



Transcript of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority

FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2022/2023 CONNECTION FEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022 AT 5:30PM

Commissioners and Staff Present

Mr. A. Richard Gatto, Chair (Freehold Township)
Mrs. Julisa Garcia (Freehold Township)
Mr. Michael Wilson (Freehold Borough)
Mrs. Olga McKenna (Wall Township)
Mr. James Daly (Farmingdale Borough)

Mr. Jesse Tantillo (Howell Township)
Mr. Peter E. Kocsik, P.E., Engineer (Mott MacDonald)
Mr. Roger J. McLaughlin, Esq., Attorney (MSSPC Law)
Mr. Brian J. Brach, PE, QPA, Executive Director (MRRSA)
Mr. Donald Hill, CPA, Finance Officer (MRRSA)

Commissioners Absent

Mr. Richard Gartz, Vice Chair (Freehold Borough)
Mrs. Mary DeSarno (Wall Township)

Mr. Robert C. Fischer (Howell Township)
Mrs. Patricia Linszky (Farmingdale Borough)

Exhibits

- Exhibit No. 1: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Asbury Park Press (Published June 16, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 2: Affidavit Certifying to Publication of the Hearing Notice in the Star Ledger (Published June 17, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 3: Certified Letters Notifying Member Municipality Clerks of the Public Hearing (dated June 14, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 4: Mott MacDonald 2021 Certified Wastewater Flow Letter (dated February 9, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 5: MRRSA Memorandum to Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Detailing Calculation of the 2022/2023 Connection Fee (dated June 22, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 6: Letter from Holman Frenia Allison, P.C. Confirming Calculation of the 2022/2023 Connection Fee (dated June 29, 2022)
- Exhibit No. 7: MRRSA Memorandum to Commissioners Detailing the 2022/2023 Connection Fee (dated July 15, 2022)

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. Gatto: Um, first up is gonna be a- a public hearing for the adjustment of the 2022-2023 connection fee. Someone want to make a motion to, uh, open that hearing?

Mr. Tantillo: So moved.

Mr. Daly: Second.

Mr. Gatto: All in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye.

(The Authority entered into the public hearing at approximately 5:29pm)

Mr. Gatto: We'll go back to that, the minutes.

Mr. Gatto: All right, Roger?

Presentation of Evidence

Mr. McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the, uh, annual time for determination of the, uh, connection fee for the agency here, which, uh, will go from 2022 to 2023. So in fact, we were required to, uh, conduct this public hearing for the coming year, as required by law. So we've pre-marked seven (7) exhibits. I'm going to read those into the record.

Exhibit number one (1) is an affidavit certifying publication of the hearing notice in the Asbury Park Press published on June 16th of this year.

Exhibit number two (2) is an affidavit certifying publication of the hearing that was in the Star Ledger that was published on June 17th.

Exhibit number three (3) are certified letters notifying the member municipality clerks of the public hearing. Those are dated June 14th.

Exhibit number four (4) is, uh, Mott McDonald's 2021 certified wastewater flow letter, which was dated February 9th of this year.

Exhibit number five (5) is a, uh, a MRRSA memorandum to Holman Frenia Allison detailing calculation of the 2022-2023 connection fee, that was dated June 22nd.

Exhibit number six (6) is a letter from Holman, uh, confirming calculation of 2022-2023 connection fee. That's dated June 29th.

And exhibit number seven (7), uh, is Mr. Brach's memorandum to the commissioners detailing the 2022-2023 connection fee, which was dated July 15th of 2022.

Mr. McLaughlin: So we'll have the testimony of two witnesses. Uh, Brian and Pete, if you would raise your hand. Do you solemnly swear the testimony you're about to give in this hearing will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Mr. Brach: I do.

Mr. Kocsik: I do.

Mr. McLaughlin: Would you please state your full name, and, uh, affiliation for the record.

Mr. Kocsik: My name is Peter Kocsik. K-O-C-S-I-K. I'm the senior vice president with Mott Macdonald. I serve as the Authority's professional engineer.

Mr. Brach: And I am Brian J. Brach, B-R-A-C-H. I serve as the Executive Director of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority.

Mr. McLaughlin: Thank you. Mr. Kocsik, we will start with you. Um, you prepared exhibit number four, uh, which is the certified wastewater flow letter dated february 9th of this year.

Mr. Kocsik: Uh, yes, we did.

Mr. McLaughlin: And, could you please briefly explain to the commissioners how that letter was prepared, and, uh, any change in flow from the prior year.

Mr. Kocsik: Sure. So at the end of each year, in January, in this case, the prior year of 2021, we are asked to review the sewage flows that are recorded by the Ocean County Utility Authority, and by the meters of the Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority. OCUA maintains five meters at the border of their service territory and those five meters result in a total flow of MRRSA into Ocean County; and that's how Ocean County bills MRRSA. The 10 internal meters maintained by the sewage authority, MRRSA, are what we use to calculate the flows of the five participant towns within our, uh, Authority. So, um, we review the data, from January through December and look at the total flows. The total flow that was recorded, uh, by OCUA in 2021, was 2,354,306,000 gallons of sewage. Uh, that's about a 43 million gallon increase over the prior year in 2020. As you may know, the authority, I mean, sewage flows, rainfall in a rainy pattern does effect sewage flows as rainfall does tend to get into the sewer system through infiltration and inflow. 2021 was a little bit drier year, but it had more rain the beginning of the year and less rain at the end of the year. Um, the flow pattern ended up being about forty two million gallons more sewage flow in 2021 than 2020.

Mr. McLaughlin: Thank you, Mr. Kocsik. The calculations that, um, your Firm did of the flows from each member municipality and total flows, was that all done in accordance with the rules and regulations of the authority?

Mr. Kocsik: Yes, it was.

Mr. McLaughlin: I have no further questions, Mr. Kocsik, unless the commissioners have any.

Mr. Gatto: None.

Mr. McLaughlin: Seeing none, we'll go on to Mr. Brach. Um, so, Mr. Brach, you prepared exhibit number five. That was the memorandum to the authority's auditors. Can you tell me the calculation, [inaudible], for the 2022-2023 connection fee, [inaudible], is that correct?

Mr. Brach: Yes.

Mr. McLaughlin: And were those calculations done in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Authority, as well as the state's regulations, in how you determine a connection fee?

Mr. Brach: Yes.

Mr. McLaughlin: And the auditor responded to you with a letter, which we've marked as exhibit number six, uh, that was dated June 30th. Uh, and the one here indicates the calculations you prepared were, in fact, accurate, and they were accepted by the auditor, is that correct?

Mr. Brach: That's correct.

Mr. McLaughlin: Uh, I have no further questions for Mr. Brach at this time.

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. Gatto: Any questions from the board? Okay. Any record will reflect that there's nobody here from the public. If there's nothing else from the board, a motion to adjourn the public hearing and resume the public meeting.

Mr. Wilson: So moved.

Mr. Gatto: Moved by Mr. Wilson.

Mrs. Garcia: Second.

Mr. Gatto: Seconded by Mrs. Garcia. Any discussion? All in fa- all in favor?

All Commissioners: Aye.

(The Authority adjourned the public hearing at approximately 5:36pm.)

Mr. McLaughlin: Just for the record, the, uh, as the, uh, commissioners know, uh, the connection fee increase this year is \$7 from \$2,351 to \$2,358.

Respectfully submitted,


Olga R. McKenna, Secretary