

WILLINGBORO MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2021

The meeting of the Willingboro Municipal Utilities Authority was held on December 15, 2021 via Zoom. Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and requested that everyone pledge allegiance to the flag. The Chairman instructed the Secretary to read the following statement:

Public notice of the meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Authority in the following manner:

- A. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board of the Authority building.
- B. Mailing written notice to the Municipal Clerks of Willingboro and Westampton Townships; the Secretary of the Edgewater Park Sewerage Authority and the Executive Director of the Mount Laurel Municipal Utilities Authority.
- C. Publishing a Public Notice in the Burlington County Times and Courier-Post.
- D. Directing the Secretary to enter the minutes of this meeting this public announcement.

Roll Call: Cmmr. Darvis Holley (Absent), Cmmr. T. Wayne Scott (Absent), Cmmr. Patricia Lindsay-Harvey (Present), Cmmr. Carl Turner (Present), Cmmr. Webster Evans (Present), Alt. Cmmr. Kevin McIntosh (Present), Alt. Cmmr. James Boyer (Absent)

Others attending: Diallyo Diggs, Acting Executive Director and Finance Director, Emmanuel Stuppard, Director of Operations and Maintenance, Lionel Galipot, Engineer, Solicitor, Mike Riley

Motion to Change the Agenda to have Executive Session after the approval of Meeting Minutes and Executive Directors Report following

Moved: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Seconded: Cmmr. Evans

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Approve November 30, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Exit Executive Session

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Evans

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Executive Directors Report

D. Diggs: Tonight, is going to be about the situation that I am sure the members of the public are aware of already. I have been getting calls all day and I just want to go through some of the questions. I also wanted to give everyone a little bit of and hopefully give you guys a little bit of background about what happened and what the WMUA and what we are doing about it. The first and biggest question I've been asked today is if your water is safe? Yes, your water is safe to drink, to take showers with, wash your clothes with etc.

I will explain why and how we got to this point. The VP in Jersey Department Environmental Protection began testing for PFOS began requiring testing for it 2020. Our first Test for PFOS began around that time. The test was done at three different distribution points within our system. Willingboro has six wells that service the community of Willingboro, and they are set up in approximately 3 different distributions points where the wells feed into the system, that is the water that you all get.

PFOS is a substance that is found in products from pans that are heat resistant clothing detergent things of that nature. It is considered a forever chemical because once it gets into the ground, it can seep into the water, and it takes filtration to get it out of the water.

The WMUA has been testing our wells to come monitor the situation in anticipation of the requirements of the test. When the WMUA got notice of a violation of the PFOS standards in November we began to take action. Well, even before this in in reference to the PFOS situation WMUA began to plan for remediation of a potential PCOS problem. Once we got notice of the violation in November the WMUA took immediate action to turn off the well in question.

Of all our distribution points that well was the only one that was involved the length, the other distribution points were below the limit, so the other water coming from the other wells feeding into the

system was under the DEP standard. Once we got the notice from the DEP we had to send them what our plan of action was which included filling out that template letter that you all received as well as designing our remediation and what we are going to do to fix the problem.

In the short term, the immediate fix was to turn off the well. So effective 11/30 the well was shut down immediately and no other water coming from that well is entering the system. That is why we can speak with confidence that your water at this point is safe to drink. Everything coming from that well has been stopped from going into our system.

Since then, I'm also happy to come kind of report we did a sample right after that Well on 12/1, and also here today we have our lab manager Kara Weekly as well as our consulting engineer Lionel Gallipot that has been helping us through this remediation and testing. Kara was able to report them back and we pushed for the testing. For the 12/1 test the results were way below the standard. They were .048 or .0048 correct error and the limit is .013 so they were way below the limit for PFOS standard.

So once we got notification of the violation on 11/8 and we had to send out a letter unfortunately, we were very constrained about how we gave out that information to the public. I know a lot of residents have been questioning why I got a letter and someone else did not get a letter? We sent out all the letters to the public as well as put it on our website but unfortunately because of the number of customers that we have about 13-16k customers everybody did get the letter at the same time.

The long-term fix is to fix the well. Our consulting engineer has been working on planning and designing a carbon activated filtration system that will remove the PFOS from the water as it is coming to the well before it gets into the system. That is a lengthy process that is going to take about 17 months, and during that time the well will be off.

We want to let you guys know that as of today the water is fine, it is in good condition and is safe to consume. We are working on better communication. Part of the handcuffs we had due to the way DEP must have the notification is we could not step on the notification. We could not send anything to the public that was referencing the notification or directly after the notification. We basically had to drop the notification and then wait for questions from the public to deal with.

What are we going to be doing going forward? We are preparing questions and answers that we are going to put on our website. We are going to start a FAQ and hopefully we can get that up and running within the next week or two. We are trying our best to be open, honest, and transparent with the public and hopefully we can assure the public that what we are doing is in the best interests and provide you with the clean safe water that you deserve.

Comments From the Public

Edward: I'm a resident of Twin Hills, and I have a few questions regarding this issue.

I look at this situation in Flint Michigan and looked at the situation in Newark only places where people mostly of color lived, and it seems like there's always an issue with people cutting corners, so whatever it happens to get this bad water situations. I'm not sure if that's the problem here in Willingboro, but I don't understand if you're going to say it's five wells and the water passes from one well to another.

How are you going to reassure everybody in Willingboro that none of us that are drinking contaminated water? I hear everybody keeps saying "I drank the water", I don't think any one of you on this Commission can speak on who drinks the water and who doesn't I think this is a serious issue. I think it's more serious than you seem to be putting it, and I think that me living in Twin Hills getting a letter regarding the water before the people of Buckingham section of Willingboro is a disgrace. I think if that water was contaminated and just in that section, I think they should have been notified before anybody.

Christopher: Without the ability to test at home we are subjected to whatever you guys tell us, I think if there was a way for people test their own water it would relive some of the anxiety that is being illustrated in this meeting

Danielle: I am concerned about how the notice was given, what is our emergency response notification as it appears sending letter isn't efficient? We can get phone calls from the township and school system, I think what you are experiencing now is a level of distrust that largely stems from how things were communicated, which is people like me who heard from other loved ones who seen this on the news

Dionne Rice: The DEP letter that went out I did not receive, but I did see it on facebook. The way the letter was stated it said if you have a compromised immune system, if you have an infant, pregnant, elderly, it made it seem like the water was completely contaminated and we were all in trouble. Now we are on this call and act like everything is fine. What is the difference between that letter and what you are saying today?

Pastor Vondell: When did the Well get contaminated? And where is it at?

Diallyo Diggs: 11/8 and Baldwin Lane

Danielle: For the resident that didn't get the letter, seeing it on the news last night was concerning and I do feel like even if you guys were confined to what you could say per letter but even to address it to say go to the website or when the news was outside of the building last night someone could've spoke as a representative to tell residents to go to the website to see what was going on.

Will Westin: I was told months ago that because the water was blended it was safe to drink. My question now is if that water that comes out the tap being tested? The big problem here is communication.

Matthew: It takes 4 quarters for DEP to tell you that you have to report a violation, is there any other wells right now that are approaching that 4 quarter above average limit?

Diallyo Diggs: No, but we are constantly monitoring.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Exit Executive Session

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Receive Consulting Engineers Report

Moved: Cmmr. Evans

Seconded: Cmmr. McIntosh

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Receive Special Project Engineers Report

Moved: Cmmr. Evans

Seconded: Cmmr. McIntosh

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Resolution 12-15-21-1 Rate Adoption Resolution

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Evans

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Resolution 12-15-21-2 Budget Adoption Resolution

Moved: Cmmr. McIntosh

Seconded: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Accept the Payment of Bills

Moved: Cmmr. Evans

Seconded: Cmmr. McIntosh

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey

Seconded: Cmmr. Evans

Roll Call: Cmmr. Evans Yes, Cmmr. Lindsay-Harvey Yes, Cmmr. McIntosh Yes, Cmmr. Turner Yes