



**Board of Commissioners**  
*Senator Robert Singer, Chairman*  
*Mayor Raymond Coles, Vice Chairman*  
*Craig Theibault, Treasurer*  
*Anne Fish, Assistant Secretary*  
*P. G. Waxman, Commissioner*  
*Samuel Flanbaum, Alt. Commissioner*  
*Meir Lichtenstein, Alt. Commissioner*

## THE LAKEWOOD TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

### Water and Sewer Rate Hearing Minutes

December 5, 2023

- I.** The Chairman opened the hearing at 10:00 A.M in the conference room of the Lakewood Township Municipal Utilities Authority, 390 New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey.
- II.** The Chairman announced that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Law, adequate notice of this hearing was given and that a notice of this scheduled meeting was filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Municipal Building in a place accessible to the public and by means of public notices in the Asbury Park Press on November 13, 2023 and the Star Ledger on November 14, 2023.
- III. Roll Call of Commissioners**

On roll call the following Commissioners were present: Mrs. Miller, Mr. Theibault, Mr. S. Flanbaum, Committeeman Lichtenstein and Senator Singer.

The following professionals and key personnel were present: Mr. Adam Pfeffer, Esq., Mr. Justin Flanbaum, Executive Director, Mr. Donald Sondak, Chief Financial Officer/Human Resources Director, Mr. Colin Farrell, CEng MIEI Director of Engineering, Mr. Adam Ponsi, P.E., Mr. Robert Farina, Director of Operations, and Mr. Harry Robbins, Operations Manager.
- IV. Water Rate Hearing**

The Chairman asked Mr. Pfeffer to conduct the hearing. Mr. Pfeffer swore in Mr. Donald Sondak as the expert witness and established his identity as the Chief Financial Officer of the Authority. Mr. Pfeffer asked Mr. Sondak if he prepared and reviewed the proposed Water and Sewer Rate Schedule. Mr. Sondak responded he did. Mr. Pfeffer asked Mr. Sondak to give the Authority and the public just an overview as to how he calculated the proposed rate schedule and what went into that calculation. Mr. Sondak explained that he looked at an 8 year view of the MUA along with the Operations Department and the Engineering Department, to prepare our capital plan for critical infrastructure improvements over time. We also looked at revenue projection and operating expenses and debt servicing to make sure we maintain our covenant ratio. Looking at all those ratios we were able to back into what the rates need to be to maintain expenses.

Mr. Pfeffer asked his expert opinion if the proposed increase is required for the operation of the Authority. Mr. Sondak said yes, it is required.

Mr. Pfeffer asked if any board members had any questions of Mr. Sondak. Senator Singer replied that he had one comment that the public should understand. These rate increases, both water and sewer, are based on the increases that the State, the DEP and the EPA are imposing on us. So for example, the 2 GAC Buildings are \$15.1 Million that we have to expend on behalf of the ratepayer. We are still 40% less expensive than NJ American Water that services the other 2/3 of Lakewood.

Mr. Pfeffer asked Mr. Sondak if he agreed with the statements of the Senator as to why we need these increases. Mr. Sondak said he agreed.

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Mr. Pfeffer read aloud a letter from the Authority Auditor, Mr. Gerwin Bauer addressed to Mr. J. Flancbaum, the Authority Executive Director. It said:

*I reviewed the 2023-2024 water and sewer budget and the proposed rate schedule, and I am in agreement. The proposed rate increases are necessary to cover future debt services, operating expenditures and future capital expenditures.*

**V. The Chairman Opened the Hearing to the Public.**

No response from the public.

**VI. The Chairman Closed the Hearing to the Public**

- **Resolution No. 23-116 Adoption of Water Rates for 2024-2031**  
**Motion was** made by Mayor Coles and seconded by Mr. Theibault. On **roll call**, all members present voted, **"Yes"**. **Adopted.**
- **Resolution No. 23-117 Adoption of Sewer Rates for 2024-2031**  
**Motion was** made by Mayor Coles and seconded by Mr. Theibault. On **roll call**, all members present voted, **"Yes"**. **Adopted.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion** was made by **Mayor Coles and seconded by Mr. Theibault** to adjourn the hearing. On **voice vote**, all members present voted, **"Aye"**. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Gray,  
Secretary, LTMUA