

JACKSON TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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IN RE: 2023-194

RATE HEARING OF THE JACKSON
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
AUTHORITY ADOPTING THE 2024
RATE SCHEDULE

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COMPUTERIZED TRANSCRIPT of the stenographic notes of the proceedings in the above entitled matter as taken by DENISE L. SWEET, a Certified Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter, at the offices of JACKSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY, 135 Manhattan Street, Jackson, New Jersey on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 5:30 in the afternoon.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Jackson Township Municipal Utilities Authority:

Clara Glory
Janet Longo
Todd Porter
Lewis Wildman
Karen Bressi

James Diaz, Assistant Executive Director
Michael McKenna, Esq.
Trace Dittenhofer, PE
Earl Quijano, PE
Carolyn Mauro

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I N D E X

WITNESS

PAGE

SANA SIDDIQUI

Examination by Mr. McKenna

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E X H I B I T S

Exhibit Number

Description

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Exhibit 1 Proof of Publication and the
Corresponding Public Notice,
Asbury Park Press

5

Exhibit 2 Proof of Publication and the
Corresponding Public Notice,
Newark Star Ledger

5

Exhibit 3 Proposed Schedule of Rates,
2024

5

1 MRS. GLORY: We'll now have our
2 rate hearing. Mr. McKenna?

3 MR. McKENNA: Thank you very much.
4 Good afternoon.

5 MS. SIDDIQUI: Good afternoon.

6 MR. McKENNA: This is the annual
7 rate hearing, which is being recorded and will be
8 transcribed by a certified court reporter in the
9 future.

10 Would you please state and spell
11 your name for the record?

12 MS. SIDDIQUI: Sana Siddiqui,
13 S-A-N-A, S-I-D-D-I-Q-U-I.

14 MR. McKENNA: Would you raise your
15 right hand? Do you swear to tell the truth, the
16 whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you
17 God?

18 MS. SIDDIQUE: Yes, I do.

19
20 SANA SIDDIQUI, being first duly sworn
21 according to law, testifies as follows:

22

23 EXAMINATION BY MR. McKENNA:

24 Q Are you employed by the Authority?

25 A Yes, I am.

1 Q What is your current title?

2 A My title here is Supervising Accountant.

3 Q How long have you had that title?

4 A Almost ten years.

5 Q And how long have you been employed by
6 the Authority?

7 A I'm sorry. I'm almost ten years for employment
8 with the Authority. The title is about three years.

9 Q Did you play a role in the preparation of
10 the 2024 schedule of rates?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q And what role did you play?

13 A I prepared it.

14 Q Okay. Do you have a copy of it in front
15 of you?

16 A Yes, I do.

17 MR. McKENNA: For the record, I'm
18 going to mark three exhibits. Exhibit 1 will be the
19 proof of publication and the corresponding public
20 notice as published in the Asbury Park Press.
21 Exhibit 2 is proof of publication and public notice
22 as published in the Newark Star Ledger. And Exhibit
23 3 is a copy of the proposed schedule of rates to be
24 effective January 1, 2024.

25 Q Let's talk first about the connection

1 fees with your permission.

2 A Yes.

3 Q In determining the proposed rates, did
4 you follow the guidelines contained in the New
5 Jersey Statutes and associated regulations?

6 A I did.

7 Q Can you please explain how you did that
8 and how you determined the rates for the water and
9 sewer connection?

10 A Yes. Thank you. As always, the Authority
11 followed the guidelines according to the State
12 Statute and did the calculations accordingly.

13 For 2024 the Authority reviewed both water
14 and sewer independently utilizing the same method.
15 The equivalent dwelling units, EDU, for water is
16 changing from 199, 199 in 2023 to 203 in 2024, an
17 increase of four gallons of water per day. The
18 equivalent dwelling units, EDU, for sewer will
19 remain at 138 in 2024.

20 Beginning with the water connection fee, the
21 Authority's proposed connection fee for 2024 is
22 \$4,242.00. That is a \$214.00 increase from 2023's
23 rate of \$4,028.00.

24 Under sewer, the proposed 2024
25 sewer connection fee is \$2,203.00. That is a

1 \$173.00 increase from 2023's connection fee of
2 \$2,030.00.

3 Q Thank you. Let's move along and speak
4 briefly about section two of the schedule of rates,
5 specifically, the quarterly water and sanitary sewer
6 charges. In preparing those rates, did you again
7 follow the State's guidelines, statutes, and
8 regulations?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q Please explain to the Board how you did
11 that.

12 A Yes. Thank you. I'll begin with the schedule
13 of quarterly water and sanitary sewer charges. The
14 2024 proposed rates for various meter sizes are as
15 follows. Five-eighth inch meter charge is \$41.00
16 from \$40.00, an increase of \$1.00. Three-quarter
17 inch meter charge is \$55.00 from \$50.00, an increase
18 of \$5.00. One-inch meter charge is \$85.00 from
19 \$75.00, an increase of \$10.00. One and a half inch
20 meter charge is \$162.00 from \$148.00, an increase of
21 \$14.00. Two-inch meter charge is \$422.00, 400, I'm
22 sorry, \$420.00 from \$438.00, a decrease of \$18.00.
23 Three-inch meter charge is \$920.00 from \$907.00, an
24 increase of \$13.00. Four-inch meter charge is
25 \$2,000.00 from \$1,826.00, an increase of \$174.00.

1 Six-inch meter charge is \$4,102.00 from \$3,784.00,
2 an increase of \$318.00. Eight-inch meter charge is
3 \$7,112.00 from \$6,740.00, an increase of \$372.00.

4 Under the residential and commercial water
5 consumption charges for the first tier of one gallon
6 to 10,000 gallons, the proposed 2024 rate is \$2.95
7 per 1,000 gallons. That's an increase of 20 cents
8 from the 2023 rate of \$2.75. For the second tier of
9 10,001 to 25,000 gallons, the proposed 2024 rate is
10 \$4.20 per thousand gallons. That's an increase of
11 20 cents from the 2023 rate of \$4.00. For the third
12 tier of 25,001 to 75,000 gallons, the proposed 2024
13 rate is \$5.10 per thousand gallons. That's an
14 increase of 10 cents from 2023 rate of \$5.00. And
15 for the fourth tier of 75,001 gallons and above, the
16 proposed 2024 rate is \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons.
17 That's an increase of 10 cents from the 2023 rate of
18 \$6.40.

19 Under the residential and commercial sanitary
20 sewer service charges and user fees, the 2024
21 proposed sewer service charge per unit is \$31.00.
22 That's an increase of \$1.00 from the 2023 rate of
23 \$30.00. For the first tier of usage up to 100,000
24 gallons, the proposed 2024 rate is \$5.60 per 1,000
25 gallons. That's an increase of 20 cents from the

1 2023 rate of \$5.40. For the second tier of 100,001
2 gallons and above there is no change for proposed,
3 no change proposed for 2024.

4 Additionally, under section three, private
5 fire protection service fees, the 2024 proposed
6 rates for various fire service line sizes are as
7 follows. Two-inch fire line charge is \$96.34 from
8 \$102.76, a decrease of \$6.42. Three-inch fire line
9 charge is \$166.09 from \$154.14, an increase of
10 \$11.95. Four-inch fire line charge is \$248.35 from
11 \$205.52, an increase of \$42.83. A six-inch fire
12 line charge is \$593.04 from \$513.81, an increase of
13 \$79.23. The eight-inch fire line charge is
14 \$1,130.41 from \$1,027.62, an increase of \$102.79.
15 The ten-inch fire line charge is \$1,860.47 from
16 \$1,746.95, an increase of \$113.52. The 12-inch fire
17 line charge is \$2,372.16 from \$2,055.24, an increase
18 of \$316.92.

19 The 2024 proposed rate for private hydrant
20 service fee is \$85.00 from \$82.21, an increase of
21 \$2.79. And that's all for all those changes.

22 Q Thank you, Sana. As to the remaining
23 section of the proposed rate schedule, specifically
24 Roman Numeral Four, the miscellaneous charge
25 schedule, is the information contained in that

1 section true and accurate?

2 A Yes, it is.

3 Q In preparing those, in preparing those
4 service charges, did you follow the State guidelines
5 and regulations?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q Please summarize the miscellaneous charge
8 schedule.

9 A There is one change in the language under
10 section A. Developer application fee, \$1,000.00
11 minimum for commercial is added for 2024. And under
12 section H, temporary use of hydrant, the 2024
13 proposed offsite deposit is \$250.00. That's an
14 increase of \$50.00 from 2023. And that is it for
15 all the changes there.

16 Q And for the schedule of rates overall,
17 were the rates calculated so as to meet the
18 financial and operational needs of the MUA?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Thank you, Sana.

21 A Thank you.

22 MRS. GLORY: Any questions or
23 concerns?

24 Resolution 2023-194, Resolution of
25 the Jackson Township Municipal Utilities Authority

1 adopting 2024 rate schedule. Do I have a motion?

2 MR. WILDMAN: Motion.

3 MRS. BRESSI: Second.

4 MRS. GLORY: All in favor?

5 UNANIMOUS BOARD: Aye.

6 (Rate hearing concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DENISE L. SWEET, a Certified Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as taken by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney or counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

DENISE L. SWEET, CCR, RPR
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