

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

January 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on January 12, 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: Margaret DePergola, Vice-Chair; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; 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: Joseph Koptic, Chairman; Earl Miller, Secretary; Kenneth Miller, Commissioner; Kenneth Laney, Commissioner (Mr. K. Miller attempted multiple times to attend, but had connection issues)

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

Mr. Sutton thanked and congratulated Mr. Cicco on his re-appointment and thanked the Township Committee for their continued support.

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

Mr. Cicco thanked the Board and the Township Committee for their support.

PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 8, 2020. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A modification to the date of the minutes was made to reflect December 12, 2020, in lieu of the date in the minutes of December 8, 2020. A motion was made Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the minutes of the executive session with the modification as noted. 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, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. DePergola, to approve the operational account bills resolution as submitted. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton congratulated Mr. Koptic and Mr. Cicco on their re-appointments to the Board of Commissioners on January 1, 2021. He looks forward to working with these fine gentlemen in the future. They have been a real asset to the Authority and is appreciative of their continued support of the Authority and what we do here.

Mr. Sutton thanked the Mayor and the Township Committee for the re-appointments and support as well.

2 – Mr. Sutton wished everyone a Happy 2021! He hopes everyone remains healthy and that this year will hopefully be better than 2020. The COVID crisis has put a lot of stress on all people and it will continue to do so until most everyone has the vaccination.

Mr. Sutton stated that our industry is working hard on getting those involved in the decision making to move our employees up on the priority list being that we are essential personnel. Both he and Mr. DiFrancia are actively involved with New Jersey Water Association trying to get us moved up on the list from a 1C classification to a 1B classification. Many of us are now registering for the vaccination.

Mr. Sutton stated that he would forward that on to everyone and our professionals. There is a state site where you can go on and register in anticipation of getting the vaccination.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Tax Sale has been completed for sewer charges only. People who are delinquent on water payments are able to make their payments at the drive through window for water only. The next billing will reflect those past due water charges. However, we are not able to accrue any late fees associated with the past due charges for water only.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that there has been a submittal that was reimbursed by the NJIBank for the Water Treatment Plant at Well No. 12.

5 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that there is a Resolution on the agenda for consideration with a recommendation of the personnel committee for a minor salary increase for Steve Forst. Mr. Forst is a backhoe operator and is involved in running many of the jobs. It is a pleasure to make this recommendation, he is an excellent employee and an asset to the Authority.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2021-1 approving compensation increase for Steven Forst. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

6 – Mr. Sutton stated that as a point of information, all Commissioners, by month end will be receiving information with regard to re-organization. This will be emailed to each member prior to the next meeting. For planning purposes our meeting will be held via tele-conference on February 9, 2021 at noon unless otherwise notified.

Mr. Sutton advised that there are no customer committee recommendations and no need for executive session this month.

Mr. Sutton stated that there was another matter he needed to bring to everyone's attention. There was an expiration scheduled for a maintenance bond on the High Ridge painting project performed by Allied Painting. At this time, we are recommending that there is no release of that maintenance bond as there are still some additional punch list items to be addressed. Our special projects engineer has been instructed to immediately send a letter to Allied Painting with regard to this matter.

Mr. Sutton stated that he had nothing else for his report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia wished everyone a Happy New Year and he hopes everyone is doing well.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that we are close to obtaining the permit to operate from the NJDEP for Well No. 12 and the state-of-the-art Treatment Facility. We did have a phone call in to Nassir Butt of the DEP where he assured us that everything is underway and that they are waiting for a few samples to come back from the State laboratory. Then we will have the permit to operate and we will be able to put the water out into the system and perform final testing.

Mr. DiFrancia invited all the commissioners to come view the treatment plant once COVID dies down. They will be amazed with the facility.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that MSP has completed the project for Phase I Mystic Water and Sewer Replacement Project. They are working on the punch list item and the company doing the as-builts are finishing up as well. They will send us the final print for our review.

Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the Authority will not be paving the streets because the Township is anticipated to come in and begin their project in February. The plants for the hot patch have also closed down for the winter as well.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Resolution #2021-3 is being presented for consideration authorizing the release of the Performance Bond, subject to the posting of a Maintenance Bond along with final payment to Allied for the Radio Road Water Tower rehabilitation. This is being recommended by our Special Projects engineer and a letter is attached.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2021-3 authorizing the release of the performance guarantee subject to posting of the maintenance guarantee by Allied Painting for the Radio Road Standpipe rehabilitation. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

4 - Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the bidding for the water tower and upgrades for Holly Lake are still delayed and will be advertised and opened in February. Work will begin in March or April of this year.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report has been submitted for review.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Sutton stated that the personnel committee matter has been previously approved with the resolution as it relates to Mr. Forst and a minor compensation increase. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the Personnel Committee minutes as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ms. Bermingham advised the Board that her report has been submitted for the Board's approval. As mentioned by the Superintendent, we are waiting on the State to get the results on a couple samples that were submitted for the Water Treatment Plant. We are hoping the results come back soon, and we can get the water pumping into the system and the plant online.

Ms. Bermingham stated that with Phase I of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Replacement, we are just waiting for the as-builts to be completed so we can finalize that project and get the close-out requirements to the NJIBank.

Ms. Bermingham stated that they want to move forward with Phase II as we don't want too much time to lapse between the projects. She has followed up with State with regard to submission of the Phase II documentation and stated that submittal for these projects is done separately, water being one submission and sewer another submission. The funding for water has been tied up and we are doing everything we can to keep it moving forward.

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. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf stated that she has submitted her report for review and approval, and is happy to report that the Rodgers matter has been resolved. If there were any other questions, she would be happy to answer them.

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

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Rumpf for her efforts with regard to the Rodgers case. With everyone's hard work we were able to resolve that by written agreement, taking it out of the Township Committee's hands.

Mr. Sutton stated that there was one additional resolution to approve. Resolution #2021-2 is on the agenda authorizing the return of monies paid by a lien holder on various properties.

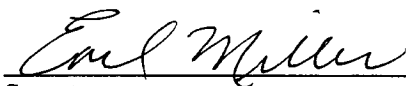
A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Cicco approving Resolution #2021-2, authorizing the reimbursement to Slate Ventures, lien holder affecting various properties. Roll call vote, Pete Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, 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 Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to close this portion of the meeting to the public.

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


Secretary