

**OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2026**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of January 21, 2026 was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

This Public Meeting is being recorded.

Roll Call:

Present:

James Blair, Chairman
Frank Weber, Vice Chairman
Anita Greenberg, Treasurer
Bruce Walker, Commissioner
Edward Casserly, Secretary – First Alternate
Perry Simone, Commissioner – Second Alternate

Absent:

Mark Razzoli, Commissioner

Also Present:

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

Previous Minutes: Regular Meeting – October 15, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2025 was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Regular Meeting – November 17, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 17, 2025 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.

Executive Session – November 17, 2025

A motion to approve the Executive Session of November 17, 2025 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.

Chairman's Report: James Blair, Chairman

Chairman Blair said he is requesting the selection of two Commissioners and Staff to review the RFQs for Professional Appointments.

Chairman Blair said I am appointing myself and Dr. Greenberg for the Commissioners.

Executive Director's Report:

Michael Roy, P.E.

Status of Various Projects

Mr. Roy said the Disbrow Road Elevated Water Storage Tank is in service and electrical power is now on-site. He said we are still operating the water level through a surrogate pressure station on Village Drive until the water level sensor can be connected into our SCADA system.

Mr. Roy said additional work was needed with the Laurence Harbor Water Service Replacement project on Woodbine Avenue to eliminate a newly found 4" galvanized water line. He said that work is now complete, and a change order will be necessary to close out this project probably sometime this spring.

Middlesex Water Company (MWC) Rate Increase

Mr. Roy said a settlement in the latest MWC Rate Increase has been arrived at and the BPU has signed off on it. An 11.12% rate increase will be imposed on the OBMUA which we will have to pass along to our ratepayers. This rate is down from an approximately 19% rate increase originally requested by MWC.

Mr. Roy said we still have an issue with the fire protection. He said MWC comes up with different rates. He said the fair distribution and cost of fire protection in the northern City of Perth Amboy, and Townships of Woodbridge, Edison and Highland Park is still an issue of content with us, but the BPU ordered a stipulation to MWC in this settlement agreement to develop a plan to get the actual "cost of service" of these municipalities' fire protection to be paid by them since they are the ones receiving the fire protection.

Mr. Roy said when Governor Christie was there, he did not want the municipalities rates to go up more than 4%. He said what happened over time is that the cost of the fire protection went up faster than 4% a year. He said two years ago when we had our settlement our Rate Expert identified the fact they were over 100% of what their actual cost should have been. They should have been charged double, and they are shoving off the cost to others like us. He said at the time I told them we might be buying water in bulk, but we are not Dupont. We have thousands of ratepayers, taxpayers. He said it was at 110%, and they brought it down 20% with the promise they would take it down over time. Mr. Roy said two years later in this settlement, the cost of fire protection went up to about 120%. They only wanted to lower it 11%. Our Rate Expert said we are not even getting back to 100% now. We said we asked them to double it to 22%, so we could get under 100%. They would not do it, only an extra 5%. Mr. Roy said we do not need fire protection in Old Bridge. We take care of all of our fire hydrants. It seems unfair that we have to subsidize these other towns. He said they added into this settlement a stipulation that MWC must come up with a plan to get the cost down to the cost of services should be. He said by the numbers that extra 5% that we got brought the rate down from 11.38% to 11.12, a quarter of a

percent. Mr. Roy said that is where we are now at 11.12%. He said over the next few months a Rate Hearing will be needed to pass that along.

Mr. Roy said we asked our Rate Expert what if we got the cost of this fire protection service down to what it should be, our rate increase would only have been 5.5%. We have a long way to go. He said because of our efforts we got a stipulation that they must come up with a game plan. We are pushing them in the right direction.

Dr. Greenberg said how do they feel that is legitimate for our ratepayers to pay for other towns fire protection?

Mr. Roy said they don't care about lowering rates, they just care about the towns having to pay more.

Dr. Greenberg said we made improvements in our water system. What have these towns done to put an investment in their towns for fire protection?

Mr. Roy said they receive fire protection from MWC that is it.

Dr. Greenberg said they are getting more benefit than we are. Why are our ratepayers paying for those towns?

Mr. Roy said for years they only raised it 4%, and the actual cost got way high.

Dr. Greenberg said they should increase those towns instead of affecting us, it doesn't make sense that Old Bridge is paying and not getting any benefit from it.

Attorney Jacobs said the Authority and Mike Roy are putting forth all of those arguments to protect the ratepayers. He said the BPU and the Rate Advocate do not want to hear about it. They are being forced to hear about it now. He said it is headed in the right direction. Their position is no different than with every protest that we have made. He said they feel if you are part of the entire base, you are going to share in the costs. The first go-around when we were not talking about fire protection but about services that we do not get. They do not want to do anything about it.

Dr. Greenberg said the BPU legitimately looking at this properly is not doing their due diligence.

Attorney Jacobs said that is probably true.

Dr. Greenberg said do I have to make an announcement to the Town saying you are paying for fire protection for four towns, because the State does not do their job? They get more funding is these towns than Old Bridge does.

Attorney Jacobs said they are allowed to approve the rates based on the fact they feel Old Bridge should share in the costs that they are not getting any benefit from because the laws permit them to make that determination. He said the only way to get this changed is some sort of legislation adjusting the rules that allow this.

Mr. Roy said they have to come up now with a game plan.

Attorney Jacobs said the Authority is taking an aggressive attitude with the BPU to try and get it changed. It doesn't happen overnight.

Dr. Greenberg said I agree and appreciate what Mike and the legal team are doing to present this. I just think it is unconscionable from that side of the fence that they can institute this in a town where they are not getting any benefit from it.

Attorney Jacobs said that is why we have been so aggressive the last two applications, and for the first time some movement.

Dr. Greenberg said it is mind boggling. It goes back further when they only allowed us to pull a certain amount of water from the ground or we would not have needed Middlesex Water Company. They are very inefficient in what they are doing; and if you were in a private business, instead of State Agency with politics involved it would not go on.

Chairman Blair said we should not be paying anything.

Dr. Greenberg said it could be easily solved with everyone paying a base rate.

NY Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell

Mr. Roy said the OBMUA submitted, as required, a Cybersecurity Program Controls Assessment of the effort that we made to institute security both physically and on the internet. The State has graded our efforts and has given us an A+ rating (97.14%). Congratulations to Joe Korman, our Internet and Computer Specialist, Ray Totten, our staff and all those involved in that to do the necessary security features to protect the Authority.

Schedule of 2026 Board Meetings

Mr. Roy said I have attached to my report a schedule of Board Meetings for the 2026 year. The Schedule of Board Meetings will need to be approved now.

Attorney Jacobs said does anyone have any questions on it?

Adopt the 2026 Schedule of Old Bridge MUA Board Meetings

A motion to adopt the Schedule of 2026 Board Meetings was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Weber.

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

REPORT ON DEVELOPER’S APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL

None

OTHER ENGINEERING REPORTS

Ticetown Road Water Treatment Plant –Additional Cultural Resource Survey of Property

Mr. Roy said as previously reported, we are in the process of having the NJDEP allow us to proceed with developing the property at the site of the future Ticetown Road Water Treatment Plant under the funding of the NJ I-BANK. We have completed a Site Assessment Study that included a Stage 1 Cultural Resource Study and submitted the report to the NJDEP for their approval.

Their response was that a more in-depth Cultural Resource Survey needs to be done on the property that includes further investigation because of the old house structure on the property. They are of the opinion that the

structure, or parts of the structure, date back to the 1800's to a family named "Bloodgood". They want some research done and some digging around the structure to see if there are any historical articles buried near the foundation of the house.

Unfortunately, we cannot proceed with the Test Well Contract that we need to do at the site to prove to the NJDEP that the groundwater wells at Throckmorton can be moved across Rt. 9 to the Ticetown Road property without changing the underground hydrology. The NJDEP is looking at the entire site together as one project, even though we can easily move far enough away from the house to drill the Test Wells, the NJDEP won't let us proceed until this issue is resolved.

Mr. Roy said I have a proposal from CME Associates dated January 9, 2026, for Engineering Services for a Stage 1 (combined IA and IB) Cultural Resource Survey to evaluate the historical significance of the house on the Ticetown Road property. The cost estimate in the proposal to perform this engineering service is \$19,184.

Chairman Blair said if we do find something there will that be a delay zone?

Mr. Roy said I do not know if they are looking to find an artifact to put into a museum. I don't think they care about the foundation. They are looking into historical things. We dig and find something then turn it over to some museum. I don't know. Mr. Roy said we have to do the work, send it in, and see what they say.

The dollar amount of these estimated fees appears to be reasonable. The fees are based upon an estimate of the number of hours required for the level of effort.

Mr. Roy said I recommend that we authorize this proposal..

Attorney Jacobs said we need a resolution authorizing CME Associates to do the engineering services for an Additional Cultural Resource Survey at the Throckmorton Road Water Treatment Plant at the estimated cost of \$19,184 in accordance with Mr. Roy's January 14, 2026 Report.

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

Laurence Harbor Sanitary Sewer Pump Station –Wet Well Upgrades and Repairs

Mr. Roy said the Laurence Harbor Sanitary Sewer Pump Station and Force Main was installed in the 1980's to comply with the NJDEP order to shut down our Wastewater Treatment Plant on Boulevard West and instead connect up to the Middlesex County Wastewater Treatment Plant in Sayreville. In the 1980's, the NJDEP was ordering all of the smaller wastewater treatment plants around the State to shut down and provided grant money to the towns to build pump stations and force mains that would connect into County sized Treatment Facilities. The NJDEP also provided funds for these County Facilities to expand.

This pump station is now almost forty years old, and parts have worn out that need to be replaced. In addition, some upgrades are also needed for a better operation of the pump station.

Mr. Roy said I have a proposal from R3M Engineering dated January 8, 2026, for Engineering Services for the design of wet well upgrades and repairs to the Laurence Harbor Sanitary Sewer Pump Station in the amount of \$114,315.

The dollar amount of these estimated fees appears to be reasonable. The fees are based upon an estimate of the number of hours required for the level of effort anticipated for each of the engineering tasks shown in their "Project Outline" table, all in accordance with their Consulting Engineering Agreement dated February 5, 2025.

The Construction cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$1 Million Dollars. The source of financing of this project may be from General Funds or from the NJ I-BANK. The Staff needs to evaluate and make a recommendation to the Commissioners which funding source will best serve the Authority. However, at this time, I want to proceed with the design work which will take approximately four months for R3M.

Engineering to complete, which will push the construction work into next year's budget.

Mr. Roy said once the Design has been completed, we will report to the commissioners both our recommendation for funding source and also request to go out to public bids.

I recommend that R3M Engineering be authorized to proceed with the Engineering Services of the referenced project in accordance with their January 8, 2026, proposal and their February 5, 2025, Consulting Engineering Agreement.

Attorney Jacobs said a motion is needed for a resolution authorizing Engineering Services to R3M Engineering for the Laurence Harbor Sanitary Sewer Pump Station – Wet Well Upgrades and Repairs in the amount of \$114,315 in accordance with Mike Roy’s January 14, 2026, Report.

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

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 my reports.

A motion to accept the Engineering 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:

Wally Tier, Superintendent, Distribution – Water Division

Mr. Tier said my report was submitted.

Chairman Blair said does anyone have questions?

There were none.

A motion to approve Mr. Tier’s Superintendent’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 my report was submitted. He said any questions, let me know?

A motion to accept Mr. Totten's 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:

Walter E. Gillins, Superintendent – Sewer Division

Mr. Gillins said his report has been submitted, 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.

Financial Report: Michelle Smith, Comptroller

Environmental Legal Liability Policy Renewal

Mrs. Smith said my first item is our Commercial Pollution Liability Policy Renewal. Aspen Specialty Insurance Company provided the best proposal for \$119,484 for three years. She said this represents a \$5,743 (5%) increase over the expiring policy effective from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

Chairman Blair asked if there were any questions?

There were none.

Chairman Blair asked for a motion and a second for a resolution for the Environmental Legal Liability Policy Renewal.

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

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

Cyber Renewal Policy

Mrs. Smith said my next item is the renewal of the Cyber Liability Policy. She said CFC came in with the best quote of \$22,545, which is a 9% increase over the expiring policy for the period January 19, 2026 through January 19, 2027.

Chairman Blair said does anyone have any questions?

There were none.

Chairman Blair asked for a motion and second to renew the Cyber Policy.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

To Reimburse Prior Expenditures to Various Water & Sewer System Improvements

Mrs. Smith said my next Resolution is prepared by our Bond Counsel providing for the Declaration of Official Intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 to Reimburse Prior Expenditures Related to Various Water and Sewer System Improvements.

Mrs. Smith said this resolution is in regard to the Laurence Harbor Water Services Replacement I-Bank loan. The Authority expects to reimburse its expenditure of Project Costs paid prior to the issuance of the Project Debt Obligations with proceeds of the Project Debt Obligations. This Resolution is needed to comply with IRS Regulations.

Mrs. Smith said the Resolution was not included in my original report, but is in the Revised Agenda.

Chairman Blair asked for a motion Authorizing Reimbursement of Prior Expenditures to Various Water and Sewer System Improvements.

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, Walker, Weber, Casserly, Blair

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mrs. Smith said our Revenues are expected to meet our projected budget. She said on the Expense Side, both Divisions are coming in pretty close to budget as well.

Mrs. Smith said the Water Division is projected to be 0.4% over budget, and the Sewer Division is running 1.7% under budget for the fiscal year.

Mrs. Smith said that concludes my report.

Chairman Blair asked if there were any questions?

There were none.

Chairman Blair asked for a motion to accept Mrs. Smith's Financial Report.

A motion 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. Greeberg said the Bills and Claims are for a total of \$1,971,664.61.

Chairman Blair asked if there were any questions?

There were none.

A motion to approve the Bills and Claims was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

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: Attorney Jacobs said he does not have a report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Open to Public: Chairman Blair opened the meeting to the public at 11:25 a.m. He said it is limited to a Maximum Period of Three Minutes per Person.

Chairman Blair said seeing no public, he closed the public portion.

A motion to close the public portion 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.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn 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 meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Casserly, Secretary