

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

October 1, 2024

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on October 1, 2024 at 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Margaret DePergola, Chairwoman; Marie Skelly (via tele-conference), Treasurer; Kenneth Miller, Secretary; Peter Cicco, 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: 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. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes of the regular meeting. Roll call vote, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – 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, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Marie Skelly – 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, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes, Margaret DePergola – yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 - Mr. Sutton stated that both he and the Superintendent attended the Senior Advisory meeting on Monday. Again, this was a very positive outlet for the Authority in order to provide updated information and to continue building customer relationships.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that there are no resolutions for this meeting and that he believes this is the first time in his tenure at the Authority where this has been the case.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that at this time he would ask for a motion to go out to bid for the re-development of Well #13 along with the purchase of a new motor and pump. This well has been in operation for six years and the capacity has diminished substantially. Even though we have limitations with the output of this well in this location, it is timely that we get this worked out and done.

Mr. Sutton explained that when you are rehabilitating a well, the end result is even far superior than when the well was originally constructed.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller authorizing the Authority to go out to bid for the rehabilitation of Well #13. All in favor.

4 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that the Auditors have begun their work for the annual audit. Thank you to Mrs. Princiotti for providing them access to the required information.

Mr. Sutton stated that as a side note, once again our customers will receive letters from the Auditor asking for verification of certain information, and that if the Board hears anything from their neighbors or friends, they can advise them that this is a legitimate part of the audit process. If anyone is unsure though, they should contact the office to inquire about the validity.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is some confusion and questions from the public regarding a mailer offering homeowner water line maintenance. This is not offered by the Authority, is not mailed by the Authority, and we do not endorse this program.

Mr. Sutton went on to explain that a letter went out recently from a private water company that is on the New York Stock Exchange. The letter gives the appearance that the Authority authorizes this. We would never authorize another water company to perform this type of work. If work was performed by a private company, it would be done on the homeowner's property, in their yard area.

Mr. Sutton stated that the letter implies a level of fear. We cannot comment on this company or this service, but we recommend that any customer perform their own due diligence before purchasing this type of service, and of course to consult their property insurer first.

6 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that discussions are continuing with regard to the rules and regulations and we are looking for proposed updates by the end of the year.

7 – Mr. Sutton advised that there are no customer committee issues, nor a need for executive session.

Mr. Sutton stated that there is one additional item to discuss. He explained that Mrs. DePergola and he have had some conversations and respectfully she feels that it's time that she no longer serve as the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Sutton stated that this is bittersweet and expressed how much he and his staff have appreciated her guidance and support through the years.

Mr. Sutton stated that at this time, regretfully he would ask for a motion to accept Mrs. DePergola's resignation as Chairwoman, with continuing service as a commissioner.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the resignation of Mrs. DePergola as Chairwoman, with continuing service as a commissioner. All in favor.

Mr. Sutton stated that with that action, we would need to appoint a temporary Chairperson, and historically that would be Mrs. Princiotti. He asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to appoint Mrs. Princiotti as temporary Chairperson. All in favor.

Mrs. Princiotti opened the nominations for Chairperson.

Mr. Cicco nominated Ken Miller as Chairman.

Mrs. Princiotti asked for a second.

Mrs. DePergola seconded the motion, nominating Ken Miller as Chairperson.

Mrs. Princiotti asked if there were any other nominations to come before the Board. There were none.

All in favor.

Mr. Miller accepted the nomination for Chairman and resumed this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Miller nominated Mrs. DePergola as Vice-Chair.

Mr. Cicco seconded this motion.

There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair. All in favor.

Mrs. DePergola accepted her nomination for Vice-Chairwoman.

Mr. Miller appointed Mrs. Skelly as the Treasurer, seconded by Mrs. DePergola. All in favor.

Mr. Miller appointed Mr. Cicco as the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. DePergola. All in favor.

Mrs. DePergola stated that it has been a pleasure serving the Board as Chairwoman, and she looks forward to her continued service as Vice-Chairwoman.

Mr. Sutton thanked the Board and stated that he knows they will continue to serve and be an asset to the Authority.

Mr. Sutton advised that was all for his report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia congratulated Mr. Miller and Mrs. DePergola and looks forward to working with them in the future.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the yearly hydrant flushing has been completed. The flushing program not only maintains the interior of our infrastructure, but also allows the Authority personnel to perform routine maintenance and repairs as necessary on any hydrants within our system.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the Authority personnel assisted Pinelands Regional High School with the clearing of a sewer backup within the sewer main located on the board of education property. Since relieving the blockage, the Authority has performed routine maintenance to the sanitary system to prevent a blockage from occurring.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Phase II of the Authority's infrastructure rehabilitation plan is in full swing. At this time, the water rehabilitation portion is about 55% complete and the sanitary sewer is roughly 20% complete. The anticipated completion date, weather permitting is the first week of December.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the Authority's contractor, AC Schultes has completed the annual testing of all the Authority's production wells. This includes all of the back-up wells. Based on their findings, Well #13, located on Osborn Island will require additional maintenance. This well is currently the back up well for Well #14.

Mr. DiFrancia mentioned that in the near future, we will be in the same situation with Well No. 10 and the need for a rehabilitation at that site as well.

Mr. DiFrancia reviewed his work order management report with the Board.

Mr. Sutton mentioned to the Board and Mr. DiFrancia that we should take action and ask for a motion on the rehabilitation of Well No. 10 as well. As Mr. DiFrancia stated this well will be in need of rehabilitation in the near future.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that it would actually be helpful and more cost effective to have the specifications for both Well No. 13 and 10 done at the same time as they mirror each other.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola authorizing the Authority to prepare specifications for the rehabilitation of Well No. 10. All in favor.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer congratulated the members and the reorganization of the Board.

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 project is well underway and the contractor is working at a great pace and the weather has been cooperative. Our office has an inspector on site for the mere fact that P&A has several crews on site. They have done a lot of work in a short amount of time, so we want to be there to ensure the quality of work is meeting the standards of the Authority.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that other than that, there is an engineer's certificate, no. 2 for payment, and it is the recommendation of his office to pay this certificate accordingly.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Phase III of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Project, all of the permitting packages for the various agencies have been submitted, step 3 of the H2O loans has been completed and as soon as we receive DEP verification that will be underway as well.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to the Sea Oaks Water Tower, there are some punch list items remaining, but he believes that Mr. DiFrancia has those items scheduled for completion.

Mr. DiFrancia took a moment to thank Mr. Dittenhofer for his quick response and assistance with this project. As he stated, P&A has split up into two and three different crews working on different streets and with the last minute need for inspectors, Mr. Dittenhofer was able to provide them from his office.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that it was his pleasure.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all for his report unless there were any questions. There being none a motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, 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 submitted for review and approval.

Mrs. Rumpf reviewed the current position the Authority has taken with T-Mobile, and advised the Board that she and the Director have discussed this position at length.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that was all for her report unless there were any questions at this time.

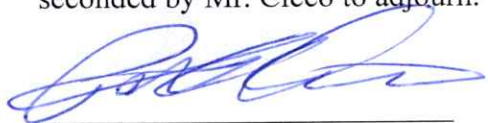
There being no questions, a motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Attorney's Report. All in favor.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. DePergola, 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. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. DePergola to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

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



Peter Cicco, Secretary