

**OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 16, 2025**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of July 16, 2025, was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement: Vice Chairman Weber 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.

This Public Meeting is being recorded.

Roll Call:

Present:

Frank Weber, Vice Chairman
Anita Greenberg, Treasurer
Edward Casserly, Secretary
Mark Razzoli, Commissioner
Perry Simone, Commissioner

Absent:

James Blair, Chairman
Bruce Walker, Commissioner

Also Present:

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

Previous Minutes:

Regular Meeting – April 16, 2025

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2025, was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None
Absent: Blair, Walker
5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Executive Session – April 16, 2025

A motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 16, 2025 was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone
Nays: None
Absent: Blair, Walker
5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Chairman’s Report: James Blair, Chairman

Vice Chairman Weber said he does not have a report.

Executive Director’s Report: Michael Roy, P.E.

Status of Various Projects

The Disbrow Road Elevated Water Storage tank is expected to be substantially completed and ready for operation in time to be placed into service by this Summer. Painting has been completed. Sky blue to blend with the sky. The next step is the filling of the tank. Then the electrician needs to do the work at the site before turning it on.

The Rt. 34 force main replacement project which involves the directional drilling of a replacement 14” HDPE force main pipe across the ravine from the Rt. 34 Pump Station to Balmoral Court is now completed. Underground chambers must be installed at each end of this newly installed force main pipe. There have been some minor

field changes that has slowed the progress of this work.

Additional work is now needed with the Laurence Harbor Water Service Replacement project on Woodbine Avenue to eliminate a 4" galvanized water line. It is in Laurence Harbor and Cliffwood Beach where the water line is a hundred years old. He said everything else is all copper built after World War II where copper was used. Mr. Roy said many of the homeowners already replaced it. We have to do field investigations to see where galvanized pipe still exists, and that is on the customer's side. That work is now underway. The paving restoration has begun on the other streets that have been completed in Laurence Harbor.

Mr. Donatelli said we will be paying to replace these lines. We will get the money back by billing these people. Mr. Donatelli said it is a mandate.

Bids have been received for the Route 34 Pump Station Upgrades project. Alaimo has made a recommendation to award this project and is ready for action under my Engineering Report.

Annual Contract for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel,
Contract No. F25-240

We need to advertise a goods service and materials contract for public bids to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel delivered to our fuel tanks for use by our Engineering Department, Water Division and Sewer Division.

The current contract will expire at the end of September, and the contract has been previously extended to its maximum time and cannot be extended this year. We are now required by law to advertise public bids to solicit a new annual contract, and we need a resolution to authorize this advertisement from the Board of Commissioners

We intend to prepare the Contract Documents in-house and submit them to Mr. Jacobs's office for his review and approval, in order to have a bid opening date scheduled for presentation to the Commissioners to award this goods and materials contract at a future Board Meeting.

Attorney Jacobs said a motion is needed for a resolution for authorization to Advertise a Goods and Services Contract for Public Bids to Purchase Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Oil.

A motion was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Authorization to Intervene in the Negotiations with the BPU, and Authorization of a Cost Sharing Agreement with the Township of Marlboro Regarding a Proposed MWC Water Rate Increase

Middlesex Water Company (MWC) has notified us of a proposed 19.31% water rate increase that they want the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to allow them to put in place for the coming year of 2026.

Mr. Roy said that the last base rate increase request by MWC was a filing in May of 2023 that went into effect for 2024. We have opposed these base rate increases in the past and have asked them to intervene in the BPU negotiations to arrive at a lower water rate for us utilizing our Legal and Rate Expert professionals.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends that the Authority authorize our professionals to intervene in the BPU negotiations with MWC regarding the proposed water rate increase. Marlboro Township is again willing to split these costs with us, so he also recommends that the Authority authorize a Cost Sharing Agreement with Marlboro Township. He said that a draft cost sharing agreement is attached to his report. Mr. Roy said that we will use the same professionals and split the cost with Marlboro.

Mr. Casserly asked if there were any other towns that could go in on this with us maybe five or six towns?

Mr. Roy said no, we are in the South River Basin and south of the Raritan River is just us and Marlboro. Sayreville used to be part of purchasing MWC water, but Sayreville got out of their contract when they bought into the Duhernal well fields through a lawsuit with Hercules and Dupont.

They now have plenty of water and they let the Middlesex Water Company Contract expire.

Mr. Roy said that East Brunswick fights with MWC on their own because they are in a different category of rates than us. They pay a discounted water rate, because of different transmission arrangements, and they provide their own raw water. Marlboro is the only town that is the same as us.

Dr. Greenberg asked when Middlesex Water presents a water rate increase, do they say why they are asking for this increase?

Mr. Roy said yes, there is an explanation. He said that we already sent some information to our rate professionals to review.

Attorney Jacobs said that the professionals Mike Roy mentioned have already been awarded a contract through the RFQ process at the beginning of the year. They are already qualified , and this is now giving them the assignment.

Attorney Jacobs said that a motion for a resolution for the authorization to intervene in the proposed Middlesex Water Company water rate increase is needed.

A motion was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

Mr. Weber asked if the cost with Marlboro is split down the middle.

Mr. Roy said yes, right down the middle.

Mr. Weber said that they are a small town, but growing faster than we are. He said it is certainly in their interest to participate in a shared cost.

Mr. Roy said that they actually buy more water than we do because we have two treatment plants.

Mr. Donatelli said that their growth happened later. They had a small diversion allocation.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair
5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Attorney Jacobs said that the next resolution is authorizing the Authority to enter into a Cost Sharing Agreement with Marlboro Township for the Rate Expert Attorney who will be representing both the Authority of Marlboro Township and the OBMUA in discussions with the BPU.

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

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone
Nays: None
Absent: Walker, Blair
5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Mike Cistone DEP Operator's License

Mr. Roy said congratulations to Mike Cistone of the Sewer Division who has passed his C-2 NJDEP Operator's License.

A motion to accept the Executive Director's Report was made by Mr. Razzoli. It was seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Engineers Report: Michael Roy, P.E.

REPORT UPON DEVELOPER'S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Roy said there are none.

OTHER ENGINEERING REPORTS

1. Metro Self Storage, W19-684, S19-541, 1 Year Extension of Final Approvals

Mr. Roy reported that on July 17, 2024, the referenced applicant was granted Final Water and Sewer Approvals which were to expire within one year if no construction took place within that one year.

The Applicant has now submitted a request for an additional one year extension of their Final Water and Sewer Approvals in accordance with our Rules and Regulations.

Metro Self Storage project is a three-story 119,523 SF self-storage facility on the northbound side of Route 9 at the Cindy Street Jughandle, north of the Hegarty and Scalia Funeral Home.

The Applicant indicates that they are currently waiting for the Township to issue their drawings execution compliance for the project to begin.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends that a one-year extension of time until July 17, 2026, be granted to this applicant for both of their Final Water and Sewer Approvals.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Casserly for Metro Self Storage, W19-684 and S19-541 One Year Extension of Final Approvals.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Attorney Jacobs said the vote was taken together for W9-684 and S19-541, but there will be two separate resolutions.

2. Annual Contract for Bioxide Chemical for the Sewer Division, Contract No. S25-239, Award Contract

Mr. Roy reported that the lone bidder already supplies the specified chemical under the current annual contract. The unit price in his bid is three-point six percent (3.6%) lower than the current unit price. This decrease is expected to reduce the annual cost for this chemical by \$6,000. The lone bidder has not taken any exceptions on his bid proposal and has been providing Bioxide chemical to the Authority for many years.

This Bioxide Chemical is used to control odors in the sewer collection system. The staff has selected the use of this chemical because of its cost effectiveness. Alternate chemicals to control odors have been found to be twice the cost of the Bioxide Chemical, or not effective at all, during full scale test trial periods. Some other chemicals also require special handling, equipment and training because of their hazardous nature. Bioxide is a non-hazardous chemical.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends awarding this contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC, Sarasota, FL, for the unit price bid.

A motion to award the Annual Contract for Bioxide Chemical for the Sewer Division, Contract No. S25-239, was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

3. Rt. 34 Pump Station Upgrades, Contract No. 2023-1, Award Contract

Mr. Roy reported that Alaimo Associates did a study of the need for improvements at the Rt. 34 Pump Station near Canyon Woods. He said

that this pump station was built in the 1960's when the Township was first sewerred. It had a certain capacity, and a certain drainage basin. He said that as more developments came in, it reached its capacity. Mr. Roy said that it needed an upgrade in size. We had a \$4 million budget. He said that we did the project under two contracts.

Mr. Roy said that first we put the force main out to bid. That force main pipe has been installed, and they are finalizing the connection on the Balmoral side with a chamber. The contractor is JVS Industrial, and in the meantime, we got this part of the contract ready to go out to bid. Mr. Roy said that this will improve the pumps, better pumps, piping, and also a bypass chamber right next to the pump station. He said that we have the option of switching it back and forth between both force mains.

Mr. Roy said that this second contract went out to bid. We had five bidders. The low bidder is the same contractor for the force main, JVS Industrial. The price came in at \$2.6 million. The force main project was about a million dollars, making the total construction cost \$3.6 million which is within the budget that we set up for this overall project.

He said that having the same contractor is sometimes good and sometimes bad. It depends on whether it is a good contractor. The good part is that there is no finger pointing because he is responsible now for everything. He has to tie in everything on the pump station side and coordinate all of the work.

Mr. Roy said that with the five bids, a couple of them were pretty competitive. Some were really high much over three million dollars, which would have been over our budget. Mr. Roy said that JVS Industrial is the lowest.

Mr. Roy said that Wayne Simpson, Alaimo Associates, sent a recommendation letter which is in your package recommending that we award this contract to JVS Industrial & Commercial Contractors, Incorporated for this second contract of this project.

Mr. Wayne Simpson, Alaimo Associates, said he is a good contractor. He said sometimes we have to tell them to keep at it.

Mr. Roy said Wayne Simpson has to stay on top of this Contractor, and he will.

Mr. Roy said that he agrees with Alaimo Associates' recommendation.

A motion to award the contact to JVS Industrial & Commercial Contractors for these Rt. 34 Pump Station Upgrades was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Mr. Roy said that concludes his report.

A motion to approve Mr. Roy's Engineering Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

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. Weber.

There was no discussion.

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 was not present.

Attorney Jacobs said that his report is in the packages if anyone has any questions.

There were none.

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

There was no discussion.

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 anyone had questions.

There were none.

A motion to approved Mr. Gillins' Report was made by Mr. Razzoli and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Financial Report: Michelle Smith, Comptroller

Resolution Implementing the Adjusted Reporting Thresholds for Local Public Contracts

Mrs. Smith said that the State has revised the monetary thresholds that trigger mandatory reporting of local public contracts to the Office of the State Comptroller effective July 1, 2025.

Mrs. Smith said that her first item is a resolution to adopt and implement the updated thresholds in accordance with the requirements of the State Comptroller. She said that the resolution which is attached to her report includes a detailed listing of the new reporting thresholds.

A motion to adopt the resolution implementing the adjusted thresholds for Local Public Contracts was made by Mr. Razzoli and seconded by Mr. Simone.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Resolution to Transfer Funds to the Renewal and Replacement Fund

Mrs. Smith said that her last item is a resolution to transfer \$300,000 to the Renewal and Replacement Fund as allocated in the current Budget. This transfer supports long-term financial planning by ensuring adequate funding for future capital repairs and replacements.

A motion to transfer funds to the Renewal and Replacement Fund was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Mrs. Smith said that is all that she has to report.

A motion to accept Mrs. Smith's Financial 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 \$4,420,480.39.

A motion to approve the Bills and Claims in the amount of \$4,420,480.39 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

Acting Chairman Weber asked if there was any discussion.

There was none.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Razzoli, Weber, Casserly, Simone

Nays: None

Absent: Walker, Blair

5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent

Legal Report: Attorney Jacobs said he does not have a report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Open to Public: Acting Chairman Weber opened the meeting to the public. He said it is for a Maximum Period of Three Minutes per person.

There was no public wishing to speak.

Vice Chairman Weber closed the public portion.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Razzoli to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

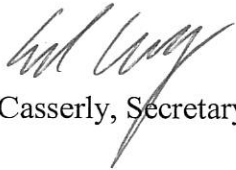
The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Casserly, Secretary