

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

March 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on March 12, 2024, 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; 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 (via tele-conference); 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 February 6, 2024 regular meeting. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes.

During the approval of the prior minutes, Mr. Filiciello entered the meeting and was marked present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Koptic 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. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the operational account bills resolution. 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 started by thanking his staff at the Authority who did their usual superb job in his absence while on vacation. And special thank you to Mr. Miller for his required additional time for signing documentation.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-12 is on the agenda for approval with regard to the emergency work required for Well #10. The Superintendent will discuss this matter in greater detail on his report as well as a subsequent emergency with regard to another collapse on South Longboat Drive. That is Resolution #2024-14 and was added subsequent to the packages being provided to the Board.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-13 is on the agenda for approval. This will appoint Colliers Engineering and Design (DBA Maser Consulting) as special projects engineer for the Authority. This was discussed at the last meeting and there wasn't time to review the information. Upon further review it is recommended that we appoint them. We may or may not find a need to utilize them. But it is prudent to have them as a backup in the event there is a conflict or something of that matter.

Mr. Sutton stated that he will entertain the resolutions before going any further.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-12 declaring an emergency with regard to the necessary modifications for Well #10. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-13 appointing Collier's Engineering and Design, Inc. as Special Projects Engineer for the Little Egg Harbor MUA. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-14 declaring an emergency for the necessary repair of a sewer main collapse between 110-118 South Longboat Drive. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Joseph Koptic – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that he would like to extend a special thanks to our telecommunications consultant Matt Watkins and Deb Rumpf for the renegotiation of a temporary agreement between the Authority and T-Mobile at our High Ridge site location. Both will also continue to work on a permanent agreement with T-Mobile. This will guarantee a completely new blasting and painting of the water tower at no cost to the Authority.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that he will be attending a Little Egg Harbor Senior Advisory meeting on March 25, 2024. This will be the third time we have met with this group and have been very well received in the past.

6 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that there are no customer committee matters, nor the need for an executive session.

That being all for his report, a motion was made Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia began by requesting authorization to go out to bid for the Authority's Annual Contracts for Emergency Contractor, Chemical Contracts and water and sewer plant supplies.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to authorize the Authority to go out to bid for our annual contracts. All in favor.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the painting for Sea Oaks Water Tower is underway. The tank was taken off-line on March 4th, and T-Mobile's contractor has been up there removing everything they can for now and welding things into place. MBA will be in tomorrow to do some testing on their welds and the existing framework. The contractor is up there as well setting up the scaffolding and are scheduled to begin blasting in the next three weeks.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in reference to the Resolution #2024-12 and the emergency at Well #10, before the well was taken offline, he performed some pressure testing and where we took the tank off line intermittently, pressure gauges were installed all over that portion of town. Then ran the wells we have, well #8 which goes to high pressure, well #12 which goes to both high and low and well #10 which is right where the water tank is being refurbished. When the tower was put online, pressure was increased to a dangerous level. That is why we place pressure gauges all over town to monitor.

Mr. DiFrancia went on to explain how putting different wells online and taking others off, creates different pressure throughout town. And with Sea Oaks Tower being offline there is no place for the water to go. He added how the demand from regular use of residents and in cases of fire company use this can all impact the pressure through the system.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that through the pressure gauges, that immediate portion of town saw high spikes in pressure when well #10 was running through the system with the water tower being offline. To correct this issue and maintain adequate water in the event of a fire emergency the Authority needed to declare an emergency in order to have a VFD installed at well #10. The installation of the VFD will regulate the gallons per minute the well is producing and in turn maintain proper pressures throughout the water system.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report has been attached and reviewed the items.

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

There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Superintendent's report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer apologized for not being physically present today but rather on tele-conference and explained that there was a weather delay in his flight, affecting his ability to be there today.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that first on his report is an update on Phase II of the Mystic Island Water and Sewer Main Replacement project. We have a verbal authorization from the department head at the Infrastructure Bank to advertise this project for bid. Once he is back, he will be discussing advertising and bid opening dates with the administrative staff of the Authority.

He is hopeful that those dates will be at the end of March or in April and that the beginning of summer we should start construction.

Mr. Dittenhofer advised the Board that for Phase III of the Mystic Island Water and Sewer Main Replacement, permit packages should have been delivered to the Authority for review. He reminded the Board that we already have our jurisdictional determination so we are not anticipating the same type of delays as with Phase II. We are hoping that the permitting process will not take more than three months, and we can begin construction right on the heels of Phase II wrapping up in the fall.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the rehabilitation of the Sea Oaks Water Tower is underway and barring any weather delays, this project should run on schedule and be completed by Memorial Day Weekend.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all for his report and he 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 Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf stated that her report has been attached for review. She would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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

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

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



Kenneth Miller, Secretary

