

LEHMUA
Regular Meeting

August 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on August 6, 2024 at 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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael S. DiFrancia, Superintendent; Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary/QPA; Trace Dittenhofer, Authority Engineer; Debra Rumpf, Esq., Authority Attorney

THOSE ABSENT: Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director; Joseph Koptic; Kenneth Maxwell; 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 Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 regular meeting. Roll call vote, 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, 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, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia gave the Executive Director's Report in his absence.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Mr. Sutton apologizes for not being here at the meeting this afternoon. His travel plans were changed and he had to leave earlier than anticipated.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the Authority has received proposals for professional services concerning the two (2) additional water towers, and we are in the process of reviewing them.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that he and the Executive Director will be revising the Authority's Rules and Regulations. In particular to access fines and penalties for individuals who are caught stealing water by not having a meter, or illegally connecting to a fire hydrant. The Authority's position will be to prosecute and fine as per the Township Ordinance in effect to the fullest extent of the law. Stealing water is not fair to our customer base who follow the rules and regulations.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that we have had a lot of companies connecting to our fire hydrants illegally. People feel that they can hook up and get free water. We used to not get the police involved, but now we do. Just this last week we had someone hooked up to a hydrant, we filed a police report and we are going to follow through with it.

Mr. DiFrancia explained that it isn't just about the water and the theft of the service, but it is also about disturbing the system. Once you open the hydrant you can have a high flow or a drop in pressure. This impacts the entire system.

Mr. DiFrancia reiterated that we are looking to tighten up these rules and following through with filing charges and fines.

Mr. Cicco asked whether there was anything in our rules and regulation with regard to this issue?

Mr. DiFrancia stated that there was not.

Mr. Cicco asked what happens then when we catch them before these are made part of our policies?

Mr. DiFrancia explained that right now we will be calling the police and making an official police report. But right now, he and the Director have been speaking about implementing a fine, and then if they don't pay the fine, prosecuting them and having them go before the Judge.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that one thing to keep in mind is that the theft is criminal, and if it is a company, that is a strong deterrent to have to go before a Judge for theft. It is good that a police report is filed. We can also address in the complaint how much water you think was consumed during the theft, forcing them to pay restitution.

Mr. DiFrancia went on to explain that the Authority does sell water, and that we have a resolution in place where someone has the ability to rent a meter, and attach it to a hydrant with our permission, and they pay for the water that way. This allows us to control where the water is taken from and when.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that there are no items for customer committee, and no need for executive session.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that was all for the Executive Director's 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. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that as of Monday, July 15, 2024 the Authority personnel began annual flushing of the hydrants. This is something we do each year, however, this year it was postponed until the Sea Oaks Water Tower was placed back in service.

Mr. DiFrancia explained that annual flushing is imperative to the overall maintenance of the water distribution system, and all fire hydrants in the system during this time are inspected and routine maintenance is performed. Any deficiencies are reported and addressed immediately.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that it is anticipated that all hydrant flushing will be completed by the end of September.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that all maintenance and inspections have been completed by the Authority's service contractor for all of our stand-by emergency generators at all of our facilities; including two (2) tow-behind units. Three of the generators required additional maintenance other than the routine maintenance expected.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Boards that as part of the Sea Oaks Water Tower Rehabilitation, the Authority was able to also upgrade the remote metering system utilized for accurate residential and commercial water usage. The system is also fundamental in alerting businesses and homeowners to potential leaks by way of a "high-usage" report. That report is run in-house and then we are able to contact the customer.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that with the extreme heat and humidity, additional de-humidifiers have been purchased and placed throughout the Authority's five (5) treatment facilities. Controlling moisture within the buildings is crucial for proper operation of all of the various analyzers and equipment.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that work on the Phase II Water and Sewer Main Replacement project is underway. To date, new PVC watermain has been completed on East and West Potomac and is currently being installed along East Susquehanna. As the contractor is able to secure material, sanitary sewer will be installed on the streets where they have completed the water mains.

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

Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that there are two resolutions on the agenda for approval, we can address them now.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller authorizing Resolution #2024-42 granting preliminary water approval for 51 Holly Road Associates, LLC, Block 262 Lots 16.04-16.13. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller authorizing Resolution #2024-43 denying preliminary sewer approval for 51 Holly Road Associates, LLC, Block 262 Lots 16.04-16.13. Roll call vote, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

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.

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, work has begun as mentioned by the Superintendent. As long as we don't see delays with the supply of brass, it is anticipated that the project will run on time.

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 completed and once the Director returns, we can get those processed and signed.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to development applications, 51 Holly Road, LLC has been previously addressed and there are corresponding letters from his office recommending preliminary water approval, and denying preliminary 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.

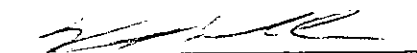
There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Attorney's Report. All in favor.

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.

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

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


Kenneth Miller, Secretary