

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

June 9, 2020

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on June 9, 2020 at 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey and via tele-conference with Commissioners.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELE-CONFERENCE: Joseph Koptic, Chairman; Margaret DePergola – Vice Chair; Earl Miller, Secretary; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; Kenneth Miller; Kenneth Laney Peter Cicco

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director; Michael S. DiFrancia, Superintendent; Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary/QPA; Joanna Bermingham, Authority Engineer via tele-conference; Debra Rumpf, Esq., via tele-conference.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: None

Nicole M. Princiotti read the following statement:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, this meeting has been duly advertised in the Atlantic City Press and the Asbury Park Press, posted on the Authority bulletin board and posted and filed in the Office of the Little Egg Harbor Township Clerk. Resolutions are posted on the Authority's bulletin board.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the budget. There are two (2) resolutions for consideration. He would be happy to answer any questions. If there are none, we can take action on those resolutions at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to authorize the adoption of the Authority's Water Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Miller to authorize the adoption of the Authority's Sewer Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koptic to approve the prior minutes of the Authority's regular meeting held on May 12, 2020. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Koptic to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the operational account bills resolution. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 - Mr. Sutton stated that as a point of information we are going to continue to have full daily operations, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm. However, the office will remain closed to the general public. All necessary business can be conducted through the drive-thru window, with our drop boxes, internet and phone. Since the time of the outbreak we have remained fully intact in order to meet the needs of our customers.

2 - Mr. Sutton stated that he would like to thank all the staff here at the Authority. They have truly shined during this crisis and he would match them against all in the country. He feels that strong about the staff he has here at the Authority. We all really do care about each other and it really is like a family. It's been really good to have everyone back and working together.

3 - Mr. Sutton stated that the proposed budget was just approved for adoption and he thanked the Commissioners for their support. The process was very smooth and streamlined and the State approved it and turned it around very quickly.

Mr. Sutton reminded the Board that we have no rate increase with regard to the upcoming year.

4 - Mr. Sutton reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on July 14, 2020 at noon and will be held via teleconference. Thinking about our boardroom, we wouldn't be able to provide adequate distancing in order to keep the Commissioners and our professionals at a safe distance. It would also be difficult to talk with masks on and Mrs. Princiotti would have a difficult time getting some of the minutes.

5 - Mr. Sutton advised that there is no customer committee and no need for executive session this month.

Mr. Sutton stated that was all he had for his report unless anyone had any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. Miler to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia stated that he hopes everyone is doing well and remaining healthy.

1 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that the Water Treatment Plant Project is moving along. The filters were backwashed yesterday morning and they are now in the process of putting the anthracite inside of it. We are in the final stages and hopefully within two to three months we will be able to request the State come and perform the sampling. The wiring has been completed and the automated valves in the SCADA System have been installed. We have been working with the SCADA company in getting that up and running.

2 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that there is a resolution on the agenda with regard to a 90-day extension for TKT, Inc. for the Water Treatment Plant. This allows the contractor to extend his contract an additional 90 days.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve Resolution #2020-29 authorizing a 90-day extension to TKT Construction Company, Inc. to complete the water treatment plant at Mathistown Road. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

3 - Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the tank renovation next door is moving along. The sandblasting, primer and intermediate coating has been completed and the tarp has been removed. The moat around the bottom was completed on Friday. Today, the painter is on the tower and is beginning the stencil for the artwork. We are really excited about this and the finished product. It is anticipated that the artwork will be completed within the next two to three weeks. We will have the bacteria sampling and VOCs done, and then we will be putting it back online.

4 - Mr. DiFrancia advised that the water and sewer improvements for Phase I began on West Mohawk Drive on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The water main has been completed. MSP Construction is working on the cul-de-sac and is now replacing the sewer main. Once that is complete, they will begin installing the laterals to the curbs for each property. Once they have completed Mohawk, they will move onto East Mullica.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that MSP Construction is doing an awesome job and he can see this project being completed ahead of schedule.

5 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report is attached and he would be happy to answer any questions.

There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Bermingham advised the Board that her report has been submitted on behalf of Remington and Vernick Engineers.

Ms. Bermingham stated that as reviewed before by Mr. DiFrancia, Phase I of the Mystic Islands Project began on May 26, 2020 and is moving along. The water treatment plant is in its final stages and will be ready for disinfection.

Ms. Bermingham stated that was all she had for her report unless there were any questions.

There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

On Friday we had a conference with the Judge regarding Rodgers litigation and the order to show cause. The Judge denied it. He found that there was no irreparable harm and that the plaintiff did not exhaust the administrative remedy. The Judge advised us that he was not going

to order anything until he did. He also stated that he was not going to interfere with the town and the process where there are some large land tracks. For him to rule on this would be very cumbersome for the other homes that have the same problem. The Judge did ask if the MUA was willing to stay the Municipal Court Action to allow the plaintiff to ask for a hardship before the Township. The Judge incorporated in the order that the stay will be for 30 days. What that means is if they do nothing in that 30 days, the municipal court action will go forward.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that the only other item she wanted to report was that the judge found that there was no likelihood of success with regard to the application and there was no hardship established. He denied the order to show cause, and he is dismissing the action in Superior Court.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that was all she had for her report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Rumpf for her efforts regarding the Rodgers case.

Mr. Sutton advised that Resolution #2020-30 was on the agenda for approval with regard to the budget appropriation transfers. This is something we do each year and thanked Mrs. Princiotti for her help with these transfers.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koptic to approve Resolution #2020-30 authorizing the transfer appropriations in the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board? There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to open this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any members of the public on the tele-conference? There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to adjourn. All in favor.


Earl Miller, Secretary