

**LEHMUA  
Regular Meeting**

**May 12, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on May 12, 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 (via tele-conference)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Earl F. Sutton, Jr., Executive Director; John Mulvihill, Deputy Superintendent; Nicole M. Princiotti, Executive Secretary/QPA; Trace Dittenhofer, Authority Engineer; Debra Rumpf, Esq., Authority Attorney

**THOSE ABSENT:** Superintendent DiFrancia

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Terri Hackett, Victoria Simon, Debbie Wuss, Jessica Carey, Gayle Miner, David Fulluz

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. Keenan to approve the April 14, 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 Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan 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 Mr. Cicco 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 started by welcoming John Mulvihill, Deputy Superintendent to the meeting, he will be delivering Mr. DiFrancia's Report while he is away on a much-needed vacation.

2 – Mr. Sutton stated that Mr. DiFrancia and he attended the Township Planning Board the night of May 7, 2026. The purpose was to present an informal presentation to the Board concerning the new addition to our building. The presentation went well and he thanked the Chair and members of the Board for meeting with them, along with the guidance from Mrs. Schilling of the Township and Mr. Oris of Remington and Vernick Engineers.

Mr. Sutton expressed that it was a smooth process and Mrs. Schilling graciously sent over the documentation the next day reflecting that everything was approved.

Mr. Sutton stated that we aren't required to do that under a previously adopted Township Ordinance, but we always take the position as a courtesy with the planning board or zoning to make sure they are aware of what's going on. In the event that anyone ever questioned them, we don't want the appearance that the Authority can do whatever we want.

Mr. Sutton stated that the Board was appreciative and it went very well.

3- Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2026-21 is on the agenda adopting a new Employee Handbook and Personnel Manual per the recommendations of the JIF. These come up quite often as compliance issues we are expected to adopt. He had Mrs. Rumpf review the changes and they were found to be acceptable for implementation and adoption.

4 – Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2026-22 is on the agenda promoting Victoria Vitiello to the position of Accounting Clerk. Ms. Vitiello is currently an employee of the Authority. This is a transition in anticipation of some possible retirements to ensure they are fully trained to meet those needs.

5 – Mr. Sutton stated that Resolution #2026-23 is on the agenda concerning a recommended pay increase to Lead Cashier Tonya Trettin. Mrs. Trettin has been an exceptional employee of the Authority for over 23 years and as a re-organization of staff and some changes Mrs. Princiotti and I are making, she will be taking on more job duties.

Mr. Sutton stated that these were all covered by our Personnel Committee, and approval is recommended.

6 – Mr. Sutton stated that we are looking forward to the bid opening scheduled for May 21, 2026 for the addition to the existing building. We have been very encouraged by the number of requests for the bids, so we are hoping to get some good numbers, get everything reviewed and possible award at the June meeting.

Mr. Sutton stated that the estimated time of construction is only 100 days, that way we are done by the holidays.

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

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

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Sutton stated that the Personnel Committee Report is attached. We discussed some of the items with regard to the promotion of Mrs. Trettin, the promotion of Ms. Vitiello and the changes required by the JIF for compliance.

Mr. Sutton stated that one additional item was discussed as it relates to Resolution #46-95 that was previously adopted with regard to P.L. Chapter 88 and health benefits for retirees.

Mr. Sutton stated that was all for the Personnel Committee unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Personnel Committee Report as submitted. All in favor.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1 - Mr. Mulvihill advised the Board that Well No. 13 on Osbourne Island is right on schedule. At the time of the report, cleaning and redevelopment of the screen and casing had been completed. The week of May 11<sup>th</sup>, it is anticipated that we should see the post-televising, disinfection and reinstallation of the brand-new pump and motor.

2 - Mr. Mulvihill stated that as part of the mandated NJDEP "Interconnect Testing" the Authority flushed and pressure tested the interconnect with Tuckerton Borough. The interconnect is only utilized in emergency situations where Tuckerton Borough may need the LEHMUA to supply them. The interconnect was found to be sound and operational.

3 - Mr. Mulvihill advised the Board that the annual hydrant flushing program continues into May. At this time the Authority has completed approximately 80% of our "high-pressure" flushing. The "low-pressure" flushing can't begin until Well No. 13 is back on-line.

4 - Mr. Mulvihill stated that he and Superintendent DiFrancia met with representatives of Pinelands Regional School District to assist them in putting together a materials list for their four (4) irrigation wells located at various locations for their fields. Installing the OMNI meters with MTUs will allow for more accurate record keeping for state reporting, which the Authority already assists the district with.

5 - Mr. Mulvihill stated that he is happy to report that mandated "secondary" samples have been completed and all samples are in compliance with the State and Federal Regulations. "Secondaries" are required to be sampled every three years. The results have been acknowledged by the NJDEP and posted on their website.

6 - Mr. Mulvihill reported that the Work Order Management Report has not been included in the packet this month in Mr. DiFrancia's absence.

Mr. Mulvihill stated that was all the Superintendent's Report unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. Keenan. All in favor.

## ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer advised the Board he had just a few things to review for his report. The first being the capital project, Phase III of the Mystic Islands Water and Sewer Main Replacement. As reported last month the project has been advertised and the bid opening will be June 2, 2026.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that as previously reported by the Deputy Superintendent, Well No. 13, the work is mostly completed. He is hoping it will be back online before the busy season and the higher demands on the Authority's system.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the next item is the Well No. 6 Filter Replacement. The well is back online and everything went very well. There are some minor punch list items remaining.

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that the addition to the Authority's building has been advertised and we are accepting bids on May 21, 2026.

Mr. Dittenhofer 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 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 Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Skelly 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. Keenan to approve Resolution #2026-21 adopting an updated personnel and procedures manual and employee handbook. Roll call vote, Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Peter Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Skelly, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approve Resolution #2026-22 promoting Victoria Vitiello to the position of Accounting Clerk. 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 #2026-23 regarding compensation for Tonya Trettin. 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. Keenan to accept and file all general correspondence. All in favor.

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

Several members of the Osbourne Island Community were in the audience.

Ms. Hackett introduced herself and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here. She explained that she is the President of the Osbourne Island Resident Association. For over the past year she has been working alongside the DEP, Save Barnegat Bay and Little Egg Harbor Township on lagoon navigation maintenance and fishkill. She is happy to report that all three organizations are working together to help us with entrance from the bay into our lagoons.

Ms. Hackett stated that they have done work over on Iowa Court, and now are looking at doing something similar on Ohio Drive coming into the lagoon itself. She explained that it's going to take them a while to get that plan established and executed.

Ms. Hackett explained that she and her colleagues are here to ask if the Authority can help them with the clean-up of the fishkill this year. She knows it's been done in the past, and she's hoping the plan they have will help reduce the amount of fishkill. It's gotten perpetually worse each year because of the sediment that has gotten into our waterways. They are hoping if they can just get past this year, and get a little help, it won't be as toxic as it has in the past and moving forward.

Mrs. Rumpf asked Ms. Hackett if they have talked to the Township about this.

Ms. Hackett replied that she has and was told that the MUA is the one that would handle the fishkill.

Mrs. Rumpf stated that in her opinion this is a Township issue and it looks like they kicked the can down the road because the Authority previously assisted in the clean-up. We are not mandated to do this, so that would be up to the Board to consider.

Ms. Hackett expressed that was why they are here, to see if it could be discussed and then she could follow-up with someone. She understands it is not a one-person responsibility; it's multiple agencies and it's why she's been successful in getting the DEP, Barnegat Bay and the Township on the same page.

Mrs. Rumpf asked Ms. Hackett if she had an estimate on how much this would cost.

Ms. Hackett replied that she didn't.

Mr. Sutton welcomed Ms. Hackett and stated that he appreciates her being here. He explained that he was here at the Authority when we had the first fishkill and it was a mess. The Township Public Works Department reached out to us at that time and asked if there was any way we could assist them with the clean up of this. They also had fire departments with some of their boats spraying water to help move some of the fish out of the lagoon areas.

Mr. Sutton explained that at that time we utilized out jet vac truck and sucked up the dead fish, and then from our vehicle they were transported to a dumpster at the public works yard. It was a nightmare. We did it, and were proactive to do so. But we looked back at it and there were so many logistical issues with it. The first issue was, having the dead fish sit in our truck overnight. Then there was the issue with them sitting in the dumpsters at the public works yard for several days because it was a weekend.

Mr. Sutton explained that it's not that we aren't amenable to taking a look at it. And at that time, we bore the full cost of that, our staff who are entitled to overtime, our vehicles, and the jet vac truck. It is the logistics of working with any future ones, and we have gotten calls on every single one of them. Last year was excessively hot and the fish come into the lagoons, there's not enough water or movement, the water gets excessively hot and the oxygen in the water deteriorates to the point that the fish can't survive.

Mr. Sutton explained that in some cases, you can have this event occur and the next day, the dead fish are completely gone.

Ms. Hackett agreed but stated that that last two years specifically that hasn't occurred, and expressed that it's been terrible and there were two months last summer where you couldn't even go outside. She even contacted the health department because of the number of birds, the waste and bird flu issues that could come from that.

Ms. Hackett stated she believes if we have all the right people together we can come up with a plan to see what can be done.

Mr. Sutton stated that he understands and each time it happens, we get a call and take a look at each case and make a decision. His biggest concern is tying up our man power and equipment for that period of time. Those things are really vital should we have an event where we have to serve our community due to water or sewer emergencies or other repairs.

Mr. Sutton expressed that this will probably occur again, he hopes it doesn't, but the issues have resolved on their own, even though it may not be as fast as we would like. He's not opposed to looking at each situation and evaluating it. We have always done that in the past and will continue to do so. If there are resources available, we will absolutely take a look at it.

Ms. Hackett asked Mr. Sutton if he would be the point of contact, and he confirmed that yes, he would and stated that we could see who is going to participate in these meetings and go from there. Unfortunately, and ultimately, the burden will fall on the Authority and that's what he doesn't want. They aren't going to be the ones out there physically taking care of this with the man power and equipment. And unfortunately, the Authority could do this several times, and the one time we can't and that becomes the issue. Just the overall logistics can be a nightmare.


Ms. Hackett stated that further north, there are towns dealing with the same issue, and they have worked out a way that it can be taken care of collectively. Maybe we can see what they do.

Mr. Sutton stated that if she wants to gather that information and provide it to him, he would be happy to take a look at it.

Ms. Hackett stated that she understands and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

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

  
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Marie Skelly, Secretary