

PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2010**

**127 Roosevelt Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey**

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW (STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE)

Commissioner Mitchell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. by reading the Statement of Compliance.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

III ROLL CALL

Present

Commissioner Harold Mitchell
Commissioner David Beck
Commissioner Carol Ann Brokaw
Commissioner Alex Toliver
Alt. Commissioner Eugene Dudley

Also Present

Mr. Eric Watson, Executive Director
Mr. David Ervin, Assistant Executive Director
Mr. James Perry, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Duane Young, Comptroller
Mrs. Leslie London, Board Attorney
Mrs. Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary
Mr. Joseph Gemmell, T & M Associates
Ms. Paulette Brown, Attorney
Staff and Public

Alt. Commissioner Rev. Tracey Brown absent

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (3/18/2010 RE-SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING MINUTES)

Alt. Commissioner Dudley moved, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw, approval of the minutes. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

March 18, 2010 Re-Scheduled Meeting Minutes

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Attorney's Report

Mrs. London updated the Commissioners on the pending litigation. The Judge has not issued a decision yet. She was on vacation and had a trial prior to going on vacation. Mrs. London anticipates a decision some time this week.

B. Finance Report and Bills List Approval

Mrs. London stated that they are going to hold off moving to the bills list because there is an item they need to discuss in Executive Session so that resolution will be given when they return to the public session.

C. Resolution authorizing a service contract for office work station maintenance

Mr. Ervin indicated that the Authority uses Dick Connolly LLC to reconfigure their office furniture. They have modular furniture throughout the Authority and there are times when they need someone to come in and assist them in rearranging the furniture and also to clean the tiles. They are asking for authorization to use this service.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #39-2010 authorizing the execution of a contract for work station design reconfiguration services.**

Commissioner Toliver asked if this was put out to bid and have they used Connolly before. Mr. Ervin replied that the Authority has used them ever since they have been in this location.

Alt. Commissioner Dudley moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #39-2010 Contract with Dick Connolly Interiors**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

D. Resolution authorizing a service contract for tire repair and roadside service

Ms. Hamlin said that the resolution is a renewal for Gino's Roadside Service who has been servicing the Authority for approximately 10 years and it's a 12-month contract for roadside service and tire repair.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #40-2010 authorizing the execution of a contract for roadside service and tire repair.** Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Alt. Commissioner Dudley, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #40-2010 Contract with Gino's Roadside Service**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

E. Resolution authorizing a service contract for loader and other equipment repairs

Ms. Hamlin said this is another renewal contract for specialized services for the loader and other equipment repairs from JESCO who the Authority has used over the years and this is a 12-month contract.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #41-2010 authorizing the execution of a contract for loader equipment repair and preventive maintenance service.** Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Alt. Commissioner Dudley, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE Resolution #41-2010 Contract with JESCO

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

Commissioner Beck had a question concerning the work station. He wanted to be clear that the service included doing the reconfiguration not just the layout. Mr. Ervin replied yes.

F. Resolution authorizing a professional service contract for PMUA survey analysis

Mr. Watson said this is part of the Authority’s strategic plan. A survey was sent out citywide. They received over 1200 before the cutoff date and they accepted 892. It gives the Authority great detail in terms of the level and type of service the residents are interested in receiving. It also gives the Authority the ability to plan for the future. There are going to be six focus groups brought forth by Dr. McCombs of Third Power. He has been able to interpret the data received from the survey and it’s broken down by wards and zones. They have had great participation in response to the survey. What this contract concerns is putting the analysis in the final report, the six focus groups, and the cost should not exceed \$20,000.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #42-2010 authorizing the execution of a contract for a marketing survey analysis.** Alt. Commissioner Dudley moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #42-2010 Contract with Third Power Marketing Development, Inc.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

Commissioner Beck indicated on this survey, when they do the focus group, has anybody pointed out the anomaly in number five as to why people would not overwhelmingly support fully automated residential waste collection.

Mr. Watson didn't want to speculate but one it could be they may feel that it would cost the Authority more to switch over, but the fact is it really wouldn't cost more than what they're doing. Number two, the seniors get to know the guys on the truck, have conversations with them. There will be more detail in the report.

G. Resolution authorizing a professional service contract designating a broker of record for PMUA employee life insurance

Mr. Ervin said this is an annual service. They are asking that Kistler Tiffany Benefits be named as the Authority's Insurance Risk Management Service broker of record and there is no cost.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #43-2010 authorizing the execution of a contract for Insurance Risk Management and Broker Services with Kistler Tiffany Benefits.** Commissioner Beck moved, seconded by Alt. Commissioner Dudley, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #43-2010 Contract with Kistler Tiffany Benefits

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Mitchell stated they have come to the portion of the meeting where the public is allowed to speak. He asked that anyone wishing to do so please stand, give their name and address, direct their questions to him, and they will have two minutes.

Wayne Smith, 824 Osborne Ave. Mr. Smith felt most of them know him and he doesn't usually come here to speak unless there is a real issue. He mentioned his issue several weeks ago to Commissioner Beck. They have a serious problem in their neighborhood getting sewerage back flow into their houses when they have excessive rain flow. He has lived here about 30 years. It was about three or four years ago that this started to happen. The first time it happened he called someone at the PMUA and he got a response from them that made sense to him and he's not happy about it. That response was that the system is old, it leaks rain water into the sanitary sewer system and the pumping station cannot handle the volume of flow. At that time they had to throw out everything in their basement, there was sewerage on everything. Several weeks ago this happened again. After that he spoke to Commissioner Beck. Since then it has happened a third time. He has now disassembled the bathroom in his basement, plugged the pipes, and he is still getting leakage through where he plugged it off. In an effort to bring this to the Authority's attention he went through the neighborhood and put out flyers. When he went to Dorsey Place one of the neighbors pointed out to him that on the front sidewalk, on the grass and in the gutter in the street was a layer of white sewerage. It was toilet paper, sewerage, dry; this is a health issue.

Mr. Smith was asking the Board to improve the system so they have a cushion in the pumping station to handle these excess flows. He understands they can't go through and redo all of the sewerage piping. He knows they have worked trying to find those leaks but they are still there. Install equipment to handle the excessive flow so that they don't have raw sewerage on the street, on the sidewalks and in their neighborhoods.

This has an affect on his real estate property. He can't sell his house if people know sewerage is coming into the basement every time it rains.

Andrew Bowie, 1131 Woodmere Place. He stated that they have also gotten sewerage. Fortunately he has a pump. It was coming up through the cellar sink and he pumped it out the window, which was not good because of e-coli, but what's the alternative, just leave it in the cellar?

Other people are affected by the Raritan River; they're affected by a little creek that runs across Leland and ends up going past Watchung. The pumping station is on Watchung. What's happening is there is a 36 inch outlet that flows from their street, Dorsey, Osborne, Inwood and also Watchung Avenue, flows into that creek. It comes out of a 36 inch pipe and once the water goes over the 36 inch pipe it neutralizes and backs up onto the street. That really is what is causing this sewerage because it's so much of it there, it intermingles, there's a lot of pressure in those pipes. He took some pictures this afternoon (he showed the pictures to the Commissioners and Executive staff). There is an outlet and there is a way to stop that problem. Have a hydraulic pump at the outlet right where it flows into the brook and it can be done. They need a hydraulic engineer look at this and have a positive flow that even if the brook is neutralized this will continue to flow under the water; the streets won't flood, the sewers won't leak and somebody other than himself with more knowledge can look into this. He said this goes back to Paul O'Keefe who looked into it; Congressman Matthew Rinaldo had a task force that looked at it and did nothing. There's a retention basin on Cushing Road that hasn't been cleaned out in years. The brook hasn't been dredged in 30 years.

Mr. Ervin said the Watchung Avenue Pump Station was redone about 10 years ago. When they redid the pump station they normally run one pump. During this recent rainstorm two pumps were operating on a cycle. The system was operating the way it should have operated, however they will take a look at it. Mr. Ervin said they plan on TV-ing that section to make sure there are no root infiltrations or any other buildups. He was surprised to hear that over three years ago there's been that backup. He asked for the name of the person they reported it to.

Mr. Smith replied that when it happened several years ago Robert Nelson was on the phone and he explained to Mr. Smith that the system was overloaded.

Mr. Watson explained that when you get five inches of rain, the storm sewer's capacity it runs over into the sewer system, the water has to find a way to relieve. Mr. Watson said they will confer with the Authority's engineers.

Mr. Ervin said they should always report a backup. The Authority would get out there and clean it out.

Hugh Goodspeed, 1130 Lorraine Ave. He agrees with Mr. Smith, this has happened several times. After Floyd he installed a backflow preventer to keep this from happening. He's in the construction business so he can handle these things, but he has been spending time during the last storms pumping out his neighbors. Five houses have gotten sewerage in the Lorraine Avenue, Osborne, etc. area. In the last storm he stood out in the street with the PMUA employees; they pulled the manhole covers off and the storm sewer was working just fine. Unfortunately when you put that sewerage out in the yard it's a health issue. Other people are pumping into the street. He certainly would like to see something happen and the Authority report back to him or Mr. Smith that there has been some progress. Mr. Bowie was standing in the street flagging people down trying to keep them from running into a big area of water in the street.

Sally Hagens, 1126 Dorsey Place. They have a manhole cover right on the sidewalk, one in the middle of the street, one across the street on their neighbor's sidewalk. Whenever it rains heavily, if that manhole cover on their sidewalk is bubbling they know it's a problem; go downstairs and that slop sink in the basement water is coming in. Her husband is a plumber. He capped it off, but then they can't use the facility. They have the toilet paper on the sidewalk. It's all over. She and her husband went out of town. They called before they left and it's still sitting there. There are children running up and down the sidewalk and it's a health issue and they need something done about it.

Mrs. London presented **resolution #44-2010 authorizing an Executive Session, to provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act to discuss and take potential action involving terms and conditions of employment and discuss potential litigation.** Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Alt. Commissioner Dudley, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #44-2010 Executive Session**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
David Beck	X				
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Rev. Tracey Brown					X
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley	X				

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

Recorded by:

Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary

The Board returned to the public session of the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

At Open Session **resolution #38-2010** was presented regarding approval of bills. The resolution was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.