What's that Smell?

A Response to Half-Truths Misinformation & Lies!

Cahill and Anderson first claim that the MUA recently awarded a contract to a non–union painting contractor for \$1.7 Million and not to a union contractor for \$1.4 Million. This is true. Their statement suggests that the MUA awarded the contract based on non–union affiliation. This is a lie!

What they fail to mention is that it would have been illegal for the MUA to award the contract to the union contractor. Pursuant to the Public Works Contractor Registration Act C.34:11-56.51 Registration required for contractors; No contractor shall bid on or engage in any contract for public work unless the contractor is registered pursuant to this act. The union contractor was not registered! The MUA awarded its contract in due form and in a proper manner pursuant to Sate Law. Contractors must be registered prior to submitting a bid. Do Cahill and Anderson suggest that the MUA engage in illegal practices?



Second, Cahill and Anderson claim that the MUA has failed to explore healthcare options to save money. This is a lie.

Here's the truth: The MUA has been providing cost effective comprehensive healthcare to its employees since April 2003. They did their homework! The MUA's healthcare coverage is more cost effective than the State or the township. The fact is Cahill and Anderson are a day late and more than a dollar short. The MUA is required by State Budget Law to provide this information. It allows them to bond for funding from the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) for capital improvements. As far as healthcare, the MUA is more than merely compliant, it is the exception to the rule and far ahead of the Township.



Third, Cahill and Anderson are complaining that the MUA hired Debbie Walker's husband. This is true.

What they won't tell you is that Brian Cahill's wife was hired by the Old Bridge Board of Education. Isn't that nepotism? They also won't mention how Jim Anderson's wife was hired by Pennrose Management at the Chuck Costello Complex in Old Bridge. Did he use his political influence to get her the job of Support Services Coordinator? They also won't tell you how Governor Christie and Senator Sam Thompson got Lucille Panos a job with the State Department of Labor at more than \$100,000 per year. If they want to complain about nepotism, they shouldn't practice it, that's hypocritical!



Fourth, Cahill and Anderson claim that Commissioner Greenberg has voted twice to increase "the highest water and sewer rates in the area." This is a deception!

For the past 10 years the MUA has passed budgets that add no increase to rates for their own operating expenses. Instead, they have exercised sound business practices to keep rates stable. The MUA has been forced to pass along rate increases imposed by third party entities such as Middlesex Water Company and Middlesex County Utilities Authority.

In fact, the MUA, in partnership with surrounding towns have engaged in litigation to keep these increases in check. They argue before the Board of Public Utilities and are often able to reduce double digit increases to 1% or 2%. The MUA shares the cost with these other towns to hire lawyers and engineers specializing in this field to refute these increases.

Councilman Cahill has often suggested that the MUA absorb those increases. This is not only impractical; it is a path to fiscal irresponsibility! Since Mr. Cahill works for Verizon, how often have they absorbed their increases? Never!

Verizon, like Middlesex Water Company is a for profit utility. They are more concerned with their shareholders than their customers. Both utilities are traded on the stock market. The MUA is a not-for-profit utility. The rate payers are the shareholders and the MUA only increases rates out of necessity — not for profit!

In comparison, Cahill as sitting Councilman has voted for property tax increases for the past 7 ½ years. In the past 3 years, Jim Anderson has joined him, and also voted for property tax increases. During the Phillips' Administration, Cahill opposed taking money from the MUA, yet he voted to affirm those budgets that included MUA money. Was he for or against? His duplicity and hypocrisy is appalling!

Since his appointment to the MUA Board of Commissioners, Brian Cahill has missed half of the meetings. No wonder he is so misinformed and confused.



Fifth, Cahill and Anderson claim that there is duplication of salaries and benefits in upper management. This is an outright lie! No one at the MUA receives two salaries or duplicate benefits!

What they won't tell you is that the current Executive Director is doing multiple jobs for one salary. The Executive Director is also the Licensed Operator in Charge for both water treatment and water distribution. State Law allows him to accept a bifurcated salary, one as Executive Director and one as the Licensed Operator in Charge. The current Executive Director chose not to do this saving the rate payers an additional \$60,000 per year. Any Class IV Licensed Operator in the state can demand a stipend of \$30,000 per year for each Class IV License they hold. So where's the duplication?



Finally, both Cahill and Anderson receive healthcare benefits at the tax payers' expense; Cahill through his wife's position with the Board of Education and Anderson as a Councilman. Can you imagine Dr. Anderson, a practicing dentist receiving free dental benefits? Really? And all at the expense of the tax payer!

The simple fact is that the actions of these two men are reprehensible! They try to mislead and misinform the public, just to get re-elected!



Vote for Anita Greenberg and Debbie Walker in the June 2nd 2015 primary election. They actually won the support of their party. They didn't have to steal it! And they actually want to do right by the residents of Old Bridge.