

**Present:** Mr. Manfredi, Mr. Schauer, Mr. Schwaiger, Mr. Simone, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Neri, Mrs. Mahoney, Mr. Cossabone, Mr. Spratt, Mr. Fiore, Councilwomen Fox

**Absent:** N/A

**Public in Attendance:** Mrs. Denise Nevico, Comptroller, Mr. Bill Bowman, Ms. Roseann DeLeo, Mr. Don Paparone

**Salute to the flag**

Mrs. Seeley read the Opening Statement, "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, I hereby announce that adequate notice of this meeting, as required by said act has been provided by adopting a schedule of regular meetings for the year 2024/2025 which schedule was posted on the Authority Bulletin board and filed with the Township Clerk on February 22, 2024."

**Public Portion**

A motion was made by Mr. Schauer and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to open the meeting to the public. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. DeLeo questioned, What the process is in creating the board to represent the MUA? Mr. Neri replied, we are appointed by town council. Ms. DeLeo stated on her bill, it states the rates are going up as of July first, which is understandable. When that is decided, what is used that states this is needed to function the water for our town. Mrs. Mahoney stated, every year when we do our budget, the Comptroller does a rate study and this determines if the current water and sewer rates will sustain what is needed for the operating and capital budget. Once that is done, it is also submitted to the finance committee. They can discuss it, not approve it, or make changes. After this point, it is submitted to all the board members to review. Finally, it is presented at a board meeting. Ms. DeLeo questioned what the quorum is. Mrs. Mahoney stated 3 members. Ms. DeLeo stated it is the five board members that discuss the increase, and they find if the increase is fit. Mrs. Mahoney stated that is correct. Ms. DeLeo stated she just needed to hear this from the source and where it's coming from to make sure she understands and that it's presented to all five board members and then a vote is taken. Mrs. Mahoney stated that is correct and added the Authority is very fortunate to have a Comptroller that is a Certified Public Accountant with 35 years of experience with auditing the township and in my opinion, it would be irresponsible to not follow the guidance of the Comptroller.

Mr. Paparone stated he understands that there have been some conversations regarding Blaze Mill Pump Station that is to be built in section 6 thru 12 and would like to know where we are at with it and if the board has discussed it. Mr. Neri stated since the last meeting it was discussed a little bit, but no other movements have been made. A discussion will need to be made with the Engineer and Attorneys to see exactly which way we will want to go with it. Mr. Paparone questioned if it's still open for discussion. Mr. Fiore stated he will have to talk about it in Closed Session, but he did receive a letter from their Attorney and that will be addressed in Closed Session. After he will get back to their Attorney in writing. Mr. Fiore questioned Mr. Paparone, it's an inclusionary project, however you are buying out the units correct or are they being built on site? Mr. Paparone stated they are buying them out and it's not going to be affordable housing.

Mr. Bowman stated he is there for Morgan Landing which is a project that started in the early 2000's. He is trying to create a fill that is affordable instead of adding a pump station and have it gravity feed into the existing manhole. In doing that, he received Mr. Spratt's letter that they agreed with everything except the covers on the laterals and he would like some direction. Mr. Bowman stated essentially, they were less than four feet at the riser, so to add an additional six inches of dirt, it will throw everything out of whack. Mr. Bowman questioned if the board would give them a waiver to make sure all laterals and curb stops were covered three and a half feet. Mr. Neri questioned if he was proposing the laterals just have three and half feet of coverage. Mr. Bowman stated your detail calls for four feet of coverage at the curb stop, we are saying yes, we would ask for three and half feet at the clean out. Mr. Neri questioned if Mr. Cossabone had any input on the type of pipe or how he felt about it. Mr. Cossabone stated when the Form B was reviewed, we noted that and sent it back to them. We have not received any response, and this is the next I'm hearing about it. We never said no to the three and a half. We are waiting for a reply back, I would be fine with horizontal lay. Mr. Bowman stated he's hearing if the paperwork is correct, it will be considered. Mr. Spratt replied, Mr. Cossabone and himself go over every

set of plans together and when it's ready to go, it's ready to go. Mr. Neri stated if they see anything that's a little different, they will bring it up to us.

A motion was made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Schauer to close the meeting to the public. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Schauer and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2024. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

#### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Spratt had nothing to report.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Schauer moved Resolution No. 67-24 – Resolution approving a two-year contract with Vision Service Plan for eye care plan in the amount of \$13,000.00 per year. Mr. Manfredi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Schauer moved Resolution No. 68-2024 – Resolution authorizing the removal of charges for certain uncollectible accounts. Mr. Neri seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Manfredi moved Resolution No. 69-24 – Resolution of the Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority to observe Juneteenth as a holiday. Mr. Neri seconded the motion, which passed on a roll call vote with Mr. Schauer voting no.

Mr. Manfredi questioned when the Township celebrates this? Mrs. Mahoney stated last year was the first year for them as well which they did the observed day, but this year because their offices are closed on Friday's the Township was closed today. Mr. Manfredi questioned why are our office hours different than the Township and if the holiday's different? Mrs. Mahoney stated our office hours and holidays are different, there are some discrepancies. Mr. Schwaiger questioned if the Authority was opened today? Mrs. Mahoney replied yes. Mr. Schwaiger questioned why the holiday wasn't observed today on Juneteenth? Mrs. Mahoney replied that last year was the first that the Authority was observing the holiday and we were consistent with the State of New Jersey's observance day. This year it is the third Friday in June. Mr. Schwaiger stated that the Township was closed today. Mrs. Mahoney states because their offices are closed on Fridays generally. Mr. Manfredi questioned if its ok to follow the Townships lead with time off, so it's all the same and the town knows exactly what's going on? Mr. Manfredi questioned if a motion is needed for that. Mr. Neri stated we could probably not vote for this and bring that up separately. Mr. Simone stated he doesn't know if you can if you're observing Friday. Mr. Manfredi stated to follow the Townships lead. Mrs. Mahoney questioned to adhere to their schedule? Mr. Schwaiger questioned is the schedule much different? Mrs. Mahoney stated we are open on Fridays; they are closed on Fridays. Our office hours are 7:30 to 3:30, theirs are 7:00 to 5:00 Monday through Thursday. Mr. Schwaiger questioned why Mrs. Mahoney wants to shut down the office on Fridays? Mrs. Mahoney replied, I never said I wanted to close on Fridays, I am only requesting the resolution. Mr. Simone and Mr. Neri stated she didn't ask to close on Fridays. Mr. Manfredi said no, she doesn't. I just think we should follow the same schedule as the Township. Mr. Schwaiger questioned if anyone seconded the motion in order to vote on it. Mr. Neri replied yes, we were answering questions first.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Manfredi moved Resolution No. 61-24 – Resolution awarding Badger Meter the contract for Water Meters with cellular units for a one-year contract effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$240,000.00. Mr. Schauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Schauer moved Resolution No. 62-2024 – Resolution awarding John Pflugfelder, Inc. the contract for the supply and delivery of heating oil for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at \$.42 delivery

price and reseller car price of \$2.31 per gallon totaling \$2.73. Mr. Manfredi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Manfredi moved Resolution No. 63-2024 – Resolution awarding John Pflugfelder, Inc. the contract for the supply and delivery of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at \$.42 delivery price and reseller rack price of \$2.78 per gallon totaling \$3.20. Mr. Schwaiger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Simone questioned if the diesel fuel went up from last year? Mr. Cossabone responded, yes \$.59 and heating oil went up \$.10. Mr. Simone questioned if gasoline stayed about the same? Mr. Cossabone responded this is for heating oil and diesel. Mr. Simone stated he thought fuel was dropping. Mr. Schauer questioned what about off road diesel? Mr. Cossabone replied he looked into it last year and he believes it's the same as heating oil. Mr. Ferguson stated off road is red and the township runs off road because of the tax. Mr. Simone stated that is a big fine.

Mr. Schauer moved Resolution No. 64-2024 – Resolution awarding Coyne Chemical, Inc. the contract for Calcium Hypochlorite (Accu-Tabs) for the period covering July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at \$363.16 per pail. Mr. Manfredi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Manfredi moved Resolution No. 65-2024 – Resolution of the Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority authorizing the purchase of a Caterpillar 299D3 XE Compact Track Loader from Foley Cat, Inc. in the amount of \$114,372.90. Mr. Schwaiger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Cossabone stated this went out to public bid and this was the only bid that was received. Mr. Schwaiger questioned how much was this when it was on awhile ago? Mr. Cossabone responded \$106,000.00. Mr. Schwaiger questioned why it came off awhile ago? Mr. Cossabone responded in order to compare prices with other dealers/vendors. Mr. Schwaiger questioned if the MUA purchases from Foley consistently, is this your dealer? Mr. Cossabone responded for Caterpillar, we have generators, and excavator that we have service agreements with. Mr. Schwaiger stated how many months ago was it \$106,000.00? Mr. Cossabone responded it came to us from Sourcewell in October/November for \$106,000.00. Mr. Schwaiger questioned if this was talked about at the last meeting? Mr. Cossabone responded, yes to go out to bid for. Mr. Schwaiger questioned what the price difference is from? Mr. Cossabone responded inflation, and he did have a conversation about it with them.

Mr. Schwaiger moved Resolution No. 66-2024 – Resolution of the Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority authorizing the purchase of two (2) HD Trucks with a Utility Body in the amount of \$152,879.50. Mr. Manfredi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Schauer questioned if the specs are the same as the original ones? Mr. Cossabone responded yes, and they are available asap as well. Mr. Simone questioned what brand? Mr. Cossabone responded Chevy 2500's.

Mr. Cossabone thanked the board for their patience and understanding with the last two items.

#### **Chairman**

Mr. Neri asked Mrs. Mahoney to do a comparison between the Township of Monroe and MUA with the holiday schedule.

#### **Liaison's Report**

Councilwomen Fox had nothing to report.

#### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Fiore had nothing to report.

A motion was made by Mr. Schauer and seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Manfredi and seconded by Mr. Schauer for approval of the Bills. The motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Simone moved Resolution No. 70-2024 - Resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session of the Board of Directors of the Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority – Attorney/Client Legal Advice. Mr. Manfredi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mrs. Seeley read the Closed Session Opening Statement “The Monroe MUA shall hold a closed session meeting to which the public shall not be admitted on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 6:00pm. The general nature of the subject to be discussed at said closed meeting shall be Attorney/Client Legal Advice. The minutes of said closed meeting shall be disclosed to the public at the appropriate time.

A motion was made by Mr. Manfredi and seconded by Mr. Schauer to come out of Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Schauer and seconded by Mr. Simone to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katie Seeley

Approved at the meeting on

Attest by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary