

**LEHMUA  
Regular Meeting**

**April 14, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on April 14, 2026 at 12:00 PM at the Authority headquarters, 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kenneth Miller, Chairman; Peter Cicco, Vice chair; Marie Skelly, Secretary; Kenneth Maxwell, Treasurer (via tele-conference); Arlene Keenan; Frank Colandrea; 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:** Michael Alfieri

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.

**BUDGET HEARING**

Mr. Sutton stated that we will hold our Budget Hearing and asked for a motion to open this portion of the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to open this portion of the meeting for the purposes of the budget hearing as it relates to the adoption of the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 budget. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

Mr. Sutton stated that the introduction to the budget was sent to the State and was approved for final action and adoption.

Mr. Sutton stated that we had a public hearing for the rate increase. It was held here on April 6, 2026, with an official court reporter who transcribes the proceedings. Mrs. Rumpf, as well as Mr. Logan were in attendance. Mrs. Princiotti and Mr. DiFrancia were also in attendance. There were no members of the public for comments or questions.

Mr. Sutton asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There being none a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to close the Public Budget Hearing. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

## PRIOR MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve the March 10, 2026 minutes of the Authority's regular meeting. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mrs. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

## BILLS RESOLUTION

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

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1 – Mr. Sutton took a moment to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers concerning the loss of his mom on Easter Sunday. She lived a great life until the age of 92.

Mr. Sutton thanked the MUA for the beautiful flower arrangement.

2 – Mr. Sutton welcomed Mr. Mulvihill, the Authority's Deputy Superintendent. He will be attending today and will become more involved in the monthly meeting regular Board meetings. Next month, he will be giving the Superintendent's Report in the absence of Mr. DiFrancia.

Mr. Sutton stated that Mr. Mulvihill is a very vital and important member of the Administration Team, and takes an active role in the daily functions of the Authority. We thought it was an appropriate time to have him attend.

3 – Mr. Sutton stated that as mentioned the Authority held a rate hearing which was properly advertised and held on April 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM. The purpose was to present the need for a \$3.00 per month increase. In addition to the rate increase, there will also be an increase in the connection fees for water in the amount of \$500.00 and an increase for the sewer in the amount of \$250.00. Connection fee charges only apply to new customers, not our current rate payers. This increase is necessary to continue the financial well-being of the Authority along with our aggressive capital projects plan. As mentioned before there were no members of the public in attendance for the rate hearing.

Mr. Sutton stated that the new rates will go in affect on July 1, 2026.

Mr. Sutton stated that the three (3) resolutions he has are in relation to the rate hearing and the formal action necessary for the budgets.

Mr. Sutton stated Resolution #2026-17 is on the agenda to adopt the annual rates and charges to become effective July 1, 2026. Approval is recommended.

Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2026-18 is on the agenda to adopt the water budget as previously introduced in March and approved by the State.

Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2026-19 is on the agenda to adopt the sewer budget as previously introduced in March and approved by the State.

4 - Mr. Sutton stated the annual newsletter and CCR Report have been completed. This will be mailed to all customers sometime in May.

5 - Mr. Sutton stated that there are no customer committee matters to discuss, nor a need for executive session. He'd be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DiFrancia welcomed Deputy Superintendent John Mulvihill to the meeting. John is essential to the Authority and the daily operations. It will be good to have him attend the meetings moving forward.

1 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that the rehabilitation of Well #13 on Osborn Island has begun. Our contractor AC Schultes has mobilized and will be pulling the well. We are scheduled to be videoed tomorrow, and at that point we will know what process has to be done in order to rehabilitate the well.

2 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that Well #13 had to be put off for a few months because Well #6 was under rehabilitation with the new filter replacement. The old filter was taken out and replaced by our contractor Derstine. Once it was installed, we did extensive testing and the filter passed all state required VOCs and bacterial sampling and was put back into service last week.

3 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that our annual Hydrant Flushing program is underway. We do this each year. The Authority has a total of 525 hydrants in the distribution system. Flushing is a crucial part of the system's maintenance. The flushing allows for the scouring of the mains, but also, by flushing each hydrant we are able to evaluate and perform necessary maintenance to ensure they are in proper working condition. Hydrants located within the high-pressure areas are scheduled to be flushed during normal operating hours. The low-pressure areas will be flushed late at night once the rehabilitation of Well #13 is complete and back online.

4 - Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board that the Authority personnel had to deal with an additional two (2) sewer main collapses this past month. One collapse was on East Sail Drive. The other was located on South Binnacle. South Binnacle is located within the next phase of infrastructure replacement.

Mr. DiFrancia stated that both emergencies were handled in-house by our plant personnel.

5 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that Resolution #2026-20 is on the agenda regarding final sewer approval for AVB Real Estate, LLC along with our engineer's letter. Approval is recommended.

6 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that as the Board knows we assist the Township and the Pinelands School District in reading their meters and assisting them in their diversion report.

Mr. DiFrancia explained that the school district has four (4) wells for their irrigation system. Their meters are very old and need replacing and we suggested that they purchase the meters we use out in the field and that as a courtesy we will read them. Myself, with Mr. Mulvihill and Mr. Johnson will be meeting with them on Thursday to go over the criteria and what has to be done.

7 - Mr. DiFrancia stated that his work order management report is attached and reviewed it with the Board.

Mr. Filiciello asked that with regard to the Pinelands School District and the Authority assisting them, do we do the same for Little Egg Harbor Schools as well?

Mr. DiFrancia stated that if they reached out to him he would, but he believes, that unlike Pinelands who has private wells for the irrigation, the Little Egg Township Schools, if they have irrigation it is pulled right from the main lines.

Mr. DiFrancia 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. Skelly to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that he was happy to have the Deputy Superintendent at the meeting. He has been very valuable as we continue to take on these capital projects.

Mr. Dittenhofer advised the Board he had just a few things to review. The first being Mystic Phase II. There are some minor paperwork items that are outstanding in order to close on the short-term loan.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that fortunately, we have received authorization to go out to bid for Mystic Island Phase III. It is going to be on the Authority's website and advertised on Tuesday of next week. It is anticipated that it will be out to bid about 30-45 days and that we will be awarding the bid at the June 2026 meeting. This will allow us to get all the funding requirements for the current fiscal year.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to Well #13 as reported by the Superintendent, the replacement is underway. As with Well #6 this has been completed with some minor punch list items.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that with regard to the Authority's building addition, his firm has submitted site plans to the architect to incorporate with his package.

Mr. Sutton thanked Mr. Dittenhofer for his assistance in the Phase III, it was a frustrating process, he is glad it is finally underway.

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

#### ATTORNEY'S REPORT

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

There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Attorney's Report as submitted. All in favor.

Mr. Miller stated that we can take the resolutions at this time.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2026-17 approving rates and charges for sanitary sewer and water facilities. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to approve Resolution #2026-18 adopting the Authority's water budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approve Resolution #2026-19 adopting the Authority's sewer budget for fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approve Resolution #2026-20 approving the final sewer application for 1310 North Green Street, AVB Real Estate, LLC, Block 78 Lot 3. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

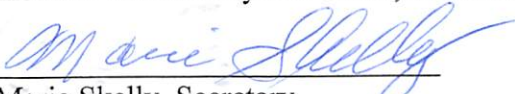
A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

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

Mr. Alfieri of AVB Real Estate was in the audience, but had no comments.

There being no additional public in attendance, a motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to close this portion of the meeting to the public. All in favor.

Mr. Miller asked if there was anything else to come before the Board. There being nothing, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mr. Skelly to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

  
Marie Skelly, Secretary