

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on November 10, 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; Margaret DePergola, Vice-Chair; Earl Miler, Secretary; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; Kenneth Miller 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: Ken Laney, Commissioner

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. K. Miller, seconded by Mr. E. Miller to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 10, 2020. Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. K. Miller 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

Mrs. Skelly had a question with regard to the Bills Resolution. On page ten of the report, she asked why we were returning escrow to the Board of Education?

Mr. Sutton explained that the Board of Education was required to post escrow fees for work that was done at the school. Along the way they were billed for that hourly rate for engineering review and inspection fees. If there is any money left, we refund those monies back to the individual. In this case the Board of Education was entitled to those remaining monies.

Mrs. Skelly also asked why we purchased a washing machine?

Mr. Sutton explained that the washing machine that was back at the shop needed replacement and that although the uniforms are cleaned through a service, there are other articles and equipment that gets washed here. Rather than take those items that are pretty filthy home, and wash them in their own machine, there is one here for use.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola 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 result of the increase in positive COVID cases and the Governor's Executive Order, which is in effect November 5, 2020, our office will continue to remain closed to the general public. All business will be conducted through the drive-thru window, phone, drop boxes and internet. The ladies out front have done a phenomenal job out front with regard to collections. This is our tax sale time and we had in excess of over 1 ½ million dollars to collect and the ladies have taken in some of the largest amounts in any one single day. They have done a really nice job. Our customers have been patient and we appreciate the efforts they have made in making their payments.

Mr. Sutton stated that there is additional protocol in place with regard to mask wearing and sanitizing and breaktimes for employees to wash their hands. This has been implemented with this new executive order.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that there are three (3) submittals that have been made to the NJ IBank for reimbursement. Well No. 12 has been submitted as well as Phase I of the Mystic Island Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project. To date we have received almost all of the money we have laid out to the contractors for the work that has been done. MSP has a large one on the bills resolution, and that will be submitted next week for reimbursement.

3 - Mr. Sutton advised the Board that it's that time of year when we submit a letter to the Committee of Little Egg Harbor Township on behalf of the Authority recommending re-appointment to the Board of Commissioners for Chairman, Joseph Koptic, and Commissioner Peter Cicco. We will entertain a motion and request a second or authorization to send the letter for their consideration.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. DePergola authorizing the Authority to submit a letter to the Township of Little Egg Harbor recommending re-appointment to the Board of Commissioners for Chairman Joseph Koptic and Commissioner Peter Cicco. All in favor.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that for planning purposes the next meeting will be held on December 8, 2020 via tele-conference at noon, unless advised otherwise.

Mr. Sutton stated that there was no customer committee recommendations or executive session.

Mr. Sutton stated that there is a resolution on the agenda for consideration. Resolution #2020-44 authorizing the acceptance of the Risk Management Agreement with Conner Strong and Buckelew.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to approve Resolution #2020-44 a resolution of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey authorizing acceptance and execution of Risk Management Consultant's agreement with Conner, Strong and Buckalew.

Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

Resolution #2020-46 is also on the agenda awarding a contract to Dynamic Testing Services for CDL random drug and alcohol testing. We have used this company over several years and have been happy with their services.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve Resolution #2020-46 a resolution of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey accepting and awarding contract for professional services with Dynamic Testing Service for CDL random alcohol and drug testing program.

Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

Mr. Sutton stated that was all he had for his Executive Director's Report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mr. K. Miller 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.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia that the Water Treatment Plant at well no. 12 is 99% complete. We are working through some small kinks. The State DEP has come in to collect the samples and hopefully they will issue the permit to operate. The paperwork has been submitted as well. The engineer will address this in her report. We are pushing hard to have the permit to operate so we can get this plant online.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that MSP is in their final stages of completion for Phase I of the Mystic Project. They have done very well. We will need approval by resolution for a time extension request. MSP submitted a letter requesting an additional 30 days. That resolution is on the agenda for consideration.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2020-45 a resolution of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey granting a thirty (30) day extension to MSP Construction for Phase I of the Mystic Islands water and sewer main replacement project.

Roll call vote, Earl Miller – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that with regard to MSP and the final stages we are looking into replacing the driveways and doing some temporary paving until the Township comes in with their project. We just found out that NJ Natural Gas is going to be coming into those streets before the Township as well in order to replace some of the gas mains and services. We are going to set up a meeting to coordinate our efforts with replacing the driveways after they perform their work so we aren't performing paving that will be torn up by the gas company.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that review of the specifications is underway for the painting of the water tower at Holly Lake on Great Bay Boulevard. We are looking to advertise and go out to bid by mid-December and possibly begin work in early spring. There will be painting, and OSHA upgrades done to this facility.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the work order management report is attached, and that he would like to praise our guys next door for keeping up with all the work. They have done a great job.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that was all he had for his report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. K. Miller. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Bermingham stated that the engineer's report has been submitted. She stated that as mentioned in the Superintendent's Report, with regard to the Water Treatment Plant, it is almost complete. We have submitted the documentation necessary to obtain the permit to operate. The State did come out and do their required sampling and we have continually followed up with them. There is some turnaround time to review the documents and issue the permit to operate.

Ms. Bermingham stated that with regard to Mystic Phase I, that is nearing completion of construction. MSP did submit a time extension request, but we are still hoping that they are finished by the end of this year.

Ms. Bermingham stated that with regard to Mystic Phase II, we are hoping to get this started on the heels of Phase I being finished. We will be getting the application submitted to the IBank to get the approval needed.

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. K. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf stated that she has submitted her report for approval and that she would be happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that she would like to bring the Commissioners up to speed with regard to the Rodgers matter. This morning we received correspondence from Jeremy Price concerning testimony to be heard on Thursday. If you would like to join in, you can follow the link on the webpage. Robert Rue has done a certification where he points out that he advised Rodgers and his attorney of the other issues upon his conversation with Mr. DiFrancia in 2016. He also indicated that Rodgers said he was not going to pay. This is a slam dunk for the Authority and supports our position.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Rumpf for her efforts and made a recommendation that we write a nice letter to Mr. Rue thanking him for this and acknowledge that as a fellow legal professional it must be difficult to go against a fellow attorney.

Mr. Sutton also thanked Mrs. Rumpf for her efforts as it relates to the Tax Sale and her diligent work behind the scenes as it relates to an Executive Order from the Governor. The order was very unclear and leaves quite a bit up for interpretation to various individuals.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that this year we will not be participating in the tax sale on for the water, but we will be able to collect on the sewer side. Under the order we are not permitted to turn any water off for non-payment or charge interest or late fees.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, 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. Koptic, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

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

motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to adjourn the meeting.


Earl Miller, Secretary