

WANAQUE VALLEY REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
September 23, 2020
Regular Public Meeting
VIA – Video Conference – Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENT – 6:06 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, May 27, 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 everyone to stand for 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: Ted Taukus, Michael Gerst

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

REVIEW / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 26, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairman Covelli stated that the Commissioners were emailed copies of the August 26, 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 August 26, 2020 Regular Minutes, Chairman Covelli asked if there were any discussion, additions, deletions on the minutes of August 26, 2020, seeing and hearing none Chairman Covelli asked for all those in favor is signify so by stating Aye.

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

Commissioner – Gerst, Taukus Absent

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Eskilson if there were any correspondence, Mr. Eskilson replied that there were no correspondences.

REPORTS

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT– Copy attached

Mr. Eskilson prepared a written report which was emailed to Commissioners and Professionals for this evenings meeting.

Mr. Eskilson stated that his report would be brief this evening, stating that as of now we have twelve months of expenditures and eleven months of revenue, with the expenditures are running approximately \$200k to the positive side and the revenue as exceeded our anticipated budget by more than \$120K. Mr. Eskilson stated that he will be giving a full year end report next month.

Mr. Eskilson reported to the Board that he has sent several emails to the Borough's Administrator, Mr. Carelli regarding the Borough's water analysis and is waiting for a response.

Chairman Covelli asked about the extension that was given to the Authority by the State, Chairman Covelli did the Authority answer the State. Mr. Eskilson stated, that we are waiting on information from the Borough, which has not been forth coming. Chairman Covelli asked that the Authority provide the State with and status update.

Ms. Diaz stated that she will draft up a letter with an update and have all parties review it. Once all have reviewed it, she will send it to the State with the progress note.

Chairman Covelli asked the Board if they had any question for Mr. Eskilson, Chairman Covelli thanked Mr. Eskilson for his report.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ms. Diaz reported, that at last month's meeting she reported that the contractor was out to look at the tertiary building, and now the materials have been order and we just need to schedule the work.

LICENSED OPERATOR/CHAPMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES-Chapman Environmental Svcs

Mr. Roeder stated that everything is moving along well with the main plant, Mr. Roeder reported

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that Mr. Wilson has reported a few issues, but the staff is on top of everything. Mr. Roeder explained that although we still have some of the same ongoing challenges, we are on top of everything and he is confident that we will stay there. Mr. Roeder stated that we are working with the Borough of Ringwood which going nicely and are waiting for authorization for the aeration basin improvements.

Mr. Roeder gave a quick update on the ten-year Capital Improvement Study, stating that he and Ms. Diaz had a meeting and will be setting up a meeting in the near future. Mr. Roeder stated that we should be able to start the Capital Improvement Study mid to late October.

SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS

Mr. Wilson stated that he has been getting quote's (6 in total) for the cleaning of the Septage Receiving Unit (SRU), which is usually done every two (2) years. Mr. Wilson explained that post aerator #2 stated that he is in place which will help to lower the dissolved oxygen (DO)

Mr. Wilson stated that he has been working with Mr. Farrell and Mr. Roeder with regards what needs to be done in and around the plant. (Discussion continued)

Mr. Wilson concluded his report by saying that the plant in running well and the staff has been doing a fantastic job.

LEGAL REPORT

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

Chairman Covelli asked Mr. Eskilson for a brief explanation of the resolutions.

Chairman Covelli stated before moving to adoption Resolution 20-59 he would like to thank Mr. Wilson, Ms. Diaz, Mr. Roeder, Mr. Eskilson and the entire staff for all the effort everyone has put in this year. Chairman Covelli feels great pride in the way the Authority is moving, it has been a really tough couple of months and to be able to end Fiscal Year 2020 in the positive says a lot about the staff's commitment to the Authority.

Chairman Covelli stated that if the Borough of Ringwood had not accepted the agreement that is on tonight's agenda it could have had a change in the Authority's FY21 Budget. Chairman Covelli stated he would like a motion to open the budget hearing process to the public to see if there are any question regarding the Authority's FY21 Budget as it was introduced at the Authority's August 26, 2020, public meeting.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Levine. To Open Budget Hearing Process

Chairman Covelli asked if anyone from the public and the Board had any questions, Mr. Eskilson indicated that no one from the public signed on to the meeting.

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MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Allen. To Close Budget Hearing Process

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

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 20-59 – Authorizing Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon - Authorizing Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget

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

MOTION CARRIED

6:27 Commissioner Gerst of the Township of West Milford has joined the Zoom meeting.

Resolution 20-60 – Authorizing Agreement with Borough of Ringwood

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon. Authorizing Agreement with Borough of Ringwood

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 brief introduction to the Board about Mr. Rockwell's background. (Discussed continued)

Resolution 20-61 – Authorizing the Hiring of Frank Rockwell as Plant Operator 2

MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Levine Authorizing the Hiring of Frank Rockwell as Plant Operator 2

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

Resolution 20-62 – Authorizing Renewal of Membership in the New Jersey Utilities Authority Joint

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Insurance Fund. (NJUA-JIF)

MOTION Moved by Mr. Allen, 2nd by Mr. Conlon. Authorizing Renewal of Membership in the New Jersey Utilities Authority Joint Insurance Fund. (NJUA-JIF)

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 yes, he had reviewed the bills and all were in order, but had a question for an explanation on why the Authority are paying the Commissioners to attend a Zoom meeting. Mr. Levine explained, that he thought that payment was to alleviate the cost to some of the Commissioner who traveled to the Authority for the meeting. Chairman Covelli replied with an explanation for Mr. Levine, stating on the original Resolution (20-38), that when we drew the resolution up for authorization, we made no distinction whether the meeting was remote or live, it was for all the work that is encompassed and the activities of the Commissioner and any cost they may incur, we made no distinction. Chairman Covelli stated that he is unaware of any governing body that puts that limitation for reimbursement. Mr. Levine stated he understood the explanation, but before we read the motion on payment of the bills Mr. Levine stated, he would like to make a motion to suspend introduction of 20-63 authorizing payment to Commissioners attending meetings remotely via Zoom.

Mr. Eskilson suggested that the payments in question be separated out and have a separate action on them; that then we would do a separate motion on just the payments in question. Mr. Levine stated that he would accept that.

Resolution 20-63 – (3 separate motions)

MOTION - 1 Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon to separate out payments to Commissioners for payment for attending Zoom 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
Commissioner Absent - Taukus

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION - 2 Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon to approve Resolution #20-63 in the amount of \$ 138,052.15 with the removal of the payment to Commissioners (Mr. Covelli, Mr. Taukus, Mr. Levine, Mr. Allen, Mr. Gerst, Mr. Conlon) which is \$3,900.00 and approve the remaining vendor payments equaling \$134,152.15.

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

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MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Covelli asked for a motion for payment for those items that were removed from Resolution 20-63. (Items removed totaling \$3,900.00)

Mr. Conlon asked for a clarification on the motion. (Discussion continued)

MOTION - 3 Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Allen to approve payment for the items removed and make payment to Commissioners.

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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

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

Motion was made to close the public portion.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Conlon, 2nd by Mr. Allen to close public portion of 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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION Moved by Mr. Levine, 2nd by Mr. Conlon 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 649PM

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Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Parrinello

Elizabeth Parrinello, Recording Secretary

MOTION WAS MADE at the 10/28/2020 Public Meeting

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