

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

December 13, 2022

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on December 13, 2022, 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret DePergola, Chairwoman; Joseph Koptic, Vice-Chair (via tele-conference), Marie Skelly, Treasurer (via tele-conference); Kenneth Miller, Secretary; Peter Cicco; Kenneth Maxwell (via tele-conference) Christopher Filiciello

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

THOSE ABSENT: None

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.

PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 regular meeting. Roll call vote, Chris Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call vote, Chris Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the operational account bills resolution. Roll call vote, Chris Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton stated that there was a discussion with the personnel committee with regard to Gavin Del Buono, offering a permanent position to him with the Authority as Utility Worker. There is a resolution on the agenda for consideration and it is recommended for adoption.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2022-67 authorizing the hiring of Gavin Del Buono to the position of Utility Worker. Roll call vote, Chris Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2022-67 is on the agenda for consideration. This will authorize the re-appointment of Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary, Michael S. DiFrancia, Superintendent, and Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director as the DER official representatives for the Authority's drug and alcohol testing.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2022-68 appointing Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director, Michael S. DiFrancia, Superintendent and Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary as the Authority's certified Designated Employer Representative (DER). Roll call vote, Chris Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

3- Mr. Sutton stated that as a part of Superintendent DiFrancia's report with regard to the Stage Road Project, certified letters will be mailed to all residents on Stage Road where water and or sewer service connections were placed to the curb by the Contractor. The letter will advise the homeowners that they will have one (1) full year from December 12, 2022, which coincides with the Contractor's completion date, to perform the mandatory connections to their respective homes. If they fail to do so, there may be fines and penalties assessed by the Township.

Mr. Sutton asked Mrs. Rumpf if when sending these letters, we should include the potential penalties and fines should an issue arise from non-compliance?

Mrs. Rumpf advised Mr. Sutton that the information should be included with the letters, so people are aware up front of the potential issues.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Rumpf.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that once again, he needs to add a reminder that anyone who is in arrears with their water and sewer charges between the period of March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022, a person may contact the office to make an installment agreement. In addition, there may be other programs available for low-income assistance.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board a new notice has been issued by the Governor stating that water cannot be turned off and that individuals may apply for additional relief.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is one (1) customer committee matter for this meeting. The recommendation of the committee is to grant a one-time reduction.

6 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is no need for Executive Session for this meeting.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that this matter was approved by Resolution earlier in his report but would recommend approving the minutes of the meeting as attached.

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

CUSTOMER COMMITTEE

Mr. Sutton reviewed the minutes of the Customer Committee with the Board and asked if there were any questions.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that as previously mentioned by the Executive Director, the water and sewer services to the remaining improved lots along Stage Road have been completed. A letter will be issued to the residents notifying them of mandatory connection by December 12, 2023.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the Authority has completed a total revamp of the electrical system including the VFDs (variable frequency drives) at Pump Station No. 8, located on Great Bay Boulevard and Middle Holly Lane. This has allowed us to install “chopper” type sewerage pumps which in turn will greatly reduce the continuous clogging we experienced with the old sewerage pumps.

3 – The Authority has had to revisit and assist at the Frog Pond School with a problem in their sanitary sewer system. We were able to gain access to a previous manhole they were unable to open and performed a complete cleaning of all the onsite sewer owned by the Board of Education.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the required UCMR-5 sampling was completed per EPA mandates. This sampling is performed every five (5) years and pertains to possible water system contaminants across the United States that are not regularly tested for per EPA regulation. They will test for certain chemicals, pharmaceuticals, industrial waste chemicals and other contaminants. They will monitor these results throughout the United States and determine a MCL (maximum contaminant level) and assist towns and states where contaminants are high. Everything we use today, from plastics, to vehicles, to pharmaceuticals, and oils have chemicals that seep into the environment and can end up in the water systems. We are confident that there will be no issues to report.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the one-year anniversary inspection of the Holly Lake Standpipe has been completed by the Contractor's outside consultant. There were some minor issues in which the contractor has already corrected.

6 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that his work order management report is attached and reviewed the items.

Mr. DiFrancia wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. He also reminded the Board of the trip to the Mathistown Water Treatment Plant at Well No. 12 after the January meeting.

Mrs. DePergola asked if there were any questions for the Superintendent? There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mr. Sutton added that with regard to the UCMR-5 testing, the Authority did not anticipate this additional cost and with more stringent testing this will cost the Authority approximately \$60,000 per year for all the testing which was not budgeted for. Moving forward we know, but this was not anticipated when preparing this year's budget.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer wished everyone well and stated the Engineer's Report has been submitted for review. He only has one update and it's the reoccurring issue with Phase II. We are still dealing with the New Jersey IBank requiring us to obtain a CAFRA Permit. Obviously, we don't think this is reasonable and we are in the process of submitting a jurisdictional determination to the State, where the State will make the determination on whether the CAFRA Permit is justified.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that his firm, along with the Authority have been through the rules and regulation ad nauseum with regard to CAFRA Permits and the replacement of water and sewer mains, and still come up with the same thing. We are hoping that with the submission of the jurisdictional determination request, we can rectify this soon.

Mr. Dittenhofer wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year and stated that was all for his report unless anyone had any questions.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and advised the Board that her report has been submitted for approval. She would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mrs. De Pergola asked if there were any questions to come before the Board? There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept and file general correspondence. All in favor.

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

With nothing else further coming before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn. All in favor.


Kenneth Miller, Secretary