

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

July 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on July 9, 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 (via tele-conference); 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: Joseph Koptic

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 Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the June 11, 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 Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Miller 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. Miller, 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 advised the Board that the Authority received payment from FEMA in the amount of \$286,832. The persistence paid off on our part. Between Mrs. Princiotti and myself, we really pushed to get this reimbursement.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2024-41 is on the agenda to adhere to MEL’s JCFI Banking Best Practices concerning wire transfers and ACH. This was implemented to ensure we had a lower deductible in the event of a security breach. Approval is recommended.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Authority recently received approval for the Basic and Intermediate levels of compliance concerning Cybersecurity. This reduces our out of pocket deductible substantially in the event of a cyber security breach. Special thanks to both Mark Heinrichs Sr. and Vinny Johnson for their additional efforts to complete this task. We had to install additional software and complete a lengthy checklist for this.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised that as a point of information, the customer base continues to grow, the population of year-round residents has increased and daily water usage numbers are rising. The main impact is the usage of our water is rising substantially, and we are doing everything we can to keep up with the demand. At the time we have not instituted any water conservation methods under the DEP standards and we don’t anticipate having to do that. Many towns have odd/even requirements for watering. We don’t want to have to do that, and our customers are not feeling the demand, but we are.

5 - Mr. Sutton stated that Mr. DiFrancia will speak more of this in his report, but right now we are asking for authorization to prepare specifications and go out to bid for a new water tower. It is anticipated that it will be constructed somewhere along the Route 9 Corridor, possibly near Walmart. The cost is estimated between \$1.4 million and \$1.7 million for a spheroid tower similar to the one in Sea Oaks.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Skelly authorizing the Authority to prepare specifications and go out to bid to construct a new water tower. All in favor.

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

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

Mrs. Skelly asked if we have any land for this tower?

Mr. Sutton stated that we did not, but we could certainly obtain the land necessary. We anticipate we will have cooperation in obtaining the land we need. Ideally, we would like to have two water towers, one here at the Route 9 Corridor and one on Osborn Island. Mr. DiFrancia will talk more about that on his report.

Mr. Miller asked if it would be on the same side as Walmart?

Mr. Sutton advised that more than likely, yes it would be.

Mrs. DePergola asked if there were anymore questions for the Executive Director. There being none 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

Mr. DiFrancia stated that before he gets started on his report he would like to re-cap a bit on what the Executive Director mentioned in his report.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that each year the demand gets greater and greater. We've done a great job on keeping up with this demand and providing water with the use of the Well #12 Treatment Plant, which has helped significantly. A new water tower for the high pressure side would be helpful to continue to keep up with the demand, especially during the summer months.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that the Sea Oaks Tower and the Wildcat Tower are the same size, and if we could replicate that, that would be ideal. Of course, there would be a hydraulic study to determine the best location for the tower as well as the height requirements. That is where we would begin. Like the Director mentioned, somewhere near Walmart would be the ideal location.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that next door to this building, our standpipe with the beach scene, we are looking to construct something of the same size on Osborn Island. Osborn Island has a treatment plant which is Well No. 13 that pumps 1000 gallons per minute. We are maxed out at around 450 gallons per minute. We cannot get the water off the island quick enough. The water main that comes from Well No. 13 is an 8 inch water main that becomes a 12 inch water and then back down to an 8 inch water main, creating a bottleneck. The water then gets to the standpipe here at the shop, then to the ground storage tank at High Ridge and then to Great Bay Boulevard. These three (3) are on the low-pressure side.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that if we were to have a standpipe on Osborn Island, we could increase the gallons per minute, relieving that well and filling the tank up. This would be beneficial to the Authority and the residents of Osborn Island.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that no one knows or feels the impact of the high demand, even with Sea Oaks being off-line.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia advised that Board that the Sea Oaks Water Tower has been put back in service on Friday, June 21, 2024. The Authority personnel worked long into the night on Tuesday, the 18th to get the tower filled. We first had to fog the tower with chlorine per AWWA standards and then allow that to sit for the required time. Then we filled the tower with the chlorine in it and let it sit for 36 hours. AWWA requires 24 hours, but we wanted to be sure we got good readings on the bacteria and VOCs. Once we got those results back, we sent the information to our Engineer and got the tower back online.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that on Tuesday, June 25th we worked with Motorola for the police equipment to go back online which is synchronized to the bombing range and their tower at the police department. We will have to shut them back down for four to eight hours in the near future to swap out two antennas.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Resolution #2024-38 is on the agenda for the final water approval for JLC-EOB.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Resolution #2024-39 is on the agenda for the final sewer approval for JLC-EOB.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that on June 13th the Authority along with the Authority’s Emergency Contractor successfully managed and repaired a major water main failure at the intersection of Giffordtown Lane and Leacock Drive. Due to the severity of the failure and the fact that the main was the sole source of water for Pinelands Regional High School, the Authority deemed it necessary to declare an emergency and contact our Emergency Contractor, Crest Construction.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that he was in close constant contact with the Superintendent, Mrs. McCooley, keeping her up to date with the status. With Sea Oaks Water Tower being off-line, we implemented an emergency plan with the use of the pressure relieve valves on the fire hydrants.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that the water was off for only 30 minutes and then properly flushed according to AWWA Standards. Even though not required, we did reach out to the DEP and let them know of the situation. We were told that we did not have to do an incident report because it was a controlled shut down.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that between the Authority personnel and our Emergency Contractor, there were no issues, and there was no disruption to the school day and classes remained in session.

6 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that because of the declared emergency, Resolution #2024-40 is on the agenda authorizing the Emergency Repairs to the water main at Giffordtown Lane and Leacock Drive.

7 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in June we completed all the required lead and cooper sampling and he is happy to report that all of the results meet or exceed all Federal and State requirements. Once again, the Authority thanks the residents who participated in the collection and mandated samples.

8 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that work on Phase II of the Authority’s Infrastructure Plan to remove and replace all the water and sewer mains that have exceeded their life expectancy began yesterday. The contractor began mobilizing all of their equipment and he is hoping they begin breaking ground tomorrow.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that there is a small issue with securing brass and some other products right now. Construction will still begin, but they may have to bounce around a bit, waiting for parts to come in. He anticipates that the project will continue to run on time and be completed sometime in the winter months. Once completed the Township will follow with drainage and road improvements.

9 – Mr. DiFrancia reviewed his Work Order Management Report with Board.

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. Miller to approve the Superintendent’s Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mrs. DePergola advised the Board that we would take action on the Resolutions at this time.

Mr. Sutton reminded the Board that Mr. Miller will abstain from Resolution #2024-38 and #2024-39 due to a conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-38 granting final water approval for JLC-EOB, LLC, Block 282.01 Lot 8.02. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to approve Resolution #2024-39 granting final sewer approval for JLC-EOB, LLS, Block 282.01 Lot 8.02. Roll call vote, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2024-40 declaring an emergency regarding the needed repair of a water main at the intersection of Giffordtown Lane and Leacock Drive. 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 #2024-41 adopting MEL's JCMi Banking Best Practices. 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, the contractor has been on site mobilizing and stock piling material and equipment to the site.

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. The permit packages have been completed and the NJIB step two has been complete. The only reason we have not submitted these yet is to ensure the resiliency requirements by the IBank have been met. We don't want to have to submit these twice.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the final capital improvement item to be mentioned, Sea Oaks Water Tank. As mentioned before by the Superintendent, the tank is online. He commended the staff in their continuous efforts in getting this back online.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to development applications, JLC-EOB, LLC have been previously addressed and there are corresponding letters from his office recommending final water and sewer approval.

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 Mrs. Skelly to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

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

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

A motion was made 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 Mrs. Skelly to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

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

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



Kenneth Miller, Secretary