

WANAQUE VALLEY REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

December 2, 2020

Regular Public Meeting

VIA – Video Conference – Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENT – 6:05 pm

Chairman Covelli, read the following announcement:

Chairman Covelli stated per the New Jersey Governor's office regarding pandemic order's that this meeting is being held via video conference thru Zoom, in which all information was provided to the public for those who wanted to attend Wanaque Valley Regional Sewerage Authority, Wednesday, December 2, 2020, public meeting, via Zoom, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 adequate notice as defined by Section 3D of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and has been posted on the WVRSA website. Copy of said notice will be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Roeder to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Covelli asked for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Herb Allen, Matthew Conlon, Michael Levine, Frank Covelli

Commissioner Absent: Michael Gerst, Ted Taukus,

Also Present: John Eskilson – Interim Executive Director – WVRSA
Steve Wilson – Superintendent of Operations
Elizabeth Parrinello – Recording Secretary
Giselle Diaz, P.E. – Boswell Engineering
Michael Roeder – Chapman Environmental Services

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Eskilson if there were any correspondence, Mr. Eskilson stated that there were and asked Mr. Roeder to give an explanation, we received two pieces, one is a lab certification notice and the second is the permit application. Mr. Roeder explained that the Authority had a rather large list of parameters the Authority was certified for. Mr. Roeder stated that we have cut back on that list, explaining that we are sending more samples to outside labs, which is more cost efficient. The notice simply stated that we have certification for the new list of parameters.

Mr. Roeder stated the second correspondence is in regard the permit, we received an administrative extention due to COVID-19. (Discussion continued) Discussion concluded and Mr. Roeder explained that we have been constant communication with the NJDEP and were assured the permit is being issued.

Mr. Eskilson stated that there was one more piece that I received late in the afternoon, it is from

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Bergen Municipal Employee Benefit Fund, which provides dental insurance for the employees. The fund has advised us that our three-year term is ending, and asked for a Resolution and for the Authority sign an Indemnification and Trust Agreement. Mr. Eskilson gave a PowerPoint presentation for the Commissioners, at the end Mr. Eskilson asked if anyone had any questions for him, hearing none, he stated it's a three-year commitment with a six month exit clause.

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 28, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Covelli stated that the Commissioners were emailed copies of the October 28, 2020, minutes for tonight's meeting and asked if they all have had time to review them. Chairman Covelli asked for a motion.

The following motion was made:

MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Levine to approve and accept the meeting minutes of October 28, 2020 Regular Minutes, Chairman Covelli asked if there were any discussion, additions, deletions, amendments to the minutes of October 28, 2020 seeing and hearing none Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor is signify so by stating Aye.

Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Levine and Covelli all stated Aye.
Commissioner – Gerst, Taukus Absent

MOTION CARRIED

6:10 Mr. Gerst joined in the Zoom meeting

REPORTS

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT– VIA PowerPoint Presentation

Mr. Eskilson stated that we're very early in the fiscal year, I have some data which I will present quickly and answer any questions for you. Mr. Eskilson stated before we do that, I would like to follow up on the October meeting regarding the approval of hiring a part-time employee Mr. Adler. Mr. Eskilson stated that Mr. Adler is unable to take the part-time position. Mr. Eskilson explained that the Personnel Committee will be meeting next week to discuss the part-time position. (Discussion Ensued)

Mr. Eskilson gave an update on the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJWDSC) agreement, Mr. Eustace, NJWDSC director, said that they are working with their vendors to get what is needed for installing the meter. Once the is meter installed, we can start to accept their effluent.

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Mr. Eskilson said last February we decided as a group that we would forego the RFP process this year, and the Board decided to go with a straight appointment. Mr. Eskilson asked the Board if they still wanted to stay with that decision. The Board agreement to forego the RFP process for FY21.

Mr. Eskilson presented the dashboard portion of his report, reporting that we are two months into FY 21, we are tracking on target for the most part, but tracking 30,000 under budget at this point for septage revenue due to the Septage Receiving Unit (SRU) was down for 10 days in November. Mr. Eskilson asked Mr. Wilson to give a brief reason why and what transpired.

Mr. Wilson explained that we scheduled a clean-out of the SRU holding tank. Once the SRU was cleaned out it was realized that the blowers and diffusers were in need of repair. Mr. Wilson stated we scheduled the repair to the blowers and diffuser and once that was done and the “Beast” was up and running and we opened the SRU. Mr. Wilson also explained, there was an issue with the influent wet well, we scheduled a cleaning of the influent wet well where the grit issue was. Mr. Wilson said we lost about 10 days. Mr. Wilson stated that we are back on track and everything is up and running well.

Mr. Eskilson continued with his report, stating the flow continues to be problematic with over a million gallons a day. Mr. Eskilson stated, that he has not been able to get any kind of answer from the Borough of Wanaque with respect to the analysis of flow. Mr. Eskilson said that Ms. Diaz is also reaching out to the Borough of Wanaque. Ms. Diaz stated she is waiting for a response from the town.

Mr. Eskilson reported on sludge production, stating it continues to be high and we are continuing to monitor it. Mr. Eskilson reported that the electric cost is back in line to where they should be and that the budget is tracking where it should be for two months into FY21. Mr. Eskilson stated that’s it for the budget.

Chairman Covelli asked the Board if anyone had questions for Mr. Eskilson, seeing and hearing none, we will move the Engineer report.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ms. Diaz, stated that she has been in contact with the engineer for NJWDSC about the meter, they did send a plan over and myself and Mr. Roder are concern where they are planning on putting the meters. Ms. Diaz reported that she sent her comments and concerns over to NJWDSC’s engineer and they were having a meeting today. Ms. Diaz stated she believes they are going to change the placement of the meters. Ms. Diaz said she is following up and will give a report at the next Board’s meeting. (Discussion continued)

Chairman Covelli thanked Ms. Diaz for her report and asked the Board if anyone had any questions for Ms. Diaz. Seeing and hearing none, Chairman Covelli asked for the Licensed Operator report.

LICENSED OPERATOR/CHAPMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES-Chapman Environmental Svcs

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Mr. Roeder stated with regard the budget for Chapman, there are a couple of reasons why the number is high, mainly Chapman is doing a fair amount of extra work, which should be reimbursable. (Discussion continued). Mr. Roeder also stated, that Chapman price to the Authority is on a per week base, some billing months have four weeks and some have five weeks.

Mr. Roeder reported on the operations stating that we are now down to James Drive STP and Ringwood Board of Education in terms of remote facilities operating by the Authority. With regard to the James Drive Plant, we are doing upgrades there, which have been approved by Borough of Ringwood, and the Ringwood Board of Education everything is going smoothly. There are a few things that need to be done there, we are waiting on authorization.

Mr. Roeder said that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Asset Management Plan 10-year plan is definitely revealing a few interesting pieces of information that we can talk about once the report is completed. Once that report is completed the Board will be provided with a copy, which should be late February, early March of 2021.

Chairman Covelli thanked Mr. Roeder for his report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Wilson reported to the Board that he was in contact with the hauler that brought the questionable material, and told them they the Authority could no longer except material from Kutz Inc., the hauler agreed that it wouldn't happen again and apologized.

Mr. Wilson said overall the plant is running well, our solids have been steady, we received more than 2 ½ inches of rain: which our flow exceeded 2.7 million gallons. This is well in excess of what we should have, the plant handled the excess water well, everyone stepped up and did what needed to be done to accept that increase in flow.

Chairman Covelli asked if the handling of the increase flow did, we have to bypass, Mr. Wilson answered no, that we adjusted the pumps and monitor the situation, Chairman Covelli commended Mr. Wilson and his staff.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Bailey of Huntington Bailey, LLP, stated that he had nothing to report

Chairman Covelli said that we have some resolutions for consideration this evening.

Mr. Eskilson give a brief explanation of each of the Resolution on tonight's agenda.

Chairman Covelli asked for a motion for Resolution 20-69 Appointing a Public Compliance Officer for 2021

Resolution 20-69 – Appointing a Public Compliance Officer for 2021

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon. Appointing a Public Compliance Officer for

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2021.

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye
Commissioner: Absent: Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 20-70 – Authorizing a Winter Incentive Rate for Septage Disposal

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon - Authorizing a Winter Incentive Rate for Septage Disposal

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye
Commissioner: Absent: Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Eskilson gave a more in-depth explanation of Resolution 20-71 – discussion continued

Chairman Covelli stated he would like it noted for the record that Mr. Moshman a past Commissioners from West Milford who served on this Board for many years, always what a “capital reserve account” with Resolution 20-71 we will have one. So, I would like to honor Mr. Moshman for all his diligent work.

Resolution 20-71– Establishing a Policy Regarding the Use of Revenue Derived from the Shared Services Agreement with NJDWSC

MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Allen, Establishing a Policy Regarding the Use of Revenue Derived from the Shared Services Agreement with NJDWSC

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye
Commissioner: Absent: Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Covelli added that the earning is not meant to replace capital monies that we set aside in a normal budget process. This is meant to augment and supplement that as needed.

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Eskilson to give an explanation of the of Resolution 20-72 Authorizing the Renewal of an Agreement with Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, Mr. Eskilson give a brief explanation – discussion continued at the end of the discussion Mr. Eskilson asked the Board if they had any questions on the Agreement.

Seeing and hearing none, Chairman Covelli asked for a motion for Resolution 20-72.

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Resolution 20-72- Authorizing the Renewal of an Agreement with Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Allen, Authorizing the Renewal of an Agreement with Passaic Valley Sewerage

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye
Commissioner – Taukus Absent

MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Levine if the vouchers were in order, Mr. Levine stated that ever since we have been virtual and having no backup for the vouchers, I do have several questions. Mr. Levine proceeded with his questions and Ms. Parrinello give an explanation for each question. Mr. Levine stated everything looks appropriate.

Resolution 20-73 - Authorizing Payment of Bills in the amount of \$410,708.93

MOTION - 1 Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon Authorizing Payment of Bills in the amount of \$410,708.93

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye
Commissioner – Taukus Absent

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Levine asked if there any been any complaints or comments from the Wanaque Reserve.

Ms. Parrinello replied no.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 20-74 – Authorizing Renewing our Membership with Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (BMED)

Chairman Covelli state Authorizing Renewing our Membership with BMED is for the purpose of the employee dental benefits plan. That it would be for a three-year period commencing 01/01/2021 ending 12/31/2023

Chairman Covelli asked for a motion on Resolution 20-74.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Allen, Authorizing Renewing our Membership with

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Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund (BMED)

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.

Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye

Commissioner: Absent: Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one from the public joined the video conference meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Allen to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.

Commissioners: Allen, Conlon, Gerst, Levine, and Covelli all stated Aye

Commissioners Absent: Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Parrinello

Elizabeth Parrinello, Recording Secretary

MOTION WAS MADE at the 01/27/2021 Public Meeting

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Allen		X	X			
Conlon	X		X			
Gerst			X			
Levine						
Taukus						X
Covelli						X