

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

October 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on October 10, 2023, at 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 (via tele-conference), Treasurer; Kenneth Miller, Secretary; Peter Cicco; Christopher Filiciello

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: Kenneth Maxwell

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 September 12, 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. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller 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. Koptic, seconded by Mrs. Skelly 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 advised the Board that Phase II of the Mystic Island Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project is further delayed but hope to advertise in November of 2023. The Engineer will be providing a new update concerning this matter.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised that Resolution #2023-35 is on the agenda with regard to changing one of our money market accounts at Lakeland Bank to maximize our investments and to provide a higher rate of return. Thank you to Mrs. Princiotti for her efforts. We shop around to make our money work for us.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2023-35 authorizing Lakeland Bank as a depository for funds of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that as a point of information, we have entered into an interlocal agreement with the Borough of Tuckerton. Superintendent DiFrancia has been asked to assist the Borough with the cleaning of their wet wells. Currently the vacuum part of their truck is inoperable. We want the Commissioners to be aware that we will be assisting Tuckerton Borough whenever possible. We do not receive any compensation for this, but if it were to start eating up man hours and causing a burden for the Authority, we will address that at that time. But for now, it is all in the spirit of cooperation.

4 – Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Rumpf and Mr. Watkins, our Telecommunications Consultant concerning correspondence and dealing with Landmark Dividend, AT&T and T-Mobile.

Mr. Sutton stated that he doesn't want to get into all the details at this point, but we have taken a much harder stance in regard to Landmark. Our attorney, our telecommunications consultant as well as the Authority all work well together, and he feels they have communicated very clearly what we needed to say.

5 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Authority is in continued discussion with T-Mobile and the Little Egg Harbor Police Department to arrange for the restoration and painting of our final water tower located at Sea Oaks, now known as LBI National. We anticipate completing the work by Spring of 2024 with the system back online prior to Memorial Day. The carrier has come to the site to look at some of the options. The equipment is going to have to be removed while restoration is made. The equipment is going to go back on the tower, there will be no monopole at that site. The carriers will kick and scream throughout the entire process because of the cost to temporarily remove and then put the equipment back on the tower. But this is necessary in order to perform the rehabilitation.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that he would like to get authorization to go to bid for the restoration of the tower at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Koptic authorizing the Authority to go out to bid for the restoration of the Sea Oaks Water Tower. All in favor.

6 – Mr. Sutton stated that the Authority is still working on the closeout of FEMA projects from Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Sutton explained to the Board that the entire close out process is done via email and uploading to the site, and there is no communication, other than email. He explained that years ago, you were assigned a specialist who came to the site and reviewed the necessary information and subsequently closed the projects along with you. That is no longer the case, and it has made the process much more difficult.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Princiotti for her continued efforts in getting these projects closed out.

Mr. Sutton stated that there are no customer committee matters, nor any need for Executive Session for this meeting. He would be happy to answer any questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that per our allocation diversion the DEP mandates that Sodium and Chloride sampling be done at all the wells. The sample results meet or exceed the state and federal standards and have been submitted to the NJDEP for review. This has to be done every September.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that as a result of our yearly service and inspections of all backup generators, including the Authority's mobile ones, at all our facilities, the following services were completed. Well No. 8 generator was fitted with a new fuel pump. Pump Station No. 9 previously relied on propane fuel and is now retrofitted for a mobile generator and propane tanks have been safely removed from the property. Pump Station No. 10 required a new transfer switch that has also been installed.

3 - Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that in continuing with the constant upgrading and rehabilitation of some of the Authority's older treatment plants we recently completed the installation of a new lime pump at Well No. 13. The unique thing about this is Well No. 13 has a VFD which alters the gallons per minute. The new lime pump is state of the art. When the VFD ramps up, the lime pump ramps up as well. So, it is equalizing and more of a perfect dosage. The new pump is consistent with all the other pumps installed at our other treatment plants making for a uniform system at each location. All work associated with the installation was performed in-house.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that at the request of the homeowners at 81 Flax Isle Drive, the Authority personnel successfully rerouted the existing blow off hydrant located within the right of way but ending at the middle of the property, to a safe location at the far end of the property line. The existing blow off hydrant was also replaced with a brand new one extending the years of service by 30 plus years.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in conjunction with the utility pole and electrical upgrades by Atlantic City Electric along Twin Lakes Boulevard, the Authority personnel along with ABS Electric ran a new conduit and electrical wire to the new utility pole outside the fence at Pump Station No. 4. Power was then switched by Atlantic City Electric from the old utility pole to the new pole, allowing the old pole to be decommissioned once the telephone and cable companies transfer.

6 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that he was happy to report that we received Federal approval for the second round of UCMR5 water samples tested. The results have been submitted and posted on the NJDEP website. This completes the required sampling of UCMR5 for the year.

7 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that his work order management report has been attached and reviewed the details.

Mr. DiFrancia 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 Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that his report has been submitted and he would like to go over a few items.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to the Mystic Islands Phase II Water and Sewer project, the end is near. We have gone back to the State seeking authorization to advertise after making some adjustments to the quantities. Once approved by the IBank we will advertise accordingly.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Phase III, we have received some comments back from the State as mentioned at the Authority's September meeting. We have revised our plans and re-submitted them to the NJDEP.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller 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 stated that as everyone can see she has continued to work on getting AT&T on board. Other than that, 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. Cicco, 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. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

Mrs. DePergola asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn. All in favor.



Kenneth Miller, Secretary