



Transcript of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority

FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2021/2022 CONNECTION FEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021 AT 5:35PM

Commissioners and Staff Present

Mr. Richard Gartz, Vice Chair (Freehold Borough)	Mr. Robert Nicasro (Howell Township)
Mrs. Julisa Garcia (Freehold Township)	Mr. Peter E. Kocsik, P.E., Engineer (Mott MacDonald)
Mrs. Mary DeSarno (Wall Township)	Mr. Roger J. McLaughlin, Esq., Attorney (MSSPC Law)
Mrs. Olga McKenna (Wall Township)	Mr. Brian J. Brach, P.E., Executive Director (MRRSA)
Mr. James Daly (Farmingdale Borough)	Mr. Donald Hill, CPA, Finance Officer (MRRSA)
Ms. Patricia Linszky (Farmingdale Borough)	

Commissioners Absent

Mr. A. Richard Gatto, Chair (Freehold Township)	Mr. Jesse Tantillo (Howell Township)
Mr. Michael G. Wilson (Freehold Borough)	

Exhibits

- Exhibit No. 1: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Asbury Park Press (Published June 17, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 2: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Star Ledger (Published June 17, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 3: Certified Letters Notifying Member Municipality Clerks of the Public Hearing (dated June 16, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 4: Mott MacDonald 2020 Certified Wastewater Flow Letter (dated February 8, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 5: MRRSA Memorandum to Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Detailing Calculation of the 2021/2022 Connection Fee (dated July 15, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 6: Letter from Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Confirming Calculation of the 2021/2022 Connection Fee (dated July 20, 2021)
- Exhibit No. 7: MRRSA Memorandum to Commissioners Detailing the 2021/2022 Connection Fee (dated July 16, 2021)

The following transcript was transcribed from an audio file provided by MRRSA to www.rev.com, 222 Kearny Street, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108. Accuracy of the transcription was verified by MRRSA staff.



Motion to Enter into Public Hearing

Mr. Gartz: We have the public hearing on the connection fees. Motion to enter into the public hearing for the adjustment.

Mrs. DeSarno: Motion. *(Almost simultaneous "So Moved" by Mr. Nicastro just after the motion of Mrs. DeSarno.)*

Mrs. Linszky: Second.

Mr. Gartz: All in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye.

(The Authority entered into the public hearing at approximately 5:35pm.)

Presentation of Evidence

Mr. McLaughlin: All right. Thank you, uh, Mr. Chairman. This is our, uh, annual determination of the connection fee for the coming year, as required by law. So, we have pre-marked, uh, seven (7) exhibits, uh, for the hearing tonight. I will read them into record.

Exhibit number one (1) is an affidavit certifying to the publication of the hearing notice in Asbury Park Press on June 17th.

Exhibit two (2) is an affidavit certifying the publication of the hearing notice in the Star Ledger. That was also on June 17th.

Exhibit three (3) are certified letters notifying all of our member municipality clerks of the public hearing, and, uh, those letters are dated June 16th.

Uh, Exhibit number four (4) is the, uh, Mott MacDonald 2020 certified wastewater flow report letter. It's dated February 8th of 2021.

Exhibit five (5) is our MRRSA memorandum, uh, to, our auditing company detailing a calculation of the 2021/2022 connection fee, and that's dated July 15th.

Uh, Exhibit six (6), uh, is a letter from our auditors, which confirms calculation of the 2021/2022 connection fee, and that letter is dated July 20th.

And then, finally, Exhibit number seven (7) is, uh, our memorandum to commissioners, detailing the 2021/2022 connection fee. That was dated July 16th.

Mr. McLaughlin: So, as we normally do, we'll have the testimony of two witnesses this evening. Mr. Kocsik and Mr. Brach, if you would both raise your right hands. Do you swear the testimony you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Mr. Kocsik: I do.

Mr. Brach: I do.

Mr. McLaughlin: All right, thank you. We'll start with, uh, Mr. Koscik, and, Mr. Koscik, for the, uh, record, please state your full name, your affiliation, and your position with the Authority.

Mr. Koscik: My name is Peter Koscik. K-O-C-S-I-K. I'm a senior vice president with the firm of Mott MacDonald. I am the Authority's Professional Engineer.

Mr. McLaughlin: Mr. Koscik, you prepared exhibit number four, did you not? Which is the certified wastewater flow report dated February 8th, 2021.

Mr. Koscik: Yes, we did.

Mr. McLaughlin: All right. So, would you please, uh, just briefly explain to the board, uh, how that letter was prepared and how the flow differs from the prior year?

Mr. Koscik: Yes. Every year in January, we are asked to certify the flows that are recorded by this Authority and the sum total recorded by the Ocean County Utilities Authority. There's a total of 10 flow meters that the Authority maintains, uh, to, uh, measure flows in the various municipalities, and the Ocean County Utility Authority maintains the flows that go into their system. For the OCUA their flow meters give us a flow total, and then we try to break that flow total into the five towns [inaudible 00:03:06] flow data and [inaudible 00:03:07] flow meters. In 2020, um, the flow, uh, total was 2,310,777,000-gallons of wastewater flow that was recorded at the meters. Um, in total, there's about, um, 94,000,000-gallons less than the prior year. Uh, our flows are very much repetitive on rainfall and groundwater tables. So, the year 2020 was a little bit less rainy, and groundwater tables were down from 2019. So, um, although there was probably more people tying into the system, the total flow reported was 94,000,000-gallons less the prior year.

Mr. McLaughlin: And the calculations that you performed, uh, to determine each, uh, government municipality's flow and total flow, that was all in accordance with the rules, the regulations of the authority?

Mr. Koscik: Yes, it was.

Mr. McLaughlin: I have nothing further unless the Commissioners have any, uh, questions for Mr. Koscik.

(There were no questions from the Board).

All right. I'll move on to, uh, Mr. Brach. Mr. Brach, you, uh, prepared exhibit number five, uh, I believe, which, uh, was marked into evidence. That's your letter of July 15th, 2021, uh, detailing, uh, the calculation of the connection fee, uh, for our auditors to deal with that. Correct?

Mr. Brach: That's correct.

Mr. McLaughlin: All right. So, would you, um, say that those calculations were done in accordance with our rules and regulations and the State's statute, which governs how connection fees are calculated?

Mr. Brach: Yes.

Mr. McLaughlin: Now, you provided those to the auditor, and they responded to you, uh, exhibit six, uh, and, uh, exhibit six is a letter, uh, which indicates that the calculations that you prepared were, in fact, accurate and accepted by our auditors. Is that correct?

Mr. Brach: That's correct.

Mr. McLaughlin: All right. I have no further questions for Mr. Brach unless the, uh, Commissions do.

(There were no questions from the Board).

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the, uh, presentation of, uh, testimony on the connection fee hearing.

Mr. Brach: So, for 2021/2022, as detailed in exhibit five and also provided within a July 16th memo to the Board, the connection fee is calculated to increase \$120 from \$2,231 per EDU to \$2,351 per EDU.

Questions and Comments

(There were no questions or comments from the Board and/or public prior to adjournment of the hearing. Let the record reflect that no members of the public were present.)

Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing

Mr. Gartz: Thank you. Motion to adjourn public hearing and resume the public meeting

Mrs Linszky: Motion.

Mrs. Garcia: Second.

Mr. Gartz: All in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye.

(The Authority adjourned the public hearing at approximately 5:41pm.)

Respectfully submitted,


Olga R. McKenna, Secretary