

A Regular Meeting of the Members of the Pompton Lakes Borough Municipal Utilities Authority was held at 2000 Lincoln Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey on January 15, 2025.

In accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was provided. Letters to North Jersey Herald News, Suburban Trends, and the Administrator of Pompton Lakes, dated February 21, 2024, gave notice that the Regular Meeting of the Authority would be held at 6:00pm Wednesday, January 15, 2025. The meeting was held at 2000 Lincoln Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. A notice stipulating the time and date of this meeting was also posted in a public place, to wit: 2000 Lincoln Avenue, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey.

Roll Call was as follows:

PRESENT: Kevin Carroll  
Neal Galletta  
Lloyd Kent  
Tim Troast  
Erik DeLine  
John Pietrowski (Superintendent)  
Jeffrey M. Kassover (Attorney)  
Randy Hinton Council Liaison

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Galletta and seconded by Mr. Kent, and upon roll call vote the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 16, 2024, were accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast
Nays:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Chairman Carroll noted that no one was present for the public portion of the meeting.

Chairman Carroll presented the annual renewal for the Risk Management Consulting Agreement with David M. Hundertmark Agency, Inc. Chairman Carroll will sign the annual agreement. Chairman Carroll also reported that the 2025/2026 budget is being worked on and will be included in the February packets.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. DeLine and seconded by Mr. Troast, and upon roll call vote that Chairman Carroll's report and the approval of the annual renewal agreement for Risk Management Consulting with David M. Hundertmark Agency was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**FINANCIAL OPERATIONS:**

Mr. Galletta presented the following bills for approval:

Operating/Vouchers for January	\$166,731.50
Additional Expenses for December	\$64,450.87
Hospitalization for January	\$29,484.46
Operating Payroll/Gross December	\$88,506.21
Social Security for December	\$3,346.55
Meter Deposit Refund for December	<u>\$136.00</u>
TOTAL	\$352,655.59

**CAPITAL:**

H2M Associates, Inc	\$1,043.06
H2M Associates, Inc	\$4,900.00
H2M Associates, Inc	\$3,630.00
H2M Associates, Inc	\$362.26
North Jersey Pump & Controls, LLC	\$884.00
North Jersey Pump & Controls, LLC	\$5,475.00
PSI Pumping Services Inc.	<u>\$6,475.00</u>
TOTAL	\$22,769.32

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Galletta and seconded by Mr. Troast, and upon a roll call vote it was certified that the funds are available and budgeted to pay these expenses and was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

Mr. Galletta also mentioned the last CD will be maturing on January 20, 2025, that will be cashed out and deposited into the cash management account.

**PERSONNEL:**

Mr. Troast reported progress.

**WATER OPERATIONS:**

Mr. Kent submitted Mr. Pietrowski's Water Report and reported that the lead service line inspections are continuing as the DEP pushes for completion. The Authority just completed 250

more with an additional 1800 to go before completion. Mr. Pietrowski stated the report that lists all the homes in town need to be relooked at as there are demolished homes on the list and some homes that have already been inspected. Mr. Troast inquired if the homes that still need to complete the survey are being contacted. Mr. Pietrowski stated they have until 2031 to complete all inspections, and that winter will be the best time for the guys to knock on doors if needed as it is a slower time of year for them. Mr. Kent inquired if a homeowner who does not know how to complete the survey can call the office to request assistance. Mr. Pietrowski stated yes, the letter also states if you need assistance to please contact the office to schedule an appointment. Mr. Kent also reported that meter reading was completed the week of December 16, 2024, and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter bills will go out January 23, 2025. Mr. Kent stated water pumping for December was down 30% from last December and 4% down year to date.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Galletta and seconded by Mr. Troast, and upon roll call vote the Water Report was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**WASTEWATER OPERATIONS:**

Mr. DeLine submitted Mr. Pietrowski’s wastewater report and reported that South Station Jockey Pump discharge line was cleaned out on December 18, 2024. Also, on December 31, 2024, the Poplar Ave sewer main repair was paved. Mr. Pietrowski discussed the sewer main break that started with a sink hole on Poplar Ave. It turned out to be a one-foot hole on top of a 10-inch sewer main. The sewer main was approximately 12 feet deep. This break is considered an emergency as the Authority does not have the ability to repair this type of break considering how deep the main is. Mr. DeLine inquired how this break may have occurred. Mr. Pietrowski stated there was a large boulder that was lying on top of the sewer main plus the main is about 60 years old.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Galletta and seconded by Chairman Carroll, and upon roll call vote the Wastewater Report was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:**

Mr. Pietrowski reported that he received the Passaic Valley Cooperative award letter in December. This works well with updating the documents to begin the SCADA system upgrade through the Coop. This upgrade is in the budget under capital. Mr. Troast inquired if the Coop price is less than the normal retail price. Mr. Pietrowski stated that it would be the same, but

they will not need to go out to bid to be in the Coop. Mr. Pietrowski also stated that the project will go over the original budgeted amount of \$40,000. However, the upgrades will be better for the future instead of replicating what we already have he would like to build something that will be more useful and modern including upgrades to hardware for the pump stations. Mr. DeLine inquired what SCADA is. Mr. Pietrowski stated it is how the Authority can send and receive data for the water and wastewater system such as data logging, controls, remote access, and allowing all remote pump stations and well houses to speak to a central location and collate data. Mr. Pietrowski noted that SCADA stands for Serial Controls and Data Acquisition. Mr. Pietrowski also invited Mr. DeLine and Mr. Hinton for a tour of the plant so they can get familiar with the process. Mr. Kent noted that you can get sampling and complete an analysis with the SCADA. Mr. Pietrowski stated that they are already doing an analysis and have collimators in all three well houses that get chlorine readings every 4 minutes. Mr. Pietrowski also stated some tests need to be done by hand sampling by collecting water. Mr. Pietrowski noted that during the generator preventative maintenance for 2025 Kraft came in and checked all the generators and all generators get ran on Wednesday. Mr. Pietrowski stated to help combat the odor complaints, they will be loosely capping some of the vent pipes in the south side of town. They will also be regularly sewer jetting the areas. Mr. Pietrowski spoke about the water and sewer project status report for the Ringwood Avenue water main replacement project. He spoke to the county, and it was paved in 2022 and now has a 7-year moratorium on it. They advised they would work with utilities, Mr. Pietrowski stated he does not want to pave the entire road, it may make sense to wait until the 2029 moratorium expires. Mr. Pietrowski also mentioned they received another reimbursement from the I-BANK for the North pumping station. Mr. Kent stated that the bridge located by the North Pumping Station is allegedly being replaced in 2026. Mr. Pietrowski spoke with John Abdelhaei from Pompton Five Associates. They are continuing construction, including steel and concrete work. They are months away from any connections for water and sewer. Mr. Kassover inquired if they are planning on changing the number of units that was originally in the developer's agreement. Mr. Troast stated if they change anything they will need to go back to the redeveloping agency and the planning board. Mr. Pietrowski stated that nothing has changed from the original plans. Mr. Pietrowski also had an update on the Meridia project they plan on installing the domestic water meter they already have, and it has been paid for. They would like to have internal plumbing available a few weeks from now. Mr. Troast stated that he went to a planning board meeting and the Secretary there is the same for the zoning and redevelopment. She stated that Pompton Plaza withdrew their application for redevelopment at this time. There was some discussion regarding the Soojian project. Mr. Pietrowski also talked about two resolutions that Mr. Kassover will present regarding the purchase of fire hydrants and hydrant replacement parts. Mr. Pietrowski stated that the first resolution is allowing the Authority to have the right to purchase replacement fire hydrants and component parts thereof from Core and Main the exclusive distributor of American Flow Control's products in the State of New Jersey, without public advertising for bids. Mr. Troast inquired if there is a need to purchase a fire hydrant can be done on the same day. Mr. Pietrowski said it will take a couple weeks to order, it's not something you can purchase off the shelf, however it's better than waiting months for an order. The second resolution is for the emergency repair sewer line on Poplar Avenue. It includes the bill for the excavation and repair and a bill for jobs4blue (police traffic control) also incurred the expense of repaving the disturbed roadway.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Chairman Carroll and seconded by Mr. DeLine, and upon roll call vote the Superintendent's report was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kassover presented the two resolutions, one regarding the emergency sewer main repair that falls into the emergency exception of Local Public Contracts Law. The resolution states the Authority does not have the equipment or manpower to deal with that type of emergency. Mr. Kassover read for the record the emergency resolution and has requested for Chairman Carroll and Assistant Secretary Troast's signature. Mr. Galletta inquired about a breakdown of the bill. Mr. Kassover gave him a copy of the breakdown. Mr. Galletta does not like the way the bill is broken down with a list of men and equipment with no numbers. Mr. Pietrowski stated the men were out there for 26 hours and we are required to pay prevailing wages. Mr. Galletta does not feel comfortable paying the bill without seeing an itemized bill. The resolution has been voided, and payments will be put on hold until the next meeting. Mr. Pietrowski will get an itemized bill for Mr. Galletta and anyone else that would like to see it. Mr. Galletta also inquired about the jobs4blue invoice because the hours don't match up with the 26 hours. Mr. Pietrowski explained billing rates are in 4-hour blocks, and he will also get another itemized bill from jobs4blue. Mr. Kent stated he has no reason to question the bills, he feels confident that Mr. Pietrowski feels the bill is reasonable for the work that was completed. Mr. Pietrowski stated that jobs4blue charges 8% for administrative fees. There was some additional discussion regarding the hours billed for traffic control. Chairman Carroll revoked the resolution to pay anything regarding the emergency sewer main repair. Mr. Kassover read for the record the second resolution regarding the process purchasing fire hydrants and components parts manufactured by American Flow Control (ACF) and known as American Darling the sole proprietor.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. DeLine and seconded by Mr. Galletta, and upon roll call vote the resolution to purchase of fire hydrants and component parts was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

Mr. Kassover also reported that he sent a notice to the North Jersey Police Radio for the first quarter of 2025 tax bill. Mr. Kassover also sent out Business Entity Disclosure Certification to all professional appointments for 2025 to be signed and notarized for the February reorganization meeting. Mr. Kassover also requested a closed session.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Chairman Carroll and seconded by Mr. DeLine, and upon roll call vote the Attorney's report was accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Hinton inquired about a number of things going on in town and that was talked about with previous reports. Mr. Hinton inquired about the Meridia building, there is a 10-foot-wide sewer easement he would like to know if it is exposed. Mr. Pietrowski stated it is in the breezeway of the two buildings. There is a removable bridge in case there is a need to get equipment into the breezeway. Mr. Hinton inquired about what SCADA stands for. Mr. Pietrowski stated that SCADA stands for Serial Controls and Data Acquisition. Mr. Hinton asked about regular jetting. Mr. Pietrowski stated that jetting is a high-pressure hose attached to a trailer to send into the sanitary lines to clear out any debris. Mr. Hinton wanted to know if the town could run into a problem with no water available in a fire hydrant like they did in California dealing with all the fires. Mr. Pietrowski advised that it would not happen as the Authority controls their own water system with the ability to turn wells on when needed and pump into the system. Mr. Hinton inquired about the odor complaint and whether they are under control. Mr. Pietrowski stated there will always be an odor, it is a sewer treatment plant. Weather does play a part and with the dry conditions, the water table dropped significantly lower than normal. With water flow down, an odor was coming through the sewers. Employees are sewer jetting more often to keep the flow moving and has reduced the odors. Mr. Hinton also asked about DIP and what it stands for. Mr. Pietrowski stated it stands for Ductile Iron Pipe. Mr. Hinton inquired if Meridia has fire control sprinklers in the apartment building. Mr. Pietrowski confirmed yes there is fire control. There are two 6-inch water lines going into the property, one is for fire prevention and the other is domestic to provide water for usage. Mr. Hinton asked about the JIF payment. Mr. Pietrowski advised this is the Joint Insurance Fund and is the Authorities insurance provider. Mr. Hinton also asked about what the VFD replacement is. Mr. Pietrowski advised that it is the Variable Frequency Drive, it's a motor controller that adjusts the speeds. Mr. Hinton inquired about 279 Ramapo Street being off the tax roll, because he thought it was going to be rented requiring it be put back on the tax roll. Mr. Kent advised him they are working on getting it rented, but until then it is off the tax roll. Mr. Hinton also inquired about the sewage capacity with all the new projects and whether the MUA has the capacity for it. Chairman Carroll stated there is capacity for the projects that the Authority has approved. Mr. Hinton inquired about a street sweeper he sees on Montclair Ave using a fire hydrant, who get charged for that water being used. Mr. Pietrowski stated that it's Tilcon and yes, they pay for that water monthly. Mr. Hinton wants to know what the Authority pays per year for traffic control and why the Authority can't use an employee for traffic control. Mr. Pietrowski stated that the town will not allow the Authority to use M.U.A employees for traffic control and it's hard to say what the cost is yearly.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Galletta inquired about the new meeting dates for 2025 that Mrs. Read provided for them and if everyone okay with the dates presented – Mr. Kent stated he will not be able to make two meetings. Mrs. Read has stated to email her those dates, and she will let all the commissioners know if they want to move the dates around.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Carroll presented correspondence for discussion on items 1 through 3.

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Troast and seconded by Mr. Galletta, and upon roll call vote items 1 through 3 were accepted.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Chairman Carroll and seconded by Mr. Troast, and upon roll call the members of the Pompton Lakes Municipal Utilities Authority entered Closed Session at 7:25pm.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None



**CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT**

Whereas Section 7 of the Open Public Meeting Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances and.

Whereas, on January 15, 2025, this body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the commissioners of the Borough Municipal Utilities Authority, county of Passaic, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from discussion of action upon the hereinafter-specified subject matter.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

**To discuss PFAS litigation.**

3. The commissioners shall release and disclose to the general public the action taken on this matter of the above-mentioned litigation when the reason for discussing and acting on the matter in closed session no longer exists, but no later than one month of the commissioners arriving at a final decision of the specific subject matter.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Kevin P. Carroll, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Tim Troast, Assistant Secretary

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Chairman Carroll and seconded by Mr. Troast, and upon roll call vote the members of the Pompton Lakes Municipal Utilities Authority entered back into Open Session at 7:30pm.

**Vote:**

Ayes	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

**UPON MOTION:** duly made by Mr. Galletta and seconded by Mr. Kent, and upon roll call vote the Regular Meeting of the Pompton Lakes Municipal Utilities Authority was adjourned at 7:01pm.

**Vote:**

<b>Ayes</b>	Carroll, Galletta, Kent, Troast, DeLine
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

Prepared by: Mary Read

Respectfully submitted by

Tim Troast, Assistant Secretary