

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

July 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on July 11, 2023, 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; Kenneth Miller, Secretary; Peter Cicco; Kenneth Maxwell (via tele-conference); Christopher Filiciello (via tele-conference)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director; Michael S. DiFrancia, Superintendent; Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary/QPA; Trace 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. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – 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, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton began by thanking the Board for acting on the budget and the audit at our last meeting. He appreciates everyone's commitment. We have submitted the final budget to the State electronically and submitted the last item that needed to be published with regard to the audit as well.

We continually monitor the levels with devices we have placed in the manholes throughout the entire town. We pull these once a week so we can see what is being sent to the County and ensure that the levels are in compliance with their rules and regulations.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in keeping with the NJDEP mandated inspection and maintenance of storage tanks all of the water tanks within our system were inspected, documented and had routine maintenance performed in house. During inspection, it was noticed that the High Ridge elevated storage tank had some algae growth on it. We had Allied Painting come in to perform a full power washing of the exterior followed by a sprayed mold inhibitor application.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that as mentioned by the Director, the Fit Testing for all Authority personnel has been completed and certified from an outside testing agency. This not only complies with insurance requirements, but also ensures all Authority personnel are safe and properly fitted with their protective face mask. Special thanks to Vinny Johnson for facilitating this.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the annual lead and copper samples have been completed and tested and fallen in compliance with all State and Federal Regulations. Those who participated in the testing will receive a letter from the Authority with their results and thanking them for their efforts.

Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that he wanted to mention one more item that was not in his report. There was a water main break Friday evening on Pebble Beach Lane in front of Commissioner Cicco's house. Neither he nor the Director were in town, but both were available by phone. The crew immediately dispatched and got to work repairing this water main break, and ultimately, did an amazing job. The main was deep and split about 6 to 7 feet long going from corporation to corporation. They did get the job completed and pulled off site around 1:30 AM.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that both he and the Director corresponded with personnel all night long throughout the entire performance of the job. The crew did an amazing job repairing the break and provided continual communication with he and the Director during the entire process.

Mr. DiFrancia went on to explain how the main breaks and the method in which they repair it.

5 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report is attached and reviewed the items with the Board.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that was all for his report unless there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Cicco added that the crew arrived within 30 minutes of the break being reported and began working immediately. It was a large break and there was an unbelievable amount of water, but you could see the crew worked together and kept it under control.

Mr. Cicco expressed the working conditions were terrible with high temperatures, high humidity and buggy. Then with the large flood lights, the heat was worse as were the bugs. He commended everyone on the amazing job they did.

Mr. DiFrancia thanked Mr. Cicco and agreed that they did an amazing job. Fortunately, they were able to isolate the area and the water was off for a very short duration. As of today, we have personnel on site re-doing the ditch itself. With the depth of the main and the amount of water, settling can occur. In a few months after more settling occurs, we will go back and re-do it again, using hot patch.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that he is anxiously awaiting the approval to advertise for Phase II of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project. As a reminder, we are now almost four years behind on our capital improvement schedule. The major hold up was for CAFRA approval which has been determined not to be needed. We are still committed to moving our capital program forward, unfortunately now it's going to cost substantially more due to material costs and interest rates increasing.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that he would like to thank Vinny Johnson for arranging for the fit testing to be completed. We had a very difficult time finding a company after COVID who would do it. Many companies went out of business or did not have the equipment to perform the testing. He and the Superintendent are very happy that our staff have taken another very important step towards safety and to protect their health.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Authority had a public advertised meeting to accept any offers for the sale of the property located at Shrewsbury and Twin Lakes Boulevard. The minimum offer required was \$65,000. There was no one in attendance and no offers were received on the property. As a point of information, we will readvertise and get the word out to realtors and the adjoining property owners in the neighborhood.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that once again, as a reminder that anyone who is in arrears with their water and sewer charges between the period of March 9th, 2020 and March 15th, 2022, a person may contact the office to make an installment payment arrangement. In addition, there may be other programs available for Low-income assistance. The State has expanded these programs further and has added additional requirements on the Authority to implement them as well as provide further assistance.

Mr. Sutton stated that we are still working with the State to get the payments submitted to the Authority properly. This is not just an issue we are having, there have been many emails that have gone back and forth from other Authorities experiencing the same problem with the State. We get copied on all of them, and the chain of emails is ridiculous, but we do not engage or participate within those particular emails.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that there are no customer committee matters, nor a need for Executive Session at this meeting.

Mr. Sutton stated that would be all for the Executive Director's 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that in conjunction with OCUA, the Authority is responsible for maintaining a "safe" level of hydrogen sulfides that enter into the County's pump stations from waste water delivered from the Authority's sewer system. This is per the County's rules and regulations. In the past we have used ferrous chloride to breakdown hydrogen sulfide. We recently joined with the County under the Co-Op to purchase a product called Bioxide. Ferrous Chloride which is what we previously used is a fairly acoustical chemical and when not handled properly can be dangerous. It is also very corrosive to metal which in time affects our force mains, valves and metal fittings within our pump stations. Bioxide is much safer and cost effective. We made this transition in early June, and it has been doing well, but we need to see how well it works over the summer with the heat.

There being nothing else for the Superintendent's Report, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer advised the Board that his report on behalf of Remington and Vernick Engineers was included in the meeting packages.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that he had two updates to review briefly. With regard to Phase II of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Replacement, we have obtained our Jurisdictional Determination indicating that we do not need any CAFRA permitting. We are proceeding with getting a bid window from the office of SED through H2 Loans. Once that bid date is approved by the Authority, we will hopefully get to actually bid this project.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Phase III of the Mystic Island Water and Sewer Main Replacement, there are some permit modifications to be included in the expanded project area. If everyone remembers we expanded the original area to include some more water and sewer replacements.

Mr. Sutton inquired about the construction costs.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that he anticipates the constructions costs will not be the same as originally discussed in 2017. He is figuring anywhere from 60 to 80 percent more than originally anticipated. This of course depends on a lot of different factors such as material availability and cost along with labor cost.

Mr. Dittenhofer apologized for this long delay and additional expense if there was something that could have been done differently by his office. He, however believes this was caused directly by delays with the State.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all for his report unless there were 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 advised the Board that her report has been submitted and she would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

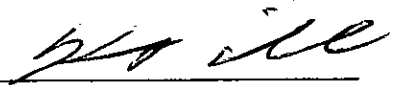
There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

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

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

There being nothing further to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to adjourn. All in favor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K. Miller', written in black ink.

Kenneth Miller, Secretary