

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

February 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on February 9, 2021 at 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey and via tele-conference with the Board of Commissioners.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Koptic, Chairman; Margaret DePergola, Vice-Chair; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; Kenneth Miller, Kenneth Laney, Peter Cicco

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Earl Miller, Secretary; Michael DiFrancia, Superintendent

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

Mrs. 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. Koptic was sworn in by Mrs. Rumpf for his term beginning January 1, 2021.

Mr. Sutton thanked and congratulated Mr. Koptic on his re-appointment and stated that he is looking forward to working with him in the future.

The board thanked Mr. Koptic and congratulated him as well.

Mr. Koptic thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that for the purposes of re-organization, Mrs. Princiotti will do a roll call vote.

Roll call was done. Mr. Earl Miller was not in attendance.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that a temporary Chairperson will be appointed for the purpose of reorganization.

Mr. Sutton asked for a motion to appoint Mrs. Princiotti as temporary Chairperson.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to appoint Mrs. Princiotti as temporary Chairperson. Roll call vote, Ken Miller – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

Mrs. Princiotti asked for a nomination for Chairperson. Mrs. DePergola nominated Joseph Koptic as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cicco. Roll call vote, Ken Miller – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

There were no other nominations for Chairman made.

Mr. Koptic thanked everyone and was congratulated by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Sutton resumed the meeting and recommended that the members approve the consent agenda as presented in one motion and asked whether there were any changes to be made or was everyone in agreement with the reorganization agenda? All were in favor of the reorganization agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve the re-organization agenda as follows. Roll call vote, Roll call vote, Ken Miller – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

Items #1 through #4 – Chairman Joseph Koptic; Vice Chair Margaret DePergola; Treasurer Marie Skelly; Secretary Earl Miller.

Items #5 through #11

5. Liaison between Little Egg Harbor Township and the Authority – Mrs. DePergola and Earl F. Sutton, Jr.
6. Committees:
 - a. Plans Committee: Earl Miller, Ken Miller, Earl Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Pete Cicco)
 - b. Personnel Committee: Marie Skelly, Earl Miller, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Ken Laney)
 - c. Budget Committee: Marie Skelly, Earl Miller, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Ken Laney)
 - d. Rules & Regulation Committee: Margaret DePergola, Pete Cicco, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Ken Laney)
 - e. Water & Sewer/Customer Committee: Marie Skelly, Earl Miller, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Pete Cicco)
 - f. Safety Committee: Earl Miller, Earl Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia, Ken Miller (alternate – Ken Laney)
 - g. Safety Representative: John Viteritto (alternate – John Mulvihill)
 - h. Building Committee: Joseph Koptic, Ken Miller, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate – Pete Cicco)
 - i. Building & Grounds Committee: Margaret DePergola, Pete Cicco, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia
 - j. Overall Rehabilitation of Water and Sewer Systems Committee: Ken Laney, Marie Skelly, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternate #1 – Margaret DePergola, alternate #2 – Ken Miller)
 - k. Storm Committee: Ken Laney, Ken Miller, Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Michael DiFrancia (alternates – Pete Cicco, Earl Miller)

7. Authority Attorney – Debra Rumpf, Esq.
8. Authority Consulting Engineer – Remington & Vernick Engineers; Special Project Engineer – Felipe Contreras of Kleinfelder
9. Authority Auditor – Suplee, Clooney & Company
10. Financial Consultants – Acacia Financial Group, Inc.
11. Bond Counsel – DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole & Giblin, LLP
12. Official newspapers of Authority for year February 2021 through February 2022: Atlantic City Press, Asbury Park Press, Times Beacon and others as deemed necessary from time to time
13. Regular meetings to be held per schedule below*
14. Official depository banks: TD Bank, Ocean First, 1st Constitution Bank, and others as deemed necessary from time to time
15. Sexual Harassment Officers: Margaret DePergola for female employees; Ken Laney for male employees

*Regularly scheduled meeting for the year February 2021 to February 2022

February 9, 2021 (Reorganization) at 12:00 Noon
 March 9, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 April 6, 2021 at 12:00 Noon *
 May 11, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 June 9, 2021 at 12:00 Noon **
 July 13, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 August 10, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 September 14, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 October 12, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 November 9, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 December 14, 2021 at 12:00 Noon
 January 11, 2022 at 12:00 Noon
 February 8, 2022 (Reorganization) at 12:00 Noon

*Please note that this is the first Tuesday of the Month

**Please note that this is the second Wednesday of the Month

Close of re-organization.

Mr. Sutton thanked everyone and congratulated the new commissioners and professionals on their appointments.

PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 12, 2021. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Roll call vote, Ken Laney – 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. K. Miller to approve the operational account bills resolution as submitted. Roll call vote, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton congratulated and thanked the appointed officers for the upcoming year. We have good support not only for himself, but his executive team as well. We are proud of what we do here, but we are thankful for the support we receive from our Commissioners. We are looking forward to the future and working together.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2021-4 is being presented naming the Professional appointments to the Authority for the ensuing year.

Mr. Sutton congratulated the Professionals being appointed and stated that he looks forward to working with them as needed in the course of the year.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. K. Miller approving Resolution #2021-4 authorizing the professional appointments for 2021. Roll call vote, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2021-5 is being presented appointing the Executive Director as Fund Commissioner, and Chairman Koptic as Alternate Fund Commissioner pursuant to Article II of the By-laws of the New Jersey Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. DePergola approving Resolution #2021-5 appointing Earl F. Sutton, Jr. as Fund Commissioner, and Joseph Koptic as Alternate Fund Commissioner pursuant to Article II of the By-laws of the New Jersey Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund. Roll call vote, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Authority will be going out to bid for our annual chemical contracts and plant supplies as well our emergency repairs. He is requesting authorization to go to bid for these items.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. K. Miller authorizing the Authority to solicit bids for our annual contracts. All in favor.

5 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that this item is a point of information. The Authority collected 18,807 million gallons more flow into the OCUA system over the last calendar year. As a result of this we received a bill of \$75,961 which was not budgeted for. One of the main reasons for this increase is more people are home, kids are being homeschooled and just more year round residents in our community due to COVID.

Mr. Sutton stated that there will be an article in The Leader. He was contacted by Pat Johnson inquiring about this and she was provided a lot of data as it relates to this.

Mr. Sutton stated that this was nothing that we have done here, and we have worked hard to prevent ground water from entering the system. He reiterated it had a lot to do with the amount of people living here year round and the amount of people at home all day.

6 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that as a point of information, the Sensus Conference will be held in October of this year. The Superintendent, Operations Coordinator and the Director attend each year. We are able to gather a lot of information, and the conference proves to be beneficial to the Authority. Last year it was cancelled as a result of COVID.

7 – Mr. Sutton stated that for planning purposes, our next board meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 at 12 noon by teleconference, unless advised otherwise.

8 – Mr. Sutton stated that there are two (2) customer committee issues that will be addressed later in the meeting and there is no need for executive session.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any questions for his Executive Director's Report?

There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted. All in favor.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Personnel Committee report was included in the package and that a resolution was previously adopted for the professional appointments.

If there were no questions, he would entertain a motion to accept the Personnel Committee Report as submitted.

A motion was made by Mr. Laney, seconded by Mr. K. Miller to approve the Personnel Committee Report as submitted. All in favor.

CUSTOMER COMMITTEE

Mr. Sutton stated that the Customer Committee Report was included in the package and he would be happy to answer any questions.

There being none, a motion was made by Mr. K. Miller, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve the Customer Committee Report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sutton advised the Board the Mr. DiFrancia was called to attend an issue outside of the office and that he will be providing the Superintendent's Report.

1 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that we received the Permit to Operate from the New Jersey DEP for Well No. 12 and our new treatment facility.

Mr. Sutton stated that this was an unbelievable under-taking and he is so proud of Mr. DiFrancia, and Mr. Mulvihill for the work and commitment dedicated to this project. This facility will be the talk of the industry with how this facility turned out.

Mr. Sutton stated that he would also like to thank Ms. Bermingham of Remington and Vernick for her hard work in the final outcome of the facility.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that regarding Phase I of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer replacement, New Jersey Natural Gas is still performing work in the area. Drainage work and final paving will be performed by the Township most likely in March. We will not be doing any paving as anticipated.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that bidding for the water tower at Holly Lake will be advertised and opened in March. Weather permitting, work will begin in April.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that based on excellent and consistent test results for Lead and Copper, our monitoring requirements have been reduced by the NJ DEP. They made us do much more testing and we argued that point substantially. We were eligible for reduced monitoring, but it was still much more than we used to do.

Mr. Sutton stated that we have no issue with lead and copper in our system, and we never have.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that the work order management report is attached.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any questions on the Superintendent's Report?

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Birmingham thanked the Board for her re-appointment and is looking forward to working on some great projects as we move through the year.

Ms. Birmingham advised the Board that her report has been submitted for approval. As previously mentioned in the Superintendent's Report, we finally received the Permit to Operate from the DEP. We are finishing up training and are looking forward to the start-up of the plant. The Authority did such a good job through the duration of this project, and we are looking forward to getting it on-line.

Ms. Birmingham stated that with Phase I of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Replacement, the construction portion of the project is complete, we are just waiting for the as-builts from the contractor.

Ms. Birmingham stated that on the heels of Phase I, we want to keep moving forward with Phase II. There was a delay with the State's online system. We have had several conversations with the State about this and we are moving forward in getting this project out to bid.

Ms. Birmingham 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 Mr. Laney to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf thanked the Board for her re-appointment and stated that working with the Authority has been a rewarding experience for her and the firm.

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

There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Laney to approve the Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mr. Sutton stated that there were additional resolutions to approve at this time.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2021-6 is on the agenda declaring an emergency on Captains Drive for the repair of the sewer main.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Laney approving Resolution #2021-6 declaring an emergency regarding the needed repair of the sanitary sewer main on South Captains Drive. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2021-7 is on the agenda authorizing the return of monies to the homeowner of 82 Lake Superior Drive as mentioned in the Customer Committee Report.

A motion was made by Mr. K. Miller, seconded by Mr. Laney to approve Resolution #2021-7 authorizing reimbursement to the property owner of 82 Lake Superior Drive. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Ken Laney – yes, Ken Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes

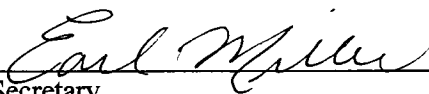
Mr. Sutton asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board? There being none, a motion was made by Mr. K. Miller, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. K. Miller, seconded by Mrs. DePergola 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. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Laney to close this portion of the meeting to the public.

Mr. Sutton congratulated all everyone on their re-appointments and wants everyone to remain safe and healthy.

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


Secretary