

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

October 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on October 14, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenneth Miller, Chairman; Marie Skelly Treasurer; Peter Cicco, Secretary; Suzanne Musto-Carrara; 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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Dolan of Daddy Tucker Drive

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 Mrs. Skelly to approve the September 2, 2025 minutes of the Authority's regular meeting. Roll call vote, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call vote, Christopher Filiciello – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton began by thanking the Commissioners for allowing he, Michael and John to attend the WEFTEC Conference in Chicago. The conference was excellent and we were able to obtain vital information about various new technologies and existing companies we already work with.

Mr. Sutton stated that in addition we received recognition regarding our water tower at Sea Oaks. There will be a lengthy article written about the process and our interview, and it will be published in many trade journals throughout the United States. The local media has also been contacted for coverage of this recognition.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that resolution #2025-57 is on the agenda re-adopting MEL's Banking Best Practices. Approval is recommended.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that resolution #2025-58 is on the agenda recommending award of a contract to JVS Industrial and Commercial, Inc. for the installation of a new chorine contact tank for Well #13. Approval is recommended.

Mr. Sutton stated that there was no need for customer committee, nor executive session this month. He'd be happy to answer any questions.

There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the Executive Director's Report as submitted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 – Mr. DiFrancia began by thanking the Board for allowing he, the Director and Deputy Superintendent to attend the conference in Chicago. It was really amazing to see how the industry is evolving and meet new people at the conference. It is probably one of the better and larger conferences he has attended. Because we weren't there long enough, there was a lot we did miss, but it was a good way to gather some new information that will help the Authority as we move and grow in the future.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that it was really nice to get the recognition for the water tower as well. We worked really hard on the restoration and the mural, so it was a nice bonus.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in preparation of the coming winter much needed maintenance was completed on the individual heaters located at the Sea Oaks Treatment Plant off Frog Pond Road. The heaters and coinciding components are all original to when the plant went on-line back in 2001. Maintenance included various replacement parts on each individual heater with total replacement of the exhaust systems of each heater through the plant's roof.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that recently the Acme Plaza experienced an issue with their onsite sanitary sewer system. A blockage caused by a buildup of grease, resulted in a back-up of the plaza owned manholes onsite. Although the onsite sewer improvements are owned and operated by the Acme Plaza, this was a health and safety concern, we mobilized immediately to contain the issue and prevent any overflow issues where the DEP would have to get involved. The Executive Director reached out to the property manger immediately and let them know that we

would be back-charging them for the time we spent there, and would have to meet with them to find out what they would be doing to prevent this from happening in the future.

Mr. DiFrancia explained that ultimately what happens in that facility is, as the waste water leaves the facility it travels a couple hundred feet and then begins to cool and harden as it makes it way to our mains and then coats the mains. This backup was on their property and once they were able to get through the blockage, the grease did transfer down to our mains and created more cleaning for the Authority to perform. We did send them the bill, and actually, just today got payment.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that he and the Director met with the property manager and came up with a maintenance agreement moving forward.

Mr. Sutton added that they (Vision Property Management) were very diligent, came to the site immediately, and stated it will be a pleasure working with them in the future. The owner has multiple commercial properties and is very proactive and mentioned he may take steps to improve that plaza. It was refreshing to see them react that fast, and not argue the point.

Mr. Sutton stated that they also learned some interesting things about the plaza that they didn't know. To get off track for a moment, something we have done since his tenure here is making sure that when a development comes in, whatever we are going to inherit, will be to the Authority's standards. We are no longer going to accept what we have in the past. And we learned some things about Acme Plaza building that had been accepted in the past and he has to say he and Superintendent DiFrancia were quite surprised.

Mr. DiFrancia explained that with a plaza like that you have multiple businesses and one owner for the property. So, if there is a major issue on the property, all of the businesses are closing down. For instance, with Walmart they built their pumpstation on their property and it is owned and operated by them. If there is an issue on the property with the pumpstation, or anything else, they can just close the store down. With developments, we tell them they have to build to our specifications and regulations, because we are going to take ownership up to the curb. It's different with commercial properties like Walmart, Tractor Supply, and the Acme Plaza.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that Authority personnel replaced the lower cutting teeth on our “muffin monster” at pump station no. 2 on Osbourne Island. The “muffin monster” is a critical component of the pump station that eliminates rags, and larger debris haphazardly flushed into the sewer system. By replacing the cutting teeth in house, the Authority was able to achieve a substantial cost savings to our rate payers.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that his work order management report is attached and reviewed the items.

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

Mr. Miller inquired about the Acme Plaza and whether that backup affected all of those stores.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that yes, it was the main trunk line. And the grease comes from multiple things, like soaps, makeups, food etc. You have the acme, the pizzeria, the Chinese restaurant, even the dollar store, and the dentist. It's not just one store, it's a multitude of things occurring.

Mr. Sutton stated that more importantly, once it gets backed up there it impacts our main lines which can have an impact on a lot of customers.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that he can't put it back on the stores. We don't keep a maintenance log of what's being performed. But with the new property management, we have a better plan moving forward.

Mr. DiFrancia added that the recent storm went fairly well. We spent some long hours getting past the last high tide, so by tonight we will be in great shape. There was a lot of preparation over the weekend, but we didn't have any backups or any major issues. The plant personnel were in with him, and periodically throughout the weekend, and everything went well.

There being no more questions, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly 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 and he would like to briefly touch on some items.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the first item is the Mystic Island Phase II Water and Sewer Main Project. The final change order has been submitted and approved by the NJDEP, but he believes there are still some requisitions outstanding.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Mystic Island Phase III Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, he has the finishing touches that were put on the plan. He and was discussing them with the Authority prior to the meeting today. These will be submitted back to the NJIB, and then we will await our authorization to bid.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Well No. 13, we have had a pre-construction meeting with the contractor. We were notified that the lead time for the pump will be extended another month. We are still confident that we will be able to complete this work during the Authority's slower production months.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Well No. 6 filter replacement, the contracts have been prepared and his office has already approved submittals for the actual filter replacement. In accordance with the Authority's staff, we have also prepared details with regard to the replacement of the roof. Once we have plans from the contractor for the roof, he will pass that along to the Authority.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the next item is for the Chlorine Contact Tank at Well #13, his office opened bids the last week with the Authority. We recommend award to JVS Industrial in the amount of \$193,410.00 for this work to be completed in the next couple of months.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all for his report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Carrara, seconded by Mrs. Skelly, to approve the Engineer's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf stated that she has submitted her report and would be happy to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Miller stated we will handle the resolutions at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to approve Resolution #2025-57 adopting MEL'S JCMI Banking Best Practices. Roll call vote, Christopher Filliciello – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2025-58 awarding a contract to JVS Industrial and Commercial Contractors, Inc. for Well No. 13 Chlorine Contact Tank. Roll call vote, Christopher Filliciello – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

Mr. Miller asked if there was anything else to come before the Board. There being no other matters, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

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

Mr. Steve Dolan of Daddy Tucker Drive was in attendance and introduced himself to the Board and indicated that he is not a full-time resident. He started by thanking to the Board and mentioned that his hometown where he is from also has a Municipal Water Authority and his water bill here, is half of what it is in his hometown.

Mr. Dolan went onto say that the sewer on Daddy Tucker is Tuckerton's sewer, but wanted to know why the water main wasn't replaced by the Authority at the same time. It broke three times during the installation of the sewer line. It was not well-marked. His house was the first one they dug to have the sewer lateral put in and the mark-out was four feet off where the water line was going up the street. They dug carefully and didn't break the line, but the water line is ancient, it's made out of concrete asbestos and he believes because the street was already dug up, the line should have been replaced at that time. What he doesn't want to see is, and it's not paved yet, but six months from now when it is, we come in and dig the roadway up to replace the water main. He knows there is a method but, he was also in the industry and understands there are newer ways to go about things like this, but ultimately wants to know why the main was not replaced when the street was already open.

Mr. Sutton began by saying first and foremost, we don't make excuses, but the true beginning, middle and end of this particular instance, we got notification pretty late in the game that they, meaning the Borough of Tuckerton, received grant money for paving this roadway. It is a unique situation that they have the sewer and we have the water. There was not enough time for us to do the work, and ideally he would love to do it that way, because we look like knuckleheads when we have to rip a road up after it's been paved. We take as many preventative measures when they are doing final paving; we don't allow certain things like vibratory rolling which can disturb the mains. But in general, we always take a look at an analysis of the street, how much work we have there in terms of the history of breaks and what not. In that area, we did not have a history of repetitive maintenance. And obviously, it frequently comes down to money, but in this case it was more about timing.

Mr. Sutton explained that when they receive grants there are specific times that they have to utilize those funds, and if they don't they lose that money. It also goes hand in hand with what

he said earlier. We had bad mark-outs, garbage as-builts, and Mr. DiFrancia can attest to this because he's been here 30 years. It's almost like finding a needle in a haystack. You have asbestos concrete pipe and can't use the traditional methods to locate the pipe. Now all pipes in our systems are put in properly, they are able to be located and there are accurate as-builts. In this instance, that was not the case. They were allowed to put in whatever they wanted, and when you look at it there was no common sense when initially constructed.

Mr. Sutton stated that we did our due diligence, and certainly the contractor could have hit the lines, but the good news is, we had someone from our crew out there inspecting the entire time, as well as the Township with their inspectors.

Mr. Sutton assured Mr. Dolan that had we had the time to do it, had enough notice, we would have. Now we are going to pray that there aren't issues that come up in the future. That's the truth and reality of it. We have always worked cooperatively with Tuckerton Borough, the Township and will continue to do so. He will never do anything half-way and money is never an excuse for not doing something that needs to be done.

Mr. DiFrancia added that when the eleventh hour was coming up, we did some test pits. In his history at the Authority, they have only had two issues on Daddy Tucker and it was about how the corporation was attached to the main. The main itself is sound, there has never been an issue with it, never been a main break that has happened because of the main itself. There have been breaks due to contractors and the weight of their equipment. The last one was about a year ago and they were doing work on the road where they milled and paved half the road and then Tuckerton came in after, the machinery that came in to mill, the weight of that machine caused the break, and that was repaired. Again, the main is sound and we did test pits on half of the services to find out if there were any issues with the service and the type of service it is. It was all 200 class or above which is all new plastic, and there was even some copper. Both of these will last a lifetime.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that the issues are where the termination point is, where you have the corporation or the saddle. When Mathis Construction was running the line, and we could see this issue with the saddles, we replaced them. We also put a fire hydrant at the end so we had a means of flushing out the main. Once a year we do hydrant flushing, and the blow off at the end was very small. He wanted to get some velocity through there, creating better water quality.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that going back in the history of workorders for that area, we have intermittently checked the main in certain areas, especially in this case where we knew the mark-out was inaccurate. We actually found where one service was coming in and split to service two separate dwellings. We corrected that. But like Mr. Sutton stated this is a very unique situation where we have the water and the sewer is owned by Tuckerton.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that initially when we found out about this at the last minute we were going to do the short-side services in-house, and then have the contractor come in and do the long-side service. Once we went out there and starting looking at the services, we could see that they were newer services, 200 class and above. So, there wasn't a need.

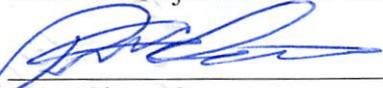
Mr. Sutton stated that the sewer mains out there was critical. It's the gases that eat away at the pipe and then you get the collapse. But the water main is really good and sound.

Mr. Dolan thanked the Board, the Director and Superintendent for this information and time.

Mr. Sutton stated that at any time he can call us if he has a question. We pride ourselves in good customer service.

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to close this portion of the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

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



Peter Cicco, Secretary