

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

October 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on October 6, 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: Joseph Koptic, Chairman; Earl Miller, Secretary; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; Kenneth Miller; Kenneth Laney and 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., Authority Legal Counsel via tele-conference

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret DePergola, Vice-Chair

MEMEBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

The following statement was read:

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.

PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 8, 2020. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILLS RESOLUTION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton stated that as a point of information we continue to have full operations at the office. We are open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm but will continue to remain closed to the public. All business is being conducted through the drive-thru, drop boxes, internet and telephone. This is working extremely well and we have not had any complaints or requests from the public to open the building. We have always made ourselves available to accommodate our rate payers. We are starting to have some in-house operations, provided there are safety precautions taken by the resident and with our staff.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that three (3) additional submittals have been made to the NJ IBank for reimbursement for the Water Treatment Plant as well as Mystic Phase I. They have been delayed. A submittal was made in excess of \$1.1 million dollars of monies we already outlaid to the contractor for the Mystic Island Phase I Project.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2020-43 is on the agenda for consideration. This is authorizing final sewer approval for DW Route 9, Little Egg Harbor 23, LLC and has been recommended for approval by our engineer contingent upon the various items being submitted and complete.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. E. Miller approving Resolution #2020-43 granting final sewer approval for DW Route 9, Little Egg 23, LLC, Railroad Drive Subdivision, Block 172 Lot 9. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised that for planning purposes, the next Board meeting of the Authority will be November 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM via teleconference unless otherwise advised.

Mr. Sutton stated that there are no customer committee recommendations and no need for Executive Session.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that he hopes everyone is doing well. The Treatment Plant is well underway. Start up has begun and he and John Mulvihill have spent extensive time at the plant getting it up and running. The engineer is submitting the certification of completion to the State in order to get the permit to operate. We are hoping to see the permit to operate in the next few months. We are experiencing some lag time with the State due to their IT Department. The engineer will explain in her report.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that MSP Construction took a break in their work schedule. Work will resume in the second week of October and is still ahead of schedule. The Township may break ground in January for the storm drainage work right behind us. The Authority will be completing their end of the project on time.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the white fencing around the water tower has been complete and it improves the overall appearance of the site. We are putting the 8 foot security fence around the backside of the property. Not only for the purposes of security and to avoid vandalism, but the old fence of 40 years had exceeded its life expectancy.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that there has been an increase to property searches and we are adding more customers on a daily basis due to the real estate activity.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report is attached if anyone has any questions.

Mr. Miller asked if the Radio Road Water Tower is under surveillance?

Mr. DiFrancia advised him that it is and that the system was installed a long time ago and we have regular analog and digital cameras. We will be discussing upgrading those cameras in the future in order to have a better quality picture.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that unfortunately, with last incident of vandalism next door, we had that tropical storm, power was lost and knocked the cameras out due to the surge, so we weren't able to capture the individuals who vandalized the property.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that at the new Water Treatment Plant we have surveillance outside, but once the plant is turned over to the Authority we will install a system for inside and outside. Fortunately the site is surrounded by woods and the lighting there is excellent, but the added security will help.

Mr. Sutton stated that the good thing is a good surveillance system is now less than \$2500. When the system was installed here at the office many years ago, it was at a cost of about \$15,000.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that was all he had for his report unless there were any additional questions. There being none a motion was made by Mr. E. Miller, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Bermingham stated that the engineer's report has been submitted and advised that she would like to add a few things as mentioned by the Superintendent.

Mrs. Bermingham stated that as mentioned by the Superintendent we are working on getting the plant up and running in order to apply for the permit to operate. There has been some delay with the permit. Typically, when submitting the request to the State to operate, we are required to submit our request to the state with appropriate documents and then they come out and sample the well and give you the permit to operate. Part of what is required to be included in that submission is a well record and the new well permit and that is filed by the contractor. That has been filed by the contractor. As we followed up with the State, we found out there is a delay in the processing. We have been told that there is a problem with IT, but we aren't sure if it's with their system, or lack of staffing due to COVID. We are proceeding with the well testing because we do not want this to hold us up in obtaining the permit to operate. We are making the submission for the permit to operate and noting that those two documents from the contractor are in processing with the State and can be accessed by them. We have had conversations with both the State and the contractor so everyone is aware and on board with how we are proceeding.

Ms. Bermingham stated that Phase I of the Mystic Island Project is proceeding and moving along well. The application has been created for Phase II and we will start that on the heels of Phase I.

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 Mrs. Skelly to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT


Mrs. Rumpf advised the Board that her report has been submitted for October and she would be happy to answer any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. E. Miller, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to approve the Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

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

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

There being no public in attendance, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. E. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.


Earl Miller, Secretary