

**LEHMUA**  
**Regular Meeting**

**June 11, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on June 2024, 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Margaret DePergola, Chairwoman; Marie Skelly, Treasurer; Kenneth Miller, Secretary; Peter Cicco; Kenneth Maxwell (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 (via tele-conference); Debra Rumpf, Esq., Authority Attorney (via tele-conference)

**THOSE ABSENT:** Joseph Koptic, Christopher Filiciello

**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 May 14, 2024 regular meeting. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – 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, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

**BILLS RESOLUTION**

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1 – Mr. Sutton stated that the Annual Audit has been complete. There are no deficiencies noted and no action plans are noted as expected. A special thank you to Brian Logan and his staff for performing the audit.

Mr. Sutton stated that it was important that we had that minor increase. There were some shortfalls on the water side that we are making up for on the overall expenses and the debt service we are incurring.

Mr. Sutton also thanked Mrs. Princiotti and the staff for providing the necessary information to the auditors in a timely fashion. And thank you to our customers for responding to the letters sent by the auditors. Frequently, they think it is fraud and usually end up confirming with the Authority that it is part of our annual audit process.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that there is a resolution on the agenda to approve the audit as presented. Approval is recommended.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that we will take up the Resolutions all at once, later in the meeting.

2 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that he was happy to report that the Authority received notification from FEMA that we will be receiving a reimbursement of \$286,832 for costs expended from Superstorm Sandy. The Authority received \$412,622 shortly after the storm to cover expenses for labor, meters, cleanup and supplies. It is unusual that they provided money in advance, but the Authority did put that aside and spent it very conservatively and was still able to submit for additional expenses.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Princiotti for her efforts and mentioned that she worked with him to get these final expenses reported for reimbursement. It was a lot of work and a lot of time, but it is finished and this project will be officially closed.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-30 is on the agenda with regard to the award of Chemical Contracts No. 1, 3, 5 and No. 6 for the ensuing year. Approval is recommended.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-31 is on the agenda awarding a contract for the Emergency Repairs of Water and Sewer Mains and Services for the ensuing year. Approval is recommended.

5 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-32 is on the agenda awarding a contract for the supply of water plant supplies to various vendors for the ensuing year. Approval is recommended.

6 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-33 is on the agenda awarding a contract for the supply of sewer plant supplies to various vendors for the ensuing year. Approval is recommended.

7 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-34 is on the agenda granting preliminary water approval of Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Department. Approval is recommended.

8 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-35 is on the agenda granting tentative water approval of Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Department. Approval is recommended.

9 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-36 is on the agenda granting final water approval of Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Department. Approval is recommended.

10 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that Resolution #2024-37 is on the agenda authorizing the budget transfers. This is a normal process which occurs each year in the month of June. Special thank you to Mrs. Princiotti for taking care of these appropriation transfers. Approval is recommended.

Mr. Sutton stated that there were no customer committee matters, nor a need for Executive Session.

Mr. Sutton took a moment to thank Mr. DiFrancia and John Mulvihill for their tireless efforts at the Sea Oaks Water Tower during the last several weeks.

Mr. Sutton 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 Executive Director's Report as submitted.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the progress for the Sea Oaks Water Tower had been fairly on track to meet the Memorial Day deadline. Once we did a final inspection on the water tower, the interior coating of the "bowl" we found that there were too many imperfections that cannot be left. There are certain mil thicknesses of the final coat that cannot exceed AWWA Standards. It was too thick in certain areas, holidays in other areas, and some areas weren't cured properly because of thickness and mixing.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that as a result of this we had to stop the project. Collectively, the Executive Director, our Engineer, John Mulvihill our Project Manager and myself came up with a plan to correct this problem.

Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that UPI was required to go back into the tank and blast it back down to a SP10 cleaning which is near white metal. This is a major setback for the Authority for time as well as UPI for time and money.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that the tank has now been primed and today should be getting the final paint job and then we will do holiday testing tomorrow. This has been grueling with 24 hour manning to ensure we have adequate pressure in the system. He can guarantee that since the beginning of this project, not one single person has called complaining of low pressure or water quality.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that the only unfortunate part of this has been the last couple of nights and the noise level with the blasting. We have been blasting up until midnight in order to keep this project moving.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Resolution #2024-29 is on the agenda for an additional extension to be granted to UPI, Inc. for the completion of the water tower at Sea Oaks. As mentioned before with the improper curing of the original finish coat by UPI and the lead time of the finish coat paint by Sherwin Williams to correct the issues, unfortunately, an extension is necessary.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the annual CCR report has been completed and was mailed with the newsletter. In addition, compliance requires drop off at various location, posting on our website, and newspaper publication. All items have been completed before the July 1, 2024 deadline.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that on May 24<sup>th</sup> the Authority assisted Frog Pond Elementary with the clearing of a blockage within their sewer line in the back of the school for the administrative offices. Upon clearing the blockage, the Authority personnel videoed the line and identified areas of concerns regarding “bellies” in the line holding water. This allows for the school to accurately address the areas with a licensed plumber, saving time and money with the trouble spots already being identified.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that later this month we will be handing out sample jars for the yearly Lead and Copper testing. Letters to the approved homes, with instructions had been previously mailed out to residents in late May. As always, the Authority is very thankful for the continued cooperation of the community in taking the time to assist in completing the mandate.

6 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that he is happy to report that we have received Federal Approval for TTHM & HAA5 water samples tested late last month. The results have been submitted and posted on the NJDEP website. This completes the required sampling of TTHM & HAA5 for the quarter.

7 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the work order management report for May will be on the July report as it was not completed at the time of the meeting package.

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.

Mr. Sutton advised that we will take the Resolutions at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2024-28 authorizing the Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit for year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-29 authorizing a fourteen (14) day time extension to United Painters, Inc. to complete the painting of the Sea Oaks Water Tower. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-30 awarding Chemical Contract No. 1, 3, 5 and 6 to various vendors. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2024-31 awarding a contract for Emergency Repairs of Water and Sanitary Sewer Mains and Services to Crest Construction. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-32 awarding a contract for the supply of water plant supplies to various vendors. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-33 awarding a contract for the supply of sewer plant supplies to various vendors. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-34 approving the preliminary water application for Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Company for Block 326.101 lot 14.01. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-35 approving the tentative water application for Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Company for Block 326.101 lot 14.01. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-36 approving the final water application for Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Company for Block 326.101 lot 14.01. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve Resolution #2024-37 authorizing the transfer of appropriations in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer advised the Board that his report has been submitted for review and approval.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Phase II of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, we have had both preconstruction meetings with the contractor and the State and fulfilled all of the preconstruction requirements. He believes the Authority has the fully signed contracts, and it is anticipated that we will issue the Notice to Proceed today and mobilization beginning later June, beginning of July.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the second item is with regard to an update on Phase III of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Project. Step two (2) of the NJIB process has been completed and will be submitted to the State agencies for review.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the final capital improvement item to be mentioned, Sea Oaks Water Tank. As mentioned before by the Superintendent, there have been some complications in the painting process. He would like to compliment the Superintendent, the Director and the staff as a whole in their reactivity with the complications that have occurred and putting forth a plan to rectify those issues.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to development applications, Pomponio Construction and Mystic Island Fire Company have been previously addressed.

Mr. Dittenhofer 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 Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

#### ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Sutton provided the Attorney's Report at this time and asked if there were any questions. 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.

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 Mrs. Skelly to accept and file all 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 Mrs. Skelly to adjourn. All in favor.

  
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Kenneth Miller, Secretary