

**LEHMUA
Regular Meeting**

December 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on December 9, 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; Kenneth Maxwell (via tele-conference); Suzanne Musto-Carrara (via tele-conference); Christopher Filiciello

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: None

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

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. Carrara to approve the November 12, 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. Carrara to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 - Mr. Sutton started by wishing everyone a healthy and happy upcoming holiday. He is looking forward to the new year, as always it has been a real pleasure working with everyone, our Board and our Professionals. He expressed his, Mr. DiFrancia's and Mrs. Princiotti's appreciation for the continued support, and feels we have been truly blessed.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that Phase II of the final close-out has begun. Final payment requisition has been submitted for reimbursement to the NJDEP and the IBank. He received notification from bond counsel that it's anticipated sometime in the Spring of 2026, possibly May, we will end up converting the short-term funding to permanent long-term financing.

3 – Mr. Sutton advised the Board that he has begun working on the budget for next year which will be introduced in March of 2026.

Mr. Sutton stated that another important note he wanted to mention was that our health insurance premiums have gone up for the upcoming year and between he and Mrs. Princiotti, he is pretty sure they both had a stroke with the ridiculous increase. Ultimately, our increase is 35%. He budgeted a 20% increase and never anticipated this large of an increase for the new year. We found that some members of the State Plan had increases of above 50% in their plans. Something has to be done, and we are exploring other insurance options at this point, but we do have to be cognizant of our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that he and Superintendent DiFrancia, Deputy Superintendent Mulvihill and Assistant Maintenance Chief Keller are instituting a new program for all of our well and pump station facilities concerning a daily operations checklist. This will help with our newer employees as well as the leadership team in better identifying issues and improve overall operational and maintenance costs. Ultimately, giving Superintendent DiFrancia a bit of a break and assurances that things will be done properly on a daily basis.

Mr. Sutton noted that one of the facilities has over 50 items that have to be checked on a daily basis. There will be more accountability with this and ease of training as we move forward.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that those residents that are required to connect to the system, but still have not, will be notified by legal counsel. They've had more than enough notice at this point. Many have connected and are in full compliance and there are some real estate transactions that have triggered some of those situations. However, there are still some remaining and it's unfortunate the Authority has to push the issue at this point.

6 - Mr. Sutton stated that there are several resolutions on the agenda. The first one is a resolution is concerning an opposition to a proposed settlement between the NJDEP and 3M Company regarding PFAS, a hazardous type of chemical that lasts forever and has some negative health effects.

Mr. Sutton advised the Board that they, meaning 3M, put it out to the public that they attempted to make this agreement which they have, but he has looked at it and it falls short. The dollars are short and it dismisses 3M of any potential culpability later for any lawsuits that may arise.

Mr. DiFrancia stated this does not show up in our water and Mr. Sutton concurred, and stated that the levels of PFAS in our system are non-existent. We are very fortunate.

Mr. Sutton stated that those systems that do have it are going to have to spend millions of dollars to treat it, and for some of the smaller entities, they can't afford it. Consequently, they are taken over by the larger privatized water companies, and costs go up.

Mr. Sutton stated that ultimately the position the Authority is taking is that we agree and are joining in the opposition of the proposed settlement.

7 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is a resolution on the agenda denying tentative compliance to AVB Real Estate. This is for sewer and ensures that we are in compliance with the response time of the application. They still need some additional information as mentioned in the Engineer's letter, and hopefully they will have that request completed by the January meeting.

8 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is a resolution on the agenda regarding a refund to JoJess for a duplicated payment at tax sale.

9 – Mr. Sutton stated that there is a resolution on the agenda regarding the execution of the Risk Management Agreement with Connor Strong and Buckelew. This is an annual agreement that begins in the new year.

Mr. Sutton stated that approval is recommended for all the resolutions discussed.

10 – Mr. Sutton stated that there have been ongoing negotiations with the cell phone carriers over the last month and special thanks to Mrs. Rumpf for her efforts. We are having a meeting right after our meeting today to discuss some other considerations with regard to this.

11 – Mr. Sutton stated that there are no customer committee matters, but there is one matter for executive session regarding personnel. No action will be taken. There are just some matters he would like to address. He spoke with legal counsel and they agreed that the end of the year is a good time to go over some of these items. It shouldn't take more than 10 to 15 minutes at most.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia began by wishing everyone a Wonderful Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

1 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that the Authority received federal approval for the THM and HAA5 water samples tested. The results have been submitted and posted on the NJDEP website. We have met or exceeded all federal and state requirements and this completes the rounds for this year.

2 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that there is a resolution on the agenda for a 60-day contract extension for Derstine Company. Derstine Company is replacing the filter at Well No. 6. We have a few other projects going on at the same time, particularly with Well No. 13 Chlorine Contact Tank Replacement and the rehabilitation of Well No. 13. With these other projects occurring at the same time, we can't take Well No. 6 off-line until those are completed.

3 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that there is a resolution on the agenda regarding the time extension for the failing chlorine contact tank at Well No. 13. As of right now the contact tank has been installed into the ground with temporary piping for testing purposes. We also pulled bacteria tests and VOCs and are waiting for those results to come back. Once we have those results, the company will come back and begin piping into the well and with the new chlorine contact tank, and ultimately to the street. The well will then come offline while the piping is being tied into the existing system. We are anticipating the new tank being online before the holidays.

4 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that in partnership with Little Egg Harbor Township, as always, the Authority put on loan our compressor for the Township Park's building for the purpose of winterizations.

5 – Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report is attached and reviewed it with the 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. Cicco to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer thanked the Board for having him and stated that his report is attached and he would like to go over a few items.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that in terms of capital projects, the first item is Mystic Island Phase II Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, as the Director mentioned with regard to the close-out requirement for the NJDEP, we will also be completing the one-year project certification in order to ensure we can complete the long-term finance conversion in May of 2026.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Mystic Island Phase III Water and Sewer Main Replacement, the design documents have been completed by his office. He has not sent them to the Authority yet, but will be shortly.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the Well No. 13 Rehabilitation is being completed at the end of January 2026 in order to work with the contract extension for Well No. 6 filter building.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Well No. 6, a 60-day contract extension is being recommended by his office in order to sequence the work already being performed by the Authority.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Well No. 13 Contact Tank, the tank has been installed and pending the results of the VOC testing, final installation is anticipated and ultimately the well being placed back online.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the Sea Oaks Water Tower Rehabilitation was completed last fall and we conducted the one-year review of the tank inspection report. The contractor is required to have an inspection after one year to ensure the coating is holding up. There were some minor inconsistencies in the work that were reported. We recommend the Maintenance Bond be extended a year and another inspection be performed prior to the expiration of the Maintenance Bond.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to the development application for tentative sewer for AVB Real Estate, his office does not recommend approval at this time as noted in their review letter.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that was all for his report unless there were any questions. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf began by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that her report has been submitted and mostly entails communications as it relates to the wireless communication litigation. She reviewed some of this with the Board.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that was all for her report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

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

Mr. Miller stated that we can handle the Resolutions at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2025-63 granting 60-day extension to Derstine Company LLC to complete the replacement of Well No. 6 filter. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to approve Resolution #2025-64 opposing a proposed settlement between New Jersey DEP and 3M Company regarding PFAS. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution #2025-65 denying tentative compliance application for AVB Real Estate, Block 78 Lot 3. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to approve Resolution #2025-66 authorizing a refund in the amount of \$1986.00 to JoJess, Inc. for overpayment made at tax sale. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to approve Resolution #2025-67 authorizing the acceptance and execution of Risk Management Consultant's Agreement with Connor Strong and Buckelew for 2026. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

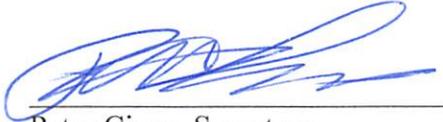
Mr. Miller asked if there were any further matters to come before the Board. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to approve Resolution #2025-68 authorizing the Authority to go into executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Roll call vote, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Suzanne Carrara – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

Upon return from Executive Session and there being no action necessary, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Carrara to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.



Peter Cicco, Secretary