase for the next two years on this insurance policy. She said that the rate is \$28.51 per month for members. Mrs. Smith said that she recommended renewing the policy with VSP.

There were no questions.

A motion to renew the Vision Insurance Policy with VSP was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Walker, Weber, Casserly, Simone, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Greenberg, Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

A motion to approve Mrs. Smith's Financial Report was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Previous Minutes:

Regular Meeting – December 18, 2024

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2024, was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Executive Session – December 18, 2024

A motion to approve the Executive Session of December 18, 2024, was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2025

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025, was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Mr. Walker said that he had to abstain since he was absent from the meeting.

Chairman's Report: James Blair, Chairman

Chairman Blair said he has nothing to say at this time.

Executive Director's
Report:

Michael Roy, P.E. – Executive Director

Status of Various Projects

1. The steel tank erection process for the Disbrow Road Elevated Water Storage Tank is nearly completed. He said that he put pictures in his report of what the inside of the tank looks like. The tank is expected to be

ready to be placed into service by this Summer to meet the high water demands we have in the summer. Painting will begin this month.

2. The sewer relining work along the streets of Van Ethel Drive and Edgar Road in the Leone Park section will also be completed soon by Vortex Services.
3. The Rt. 34 force main replacement project begins this month. That project involves the directional drilling of a 14" HDPE to replace the existing 14" force main pipe across the ravine from the Rt. 34 Pump Station to Balmoral Court, and is expected to be completed and in operation before June 1st.
4. Well No. 12 has been redeveloped by A.C. Schultes and has been put back into operation. Well No. 6 is currently being redeveloped and will be ready for operation before the high water demand begins.
5. Additional work was needed with the Laurence Harbor Water Service Replacement project on Harding Road and Madison Avenue. That work is ongoing and will be completed within a few weeks. The paving restoration will be completed after school is out for the summer.

Purchase of Water Meters from Rio Supply through a New Jersey Cooperative.

There is a need to purchase 240 water meters for use both with new construction and with old meters in need of replacement in the homes of residents and businesses. The Authority plans to replace all of the water meters in Cheesequake Village this year. The cooperative price includes a discount that is comparable to the bid prices from our last annual contract. The cost of water meters for new construction is reimbursed to the Authority through the water meter application fees.

Rio Supply has a contract with NJAC Cooperative, Contract #B365A-4, and the Old Bridge MUA is a member of this cooperative. The attached price quote #18756 from Rio Supply dated February 20, 2025, for two hundred and forty (240) water meters in the amount of \$145.00 per meter, or \$34,800.00, includes the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing (NJWWCP) discount under Contract No. B365A-4.

Mr. Roy recommended that the Authority authorize the purchase of 240 water meters from Rio Supply of Sicklerville, NJ in the amount of their price quote #18756 and in accordance with their NJWWCP Contract #B365A-4.

A motion to approve the purchase of 240 water meters from Rio Supply of Sicklerville, NJ in the amount of their price quote #18756 and in accordance with their NJWWCP Contract #B365A-4 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Walker, Weber, Casserly, Simone, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Greenberg, Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Dr. Greenberg arrived at the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Skyline Environmental, Inc. Annual Safety and Health Professional Services.

Skyline Environmental, Inc was appointed as the Authority's Training Specialist at the Reorganization Meeting on February 5, 2025. They have provided the attached proposal dated March 11, 2025, for professional services that describes the scope of work to provide safety training that covers PEOSHA, PEOSH, OSHA, NJDEP, NJDOH and RTK program mandatory requirements. The cost of the proposal is \$79,770.00, which is approximately twelve and a half percent (12.5%) higher than last year due to additional scope of work to be performed by them this year. The additional work involves Asbestos Hazard Awareness, Fire Prevention Training, and First Aid/CPR/AED training.

Mr. Roy recommended that the Board authorize the work in this proposal to Skyline Environmental, Inc. in accordance with their March 11, 2025, proposal and their contract appointing them as Training Specialists at the February 5, 2025, Reorganization Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Application to the NJ I-BANK for a Low Interest Loan to Fund the Proposed Ticetown Road Water Treatment Plant.

The NJ I-BANK requires that the Old Bridge MUA provide a resolution authorizing the application to them for a low interest loan for our proposed Ticetown Road Water Treatment Plant project.

Mr. Roy said that through the NJ I-BANK we can get a loan at better than half the market rate.

A motion to authorize a resolution authorizing the Old Bridge MUA to make an application to the NJ I_BANK for a low interest loan for our proposed Ticetown Road Water Treatment Plant project was made y Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

OPRA Requirements Relating to Personal E-mail addresses

There will be a discussion on this issue under the Legal Report on the meeting agenda that will possibly also be discussed in an Executive Session which may be followed by a Board action.

Middlesex Water Company (MWC) PWAC Case in Appellate Court

The decision from the appellate court regarding the Purchase Water Adjustment Clause (PWAC) lawsuit against MWC came back and it left the lower court's decision in place which did not allow the Old Bridge MUA to offer an argument as to why the PWAC charge to both us and Marlboro Township was unfair. We hoped to present our case in court that the large amount of water purchased by MWC was used to take care of the contamination problem that was experienced at their Plainfield WTP resulting in wells being shut down. The lower court threw the case out and the appellate court did not reverse the lower court's decision.

Attorney Jacobs said that we will discuss this in Executive Session.

New Jersey American Water Works Association (NJAWWA) Trade Show Conference.

The annual Drinking Water trade show conference conducted by the New Jersey American Water Works Association is scheduled to begin tomorrow March 19th through the 21st. Authority employees will be in attendance to gain Continuing Education Credits for their State Operating licensing, and to visit the various vendors in the Exhibit Hall. The Commissioners are encouraged to attend to become better familiar with the issues facing the drinking water industry and those that are going have already been registered. The NJAWWA will be collecting donation items in a barrel near the registration desk for a "Socks 'N Soap Drive. The donated items will be brought later in the week to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission and donated on behalf of the NJAWWA.

Mr. Roy said that concludes his Executive Director's Report.

Chairman Blair asked if anyone had any questions.

Mr. Walker said that at a previous meeting we voted to honor Arthur Haney on the Water Tank and memorialize him. He asked if we have done anything about that?

Mr. Roy said that what we have done is to prepare a plaque with a lot of people's names on it that have contributed over the years. He said that Arthur Haney was both a Commissioner and Executive Director, so he will be on the plaque as both. Mr. Roy said that we are working on the plaque right now as far as acknowledging his involvement.

Mr. Walker asked if we would have a little unveiling

Attorney Jacobs asked if we are going to be naming different parts of the building structures, we should establish a policy on how that gets done. He said that maybe a committee should be established, and a process developed that when something comes up for naming, and there may be more than one person to consider, that it gets worked out in committee before it is brought to the Board Meeting. He said that there should be some sort of policy that should be established.

A motion to accept Mr. Roy's Executive Director's Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Engineering Report: Michael Roy, P.E.

REPORT ON DEVELOPER'S APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

NONE

OTHER ENGINEERING REPORTS

1. Matawan Road (Rt. 516) Sewer Replacement – Release of Performance Bond and Acceptance of the Work

Mr. Roy reported that this project included the removal and replacement of seventy-five feet (75') of eight inch (8") sanitary sewer that crosses Route 516 that has now been completed.

The gravity sewer that was built in 1983 to service a portion of the Merritt Estates Development of approximately 35 homes in the Rt. 34 Sewer Pump Station Drainage Area had several sags in the portion of eight-inch (8") gravity sewer that crossed Rt. 516 and resulted in continuous maintenance. This sanitary sewer previously had to be cleaned out almost once a week to allow it to flow freely. The defects in this run of gravity sewer have now been corrected for better operation in future years.

Alaimo Associates was the construction manager for this project and has recommended that the Authority accept the completion of this project and release the performance bond in their letter dated February 13, 2025.

Mr. Roy concurs with Alaimo's recommendation to accept the completion of this project and release the sewer performance guarantee, subject to the Contractor posting a two-year maintenance bond of at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total construction cost.

Prior to the two-year anniversary date, Alaimo will perform an inspection, and any latent defects discovered during that inspection will be corrected by the Contractor.

A motion to approve the release of the performance bond and acceptance of the work for the Matawan Road (Rt. 516 Project) was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mr. Roy said that concludes his Engineering Report.

A motion to accept Mr. Roy's Engineering Report was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Wally Tier, Superintendent – Distribution – Water Division

Mr. Tier said that he submitted his report, and asked if anyone had questions.

There were none.

A motion to accept Mr. Tier's Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Ray Totten, Superintendent – Treatment – Water Division

Mr. Totten said that his report has been submitted and asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

A motion to accept Mr. Totten's Report was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Walter E. Gillins, Superintendent – Sewer Division

Mr. Gillins said that he submitted his report and asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

A motion to accept Mr. Gillins' report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Bills & Claims: Dr. Greenberg said the Bills and Claims are for a total of \$2,064,614.42.

Chairman Blair asked if there were any questions.

There were none.

A motion to approve the Bills and Claims in the amount of \$2,064,614.42 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Chairman Blair.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Legal Report: Mitchell B. Jacobs, Esq.

Attorney Jacobs said that he did not have a Legal Report, but as previously reported in the meeting, there are Executive Session issues, and before we go into Executive Session, he will mention what the topics are that we will be discussing.

Old Business: Mr. Weber said that awhile ago a company was selling water filter systems, and the something came up about all the bad water companies there are in the State. He said that we were not included in that list, except that we buy water from Middlesex Water Company that is on the list. Mr.

Weber asked what the percentage of water is that we buy from Middlesex Water Company.

Mr. Roy said that we get 40% of our water from Middlesex Water Company and 60% from groundwater wells. He said that we have all kinds of testing that we have to do on a daily basis, weekly basis, monthly, quarterly basis and an annual basis. He said that all of the contaminants that we are required to monitor, over a hundred of them, we have to report to the DEP. Mr. Roy said when we come out with our Annual Consumer Confidence Report, you can see that there is just a handful of contaminants that we even find. He said that when we do find them, they are well below the required maximum contaminant levels.

We have to test our water extensively, and the amount of tests are only going to increase in the future. Mr. Roy said that we put out our Annual Consumer Confidence Report, and that is intended to give people the confidence that our water is of a good quality.

Mr. Weber said if anyone questions if we are part of Middlesex Water Company, we can tell them that we test our water.

Mr. Roy said yes, we independently test the water to our customers.

There were no other questions.

New Business: None.

Open to Public: Chairman Blair opened the meeting to the public. He said it is limited to a maximum period of three minutes per person.

Seeing no public, Chairman Blair closed the public portion.

Executive Session: Attorney Jacobs said the Open Public Meeting Act allows for nine different topics to be heard in Executive Session, which means outside of the public meeting.

Attorney Jacobs said that of those nine topics, we are going to be discussing two of them in Executive Session today. One is to report on litigation which we have been involved in with Middlesex Water Company, and the other topic is Attorney/Client Privilege to review the Law on the Open Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act.

Attorney Jacobs said that we expect to be in Executive Session for approximately twenty minutes. He said that after that time, we will come back into the open session of the meeting. Attorney Jacobs said that he does not expect that we will be taking action after the Executive Session.

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Weber.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:48 a.m.

Resumption of
Open Session:

The Board returned to open session at 12:12 p.m.

Attorney Jacobs asked if there was any further business.

There was none.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Walker.

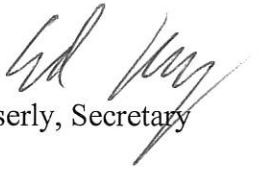
The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward Casserly, Secretary