

**Municipal Utilities Authority of West Milford Township, West Milford, New Jersey**

Minutes of: Regular Meeting  
Date of Meeting: May 22 2012  
Time of Meeting: 7:00 P. M.  
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**ADEQUATE NOTICE STATEMENT:**

Please note that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this meeting was sent to the Herald News on December 18, 2011 and to the Township Clerk for posting in the West Milford Town Hall.

Agenda Item I

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico (excused at 8:09pm), W. Bassett  
Alternates: P. McGill, D. Ofshinsky  
Absent:  
Professionals: L. Thompson, N. Murphy, E. Williams  
Staff: K. Love,

Agenda Item II

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

- Members of the public were asked to hold their questions if they were here for the Bald Eagle Report until after the Engineer and Operator reports. Ms. Hardy asked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Williams to review the Bald Eagle Village portion of their reports first then take questions. No other public was present.
- A motion was made to close the public session of the meeting at 7:03pm

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Motion: Heres Seconded: Bassett  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico, W. Bassett, P. McGill, D. Ofshinsky  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried  
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Agenda Item III

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

- Mr. Murphy reviewed his Bald Eagle Village portion of his report with the Board.
- The Engineer’s report attached.
- The following comments were made:
  - Mr. Heres asked to please explain the filter media issue to the public, specifically how the system works, the chemicals used, the hydrant flushing and the iron content. Mr. Murphy explained that the filters and the media contained inside are not working properly. This media filters out the iron and manganese that come from the raw water source. This media has not been replaced for at least 15 years or more according to records. The iron in turn sits in the pipes until the water is called upon to move through the pipes into homes. Hydrant flushing will flush most of the iron out of the system but some is always left behind. The raw water that is tested daily is coming out at a .5 where the DEP regulation is .3.
  - Mr. Monico asked that beyond the media what the action plan is. Mr. Murphy replied he did not know at this point and that is something they would have to look into further after the media. There could be more issues but this is a good first step.

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- Mr. Heres asked if there is a way to baseline iron levels in system and analyze the process. MR. Murphy replied yes absolutely by sampling several different points in the system at times.
- Ms. Hardy asked that when brown water first started hydrant flushing was ordered why did this not take care of the problem. Mr. Murphy explained that when they flush the hydrants is also stirs up the sediment and it never leaves the system 100%. It then can lie in the pipes and grown until the next time flushing occurs.
- Mr. Williams interjected that the initial construction was poor and explained the way the piping works and that due to the way the piping was routed all of the sediment ends at the cul de sacs. They will always need to flush the system but having the new media that will filter the iron before it can get into the system will help. They will need to continue flushing and institute a plan for the future.

Agenda Item II (Continued)

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

- A motion was made to reopen the public session of the meeting at 7:26pm

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Motion: Bassett Seconded: Spirko  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried  
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- The following comments were made from the public:
  - Barbara Kochansky 51 D Beacon Hill Road She has a lot of her laundry has been stained by the brown water and it does not come out and upon the advisement of her plumber she replaced her washing machine. She has sent emails to everyone and is getting no satisfaction. She has flushed her hot water heater upon suggestion but that did not take care of the problem. They now have increased water bills and lots of brown water. Why the facilities were never maintained. She is a taxpayer in this town and she has written to the Mayor the Governor and the press this is absurd. It wasn't always like this.
  - Lauren Brede, 6C New Bedford. Customer stated that she pays taxes and she called the press. She is a first time home buyer and the increase in water and sewer rates is mind boggling. The water is ridiculous.
  - Charles Dekoning 35 C Salem Alley. How long has the filtration in Concord Well facility no been working. Is it something that has recently popped up. New Board and public didn't know about the happenings. If the media hasn't been replaced in 15 to 20 years how did we know this is what needed to be replaced. Ms. Hardy replied that after three times flushing and all the new commissioners they are trying to send the capital money they have come up with very wisely and the brown water issue was at the top of the list. That is why they have done the research.
  - Vulcano 33A Concord Road are the homeowners going to incur the cost of the repair. Ms. Hardy stated that it will come out of the capital line item.
  - Zacor 43 D Lexington wanted to know what happened to the money. Ms. Hardy explained that the entire new board was not here at the time so there is no answer however an independent audit was done and showed no wrong doing.
  - Linda Schoeppler 51F Beacon Hill Road. stated that people need t recognize that there are three entities at work here. The Township, the MUA and the Bald Eagle Association. No taxes go to the MUA only the Township collects taxes for the township only. The MUA is a separate entity and only receives money from the rate

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payer's quarterly bills. The association is also separate from the MUA however people who reside in the village on are on the Board and representatives of the community. All have their own issues and are separate. Replacing the media how much is it going to cost? Ms. Hardy stated the quote that they have now in hand is \$25 - \$30,000. Ms. Schoeppler asked if the media is always that expensive. Would it have been that 10 years ago had the MUA done it then? Ms. Hardy said there is no way of knowing however it would have been comparable. Mr. Williams stated the process of replacing the media would be the same and all the different layers of sand needed so it would be about the same price. Ms. Schoeppler continued by saying she understands the newness are there any employees still around that have been here to know what happened 10 to 15 years ago to see if it was working. Ms. Hardy explained it is not the job of the employees nor has it ever been to understand the problems with individual technical systems, that is an operational job. However it is unacceptable no matter. Mr. Williams stated that the process begins at the Quincy well and then goes to concord as there are no filters at Quincy. Concord has not been working properly since he arrived he believes it was due to the large cost. Both should be working together.

- Pines 49B Beacon Hill Road has the consumer confidence report from 2010 and would like to check the data from this year to see the differences. Ms Hardy asked Ms. Love to when these reports will be ready, Ms. Replied that the reports are being printed and are required by law to be mailed by July 1, 2012.
- Patty 28H Quincy Lane asked if after the sewage treatment plant was evaluated everything just stopped and no more problems were looked at? Mr. Williams stated that there are many issues with both the sewer and the water facilities and not just at Bald Eagle. Ms. Hardy stated that she is developing a newsletter which will be posted on the website in order to update customers through out the community. They would like to open the communications between the users and professionals and the commissioners. Please come to all of our meetings it is open to the public, yes we have rules but there will be a lot of information given at these meetings this is the best that we can do and must be done.
- Owen 17C Quincy Lane does the money paid by the Bald Eagle residents specifically go to only the Bald Eagle facilities? Ms. Hardy replied no the money goes to all the facilities as a whole. Mr. Owen asked if Bald Eagle is going to be all brand new and for the money paying it should be. Mr. Ofshinsky commented that the commissioners are working on an overall plan with the available funds without raising rates, doing as much as possible for work. The system has never been run right. Mr. Owen asked about accountability. Ms. Hardy explained that the Board is an advisory board however this new set of commissioners is acting as a pro-active board. The prior boards did what they were supposed to do, we are going over and above but the money has to be allocated through the entire system. Mr. Heres interjected that the fees that are collected from the 1700 users goes to the MUA as a whole and then projects are prioritized from there. The Budget has to be approved by the state along with any capital projects. Mr. Spirko stated that the state standards are rigorous so that competes for money as well. Mr. Heres stated that transparency is what this new board is about and once the budget is approved it will be posted for the public to view on the MUA website as well as all the meeting minutes which is required from us.
- Lauren Brede 6C New Bedford asked who approves the budget and is it public knowledge at that point. She believes it needs to go to the next level and the State needs to be responsible. Ms. Hardy replied what can they do? We need to work with them to make the changes but ultimately they don't want the system.

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- Linda Schoeppler 51 F Beacon Hill Road is the brown water because of the color potable or health compromised? Mr. Williams explained that it is visible to the eye but when tested it tests at a .3 which does not exceed the NJDEP Limits. Perhaps someone who is health compromised should check with there doctor and be more aware of the issue. The color and smell we do not see coming from the raw source so it's in the pipes.
  - Homey 21B Plymouth Alley is there enough money in the budget and how soon thereafter the change will be evident and how will it be evaluated. Mr. Williams explained that the tanks are 5 foot wide and 8 foot tall it will be a daunting task from start to finish once inside the tanks they will know better. There should be no interruption in service. Ms. Hardy responded that the money is coming out of the capital budget.
  - Margot Hollands 30B Concord Are the levels of iron safe for consumption fit for pets. Mr. Williams said he is not familiar and suggested that the resident contact her vet but according to human consumption it is fine just not esthetically pleasing.
- A motion was made to close the public session for the second time.

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|----------------|--|-----------|--------|
| Motion:        | Ofshinsky  | Seconded: | Spirko |
| Voted Aye:     | C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky |           |        |
| Voted Nay:     | None   |           |        |
| Abstain:       | None   |           |        |
| Motion Carried |  |           |        |

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## Agenda Item III (continued)

### ENGINEER REPORT CONTINUED:

- Mr. Murphy continued to review the items on his report.
- Mr. Murphy stated that in regards to the township Management plan he needed to review the draft further as it sates that not all service areas were reviewed and that 19 homes could be added which should be incorrect. HE will review and report for next month
- In regards to the flushing SOP they need more information and mapping which the office is looking for and they will supply a draft for the MUA
- In regards to eh portable generators they looked at the regulations and it says that the power source has to automatically come on when power goes out so in regards to the sewer systems that would be impossible if had a portable however the water regulations are more flexible.
- Mr. McGill Asked if he had reviewed all the inspection reports and Mr. Murphy said he would continue to review and speak at next meeting.
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## Agenda Item IV

### OPERATOR'S REPORT:

- Mr. Williams reviewed his report with the Board.
- The Operator's report attached.
- The following comments were made:
  - Mr. Williams reported that the DEP inspection for the STP's went well and that all generators and such worked. Work was recently done to the Crescent Park system

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generator however it was fixed promptly. The generators take car batteries and need to be changed every 5 years and that is the lifetime of a car battery. The one at Crescent Park has been replaced two times in the past three years according to records.

- Mr. Williams reviewed the recent repairs at the Greenwood Lake Beach system. The system needed to be drained and there are several low points in the system that drains were put in however when the system is shut down for the season it should be reviewed. Out of the three wooden tanks on the mountain only one is working but there were only 17 customers so they are hoping it will be sufficient.
- Mr. Williams says he is still receiving nuisance alarms for Birch Hill..
- An emergency occurred at the Bradrick Lift Station and Zudima was called in to haul . It was a grease clog and residents should be notified not to put grease in the system. This would have been a time where they could have used the sludge truck.
- Mr. Williams stated that regarding the DEP inspection the biggest problem is the phosphorus levels in the effluent. They will need more pumps so that they can chemically induce the plants with Alum. This will treat it but there may be more consequences as phosphorus is challenging. They need 20 more pumps and repair kits. Phosphorus creates algae and imposes on fish and wildlife. Mr. Williams is confident that switching the pumps and adding alum will be a first step in removal.
- Mr. Ofshinsky asked how much the pumps cost Mr. Williams stated they can from \$600 to \$800 per pump. LMI's are the best and last for years.
- Mr. McGill asked if the limits were always high and Mr. Williams replied yes it has always been a problem.
- Mr. Ofshinsky commented that this is a hot issue right now with all the septic issues in town as well. Mr. Spirko added that septic issues disperse significantly higher and there are tricks to the trade as to removing it but it has to be a balance with the Alum and settling means lowering the PH which also has its issues.
- Mr. Heres believes Mr. Murphy's assessment is correct. Mr. Murphy added that adding the alum manually is not efficient but Alum is the appropriate chemical however it needs to have more stability for the dosage. Mr. Williams stated that it is very inconsistent.
- Mr. Heres asked Mr. Williams if the list was given to Alaimo. Mr. Williams responded chemicals will be costly and that it could be possibly be cost effective if they could use a molasses or a sugar, however he will investigate this option.
- Mr. McGill asked Ms. Love if there was any word from the insurance company regarding Birch Hill STP and the fire. Ms. Love stated everything is still in processing.
- Mr. Heres asked where the cost of the pumps would come from and Ms. Love stated from the repairs and parts line item.
- Mr. Williams stated that the UV System at Olde Milford is pretty bad and the MUA is not passing Fecal at points due to the downed system. This item needs repair immediately and asked the board not to delay this project.

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**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

- BEV Concord Well Filter Media: Mr. Williams revised his quote to change the media at the Concord Well. At this time he does not have the cost of the trucking included nor the disposal but it is non hazardous waste and does not for see a problem nor a quote that is unreasonable. He estimates approximately 28 hours for each filter rehabilitation at maximum time. There will be no loss of service. The only questionable item will be when they empty the filters what they will find for the screens if they are still in tack. Hungerford and Terry provided the lowest cost for the media.
  - Ms. Hardy asked if he could change his quote to T&M and a not to exceed amount and Mr. Williams was comfortable with accepting that. His intentions are to replace everything the pump, screens and media so that they know that all components are new and fresh as it is unknown what they will find.
  - A motion was made to accept the proposal from Mr. Williams to perform the media change at the concord well with the quote changed to Time and Materials and not to exceed \$23,011.

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Motion: Spirko                      Seconded: Bassett  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried

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- A motion was made to approve disposal quote for Concord Well media and a set of screens separate from Jersey Environmental quote.

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Motion: Ofshinsky                      Seconded: Bassett  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, L. Monico, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried

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- Alaimo Outstanding Invoices: Ms Love explained that there were invoices regarding the NJEIT funding application that are being held by the MUA for Alaimo. This work pertains to the Bald Eagle village Fields. The work doc by the engineer had not been certified due to the fact that the MUA was applying for interim funding to pay for Alaimo's services. That fell through when the trust fund denied the funding. At this time Alaimo is asking for payment in the amount of \$17,489.25 regarding work performed on the Bald Eagle Fields.
- A motion was made to approve the bills for Alaimo regarding the Bald Eagle Fields in the amount of \$17,489.25.

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Motion: McGill                      Seconded: Ofshinsky  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Motion Carried

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Agenda Item VI

**MINUTES:**

- A motion was made to approve the minutes of 3-13-12 Re-Organization.

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Motion: Bassett                      Seconded: Spirko  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, W. Bassett, P. McGill .  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: Ofshinsky  
Motion Carried  
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- A motion was made to approve the minutes of 3-21-12.

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Motion: McGill                      Seconded: Heres  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, W. Bassett, P. McGill .  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: Ofshinsky  
Motion Carried  
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- A motion was made to approve the minutes of 3-13-12.

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Motion: McGill                      Seconded: Bassett  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, W. Bassett, P. McGill.  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: Ofshinsky  
Motion Carried  
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- A motion was made to approve the minutes of 3-27-12.

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Motion: McGill                      Seconded: Bassett  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, E. Spirko, W. Bassett, P. McGill  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: Ofshinsky  
Motion Carried  
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- A motion was made to approve the minutes of 4-10-12.

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Motion: McGill                      Seconded: Ofshinsky  
Voted Aye: C. Hardy, R. Heres, W. Bassett, P. McGill D. Ofshinsky.  
Voted Nay: None  
Abstain: Spirko  
Motion Carried  
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