

**Borough of Mountain Lakes  
Finance Advisory Committee  
Minutes - September 4, 2024**

Attendees: L. Barnett (minutes), M. Goscicki, J. Kaplan, J. Murphy, C. Richter, M. Stern.  
Absent: M. Albanese, B. Dewing, K. Sheikh.

1. August 7 minutes – approved
2. Water & Sewer fund balance review and 2025 rate change evaluation – FAC reviewed the water and sewer rate analysis prepared by Monica.

**Water Operating Budget:**

- Fund balance as of 12/31/2023 was \$531,756.
- FAC supported CFO recommendations calling for a 5% water rate increase in 2025 due to escalating expenses and the creation of a new line item for water emergencies budgeted at \$30,000
- Discussion of how PFAS remediation and lead/galvanized service line replacements should be funded. Recommendation that funding should occur at the borough level with interest and principal payments allocated to the water utility. Bond Anticipate Note (“BAN”) financing associated with these expenditures will not be subject to the 10% annual principal repayment policy given the useful life would exceed 20 years. Principal payments will commence when the BAN is refinanced with bonds.

**Sewer Operating Budget:**

- Fund balance as of 12/31/2023 was \$485,730.
- FAC supported CFO recommendation calling for no sewer rate increase in 2025.

3. BAN Issue Update: Monica advised that nothing has changed since the last BAN discussion. The official statement is to be distributed on 9/17/24 and the Borough will take bids on 9/24/24.
4. Next Meeting: Wednesday, Oct 30 at 7pm via zoom. Minutes – C. Richter.  
(Note: Oct 9 meeting is cancelled, and Nov 6 meeting is rescheduled for Oct 30)

**To Dos:**

- Circulate 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget and trust account review– M. Goscicki – 10/30 meeting.
- Updated bond model discussion in conjunction with revised 2024 capital budget and long-term capital plan – TBD – J. Kaplan.
- Update and distribute Surplus Account / Fund Balance Forecast analysis, include supplemental dam and initial PFAS remediation debt service beginning in 2025 – M. Goscicki – 10/30 meeting.