



**Lambertville Municipal Utilities Authority
Special Joint Session with the
City of Lambertville
Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 6 p.m.
Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center
25 South Union Street, Lambertville
Meeting Minutes**

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act

Mayor DeVecchio called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and read the following statement into the record: Noticed was provided by the City of Lambertville on June 9, 2017 to the Times, Democrat, and by the Lambertville MUA on June 15, 2017 to the Democrat, Times; the agenda was posted on the Bulletin Board at City Hall and at the Administrative building of the Lambertville MUA, also posted on the City's & LMUA's websites at www.lambertvillenj.org & www.lambertvillemua.com, emailed to department heads, City Attorney, City Engineer and to various people on the list serve.

Roll Call.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The City Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Councilman Sanders, Councilwoman Warner, Council President Stegman, Mayor DeVecchio.

Absent: Councilwoman Asaro.

LMUA

Present: Chairperson MacGregor, Vice Chairperson Uhl, Treasurer Rotondi, Member Polizzi, Alternate Lambert, and Thomas Horn, the Executive Director.

Absent: Secretary J. Hayes and Alternate Hunter Ruf.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor DeVecchio led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence.

Mrs. Ege led the public in a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Odor Remediation.

Mayor DeVecchio commented that the odor was better and asked the members of the Governing Body if they had received complaints. All acknowledged that it was better and said they had not received complaints.

Update on LMUA Swan Street P.S. Resiliency Project.

Tom Horn, the Executive Director of the LMUA gave the following report on the LMUA Force Main/Swan Creek Flood Gates Mitigation Project:

There has been some activity but, nothing that indicates a definite decision as far as the agencies that seem to be holding back the project from moving ahead. Three meetings have been held since much including a small one with a Deputy Commissioner of the NJDEP. The best way to describe the current

status of the project is that there is no fatal flaw in the proposed work that would prohibit the project from getting approved.

The first meeting since January 1, 2017 was in March with the Deputy Commissioner of the NJDEP. I left that meeting thinking that the project was done. The NJDEP indicated that previous information from the National Parks Service (NPS) thought the project would be against the intent of the Wild and Scenic Waterways Act (WSWA) and that the Army Corps of Engineer had determined that the project did not meet their cost benefits analysis to proceed. These two items lead the NJDEP to indicate that the project should not be approved.

Subsequently we met with a larger group from the NJDEP in April. At that meeting, the DEP suggested we contact the NPS about the project. Previously the NPS indicated that they were not in favor of the project and would veto any federal approvals. Since that time, the reviewer has changed and the NPS has a different approach towards projects along the Delaware. I contacted the NPS and had our consultant forward to them all information on the project. Our consultant followed up with a telephone to insure they got the information. They then followed up again later in May to see if they had any questions, but they did not.

At the urging of Senator Booker's office, the NJDEP agreed to meet again on June 12th when the NPS could attend. This meeting was at the Justice Center so a site walk could be held. Previous meetings were in Trenton. The outcome of this meeting was more positive than negative. It appears that the NPS is not opposed to the project and indicated that it was not against the intent of the WSWA. Their representative indicated during the meeting that they would assist the NJDEP as requested but, that it was their project to address. Some concerns were raised by the NJDEP again. Our consultant feels they are not insurmountable. The NJDEP did indicate that additional technical information would be required by the Deputy Commissioner before he was ready to recommend lease of land for the project. The NJDEP said they would provide what is required of us.

Overall, I feel that we will be able to get the land we need from the state. We still have a long way to go and those individuals that have been the loudest in opposition to the project will need to be convinced or overruled for this to happen.

Councilman Sanders commented that the State was hinting that there was expensive engineering work and he asked what the next step was. Mayor DeVecchio responded saying that we are asking for answers before we go into major engineering. We have done a fair amount for the applications to FEMA but this isn't like a DOT project where you go by linear foot. This project has a lot more detail and engineering and right now we have enough completed so they can tell us if this is a viable project. The only concern is time constraints and he expressed concern about new regulations or the money drying up.

Other.

Mayor DeVecchio asked Janine MacGregor, the Chair of the LMUA, if there was anything the City could help them with. Mrs. MacGregor said they may need help with the lease. The Mayor asked if the City was up to date with payments for the force main. Mr. Horn said all invoices that were submitted have been paid.

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Mayor DeVecchio commented that the City is very appreciative of the assistance provided by the staff of the LMUA during snow emergencies. It is an expensive proposition and now the residents expect the City to remove snow when we have 2 inches.

THIRD CAN/FOOD WASTE PROGRAM: Mayor DeVecchio asked Tom Horn, the Executive Director of the LMUA if they are seeing a difference in their flows since the City introduced our food waste recycling program. Mr. Horn responded that they haven't really seen a reduction but it would be difficult for them to follow. The Mayor informed the members of the public present that the city will introduce an ordinance in July that will mandate participation in the food waste/third can recycling program for all commercial facilities who currently participate in the City's garbage collection.

SEWER COVERAGE: Mayor DeVecchio asked how much of the City is covered by the LMUA. The Executive Director of the LMUA responded that the northern part by Route 202 is not sewered; Alexauken Creek Road, South Franklin Street, and the high school area and then a little bit more on Music Mountain, and infills and a few more areas that are not sewered. Mayor DeVecchio thanked the LMUA for their assistance with the Hunterdon Medical Center's wellness center and with the changing of the sewer service area. This will be a nice thing for Lambertville.

TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL: The Chair of the LMUA, Janine MacGregor asked if the Township of West Amwell ever contacted the City about sewers. Mayor DeVecchio responded no. Discussion ensued. The Executive Director of the LMUA, Janine MacGregor commented that as long as they don't have wells they are ok but if they have septic on top of wells that isn't a good thing. Mayor DeVecchio asked if Connaught Hill had public water. Mr. Uhl responded that they are all wells. Mr. Horn commented that people worry that once you put sewer service in an area it spurs development.

BUCKS COUNTY: Councilman Sanders asked about the work across the river. Mr. Horn said it is wholesale sewerage. They are responsible for everything on that side of the river, the LMUA just treats it. Mayor DeVecchio asked if the DRJTBC charges a fee to the Bucks County W&S for their pipe. Mr. Horn said he did not know but, it would be part of the original agreement.

SUSTAINABILITY: Janine MacGregor, the Chair commented that the LMUA is looking at long term sustainability. She informed the members of council present that they are trying to factor that into the rates and parsing things out for the capital budget. The last time rates were raised was in 2010. This is the first time in seven years that we will have a slight \$5 increase. Mayor DeVecchio commented that he didn't think the members of the public think the fee is excessive. He asked what they charge to hook up to the LMUA service. Mr. Horn responded that they charge \$5,668 and that rate will go up about two hundred dollars. Mayor DeVecchio asked with the changes in technology and the micro turbines if they looked at a hydraulic system. Mr. Horn responded that Mr. Campbell did the analysis and it was a toss-up. Mayor DeVecchio asked that even with the changes in technology in the past ten years it is still a toss-up? Mr. Horn said it was something to look at down the road.

SHREC: Mayor DelVecchio commented that the third party purchase of electric has saved both entities money. He asked if the LMUA was serviced by Elizabethtown Gas. Mr. Horn commented that the service area does not extend to the plan. The plan is to add the Swan Creek Pumping Station to gas shortly and they hope to save money by doing that.

Public Comment.

None.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. with a motion made by Council President Stegman and seconded by Councilman Sanders. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa S. Ege

Melissa S. Ege, Administrative

Approved at the regularly scheduled Lambertville MUA Board meeting held on August 1, 2017.