LEHMUA

Regular Board Meeting **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Little Egg Harbor Municipal Utilities Authority was held on October 13, 2026 at the Authority headquarters; 823 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087.

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 ATTENDENCE: 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; Jane Beller, Trainee.

THOSE ABSENT: None

PUBLIC IN ATTENDENCE: 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 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 September 1, 2026 minutes of the Authority's regular meeting. Roll call vote: Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Peter 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, Peter Cicco - yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

BILLS RESOLUTION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Mr. Sutton started by introducing Jane Beller who is sitting in on the Board Meeting today in order to take minutes. This was done with a plan to relieve Mrs. Princiotti of her overwhelming workload by moving tasks that can be done by someone else off of her plate. This will free Mrs. Princiotti up to focus on duties that require her expertise and are more important. Additionally, Mrs. Beller may be asked to excuse herself in executive sessions, especially ones pertaining to personnel and confidential matters.

2. Mr. Sutton acknowledged the ongoing construction work, the noise and disruption it creates, remarking that it has been a challenge the staff has done amazing well working through. Additionally, there have not been any public complaints as of yet.

3. Mr. Sutton remarked that it's hard to believe that it's already October. There are so many projects going on right now at the Authority, and he took a moment to thank the entire staff at the Authority for doing all that they do. Mr. Sutton remarked that the Authority has a great team and he would challenge any other town, city or MUA to produce the same amount of work this team produces each and every month, so efficiently, and always mindful of cost savings.

4. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-59 is on the agenda updating the Authority's Rules and Regulations regarding installation and maintenance of the water system. Mr. Sutton gave a special thank you to John Mulvihill, Deputy Superintendent; Mark Heinrichs, Sr. and Vinny Johnson for their input and review. Approval recommended.

5. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-60 is on the agenda updating the Authority's Rules and Regulations regarding installation and maintenance of the sewer system. Again, Mr. Sutton gave a special thank you to John Mulvihill, Deputy Superintendent; Mark Heinrichs, Sr. and Vinny Johnson for their input and review. Approval recommended.

   Mr. Sutton also acknowledged and thanked Trace Dittenhofer for his recommendations and suggestions.

   Mr. Sutton stated that the Authority has already been following the Rules and Regulations, and that the above resolutions are to clarify and formally adopt them.

6. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-61 is on the agenda to award Chemical Contract #1 to Miracle Chemicals, specifically Sodium Hypochlorite. Miracle Chemical was the usual contractor, they did not bid last year and have not had the contract since then. This year their bid was the lowest at $23,580.00.

7. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-62 is on the agenda rejecting bids for annual Chemical Contract #2, #4 and #5. No bids were received. Approval is recommended.

   Mr. Sutton asked for a motion to re-advertise for bids. A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan authorizing the Authority to re-advertise for Chemical Contract #2, #4 and #5. All in favor.

8. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-63 is on the agenda concerning healthcare coverage benefits for retirees pursuant to Chapter 88. P.L. 1974 and Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. This matter has been discussed and reviewed by the Authority Counsel, The State of New Jersey Divisions of Pensions and Benefits, and with the Personnel Committee. Approval is recommended.

   Mr. Cicco stated that he had been questioned by someone as to whether or not the original benefits would be the same. Mr. Sutton clarified that that Chapter 88 rules would still apply to current full-time employees as of today's date (October 13, 2026), as they would be grandfathered into the plan. All employees moving forward, including those who are currently provisional employees, of which there are two, would be covered under the Chapter 78 rules.

   Additionally, Mr. Sutton advised that:

   - All questions should be directed to him first and he will provide an answer.
   - The Authority changed health insurance carriers this last May from the NJ State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) to a group plan through Horizon BCBSNJ for active employees.
   - For Retirees, Braven Health is the third-party administrator and is still paid through the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). For this upcoming year, the third-party administration has been awarded to Aetna, and benefits will still be paid through the JIF.
   - With regard to Chapter 88 benefits, the insurance carrier does not matter. The requirements are that the member be retired after a minimum of 25 years of applicable service in the Authority's pension system. Spouses and dependents of a retiree are no longer covered after both the retiree and the spouse are deceased.
   - Chapter 88 requires no payment from the retiree towards the coverage. Chapter 78 requires a pro rata payment.
   - Mr. Sutton reiterated that current full-time employees will still be covered under the Chapter 88 rules, and that Chapter 78 applies only to full-time, non-provisional employees as of October 13, 2026.

- Mr. Sutton concluded that the economic reality is that no one could have anticipated the massive increase in the cost of health insurance. 20 years ago, people would take lower income municipal positions that offered excellent benefits, working close to home and a pension as a trade-off. The Municipality has had to absorb the rising cost of healthcare insurance, and Resolution 2026-63 seeks to ensure future financial stability and fiscal responsibility going forward.

9. Mr. Sutton advised the board that Resolution 2026-67 is on the agenda regarding a customer committee matter as it relates to 18 Spruce Drive. The homeowner replaced their sewer lateral and had a contractor replace the cleanout. The cleanout would have been the responsibility of the Authority. The homeowner submitted a letter requesting a consideration for a reimbursement towards their cost. After review, a decision was made to reimburse 25% of the cost they paid. This amounts to $525.00, and is deemed reasonable as the Authority would have had to employ manpower and equipment to perform the work. Approval is recommended.

10. There are no further customer committee matters.

11. There is no need for an executive session.

Mr. Sutton concluded his report and asked if there were any additional questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mrs. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve the Executive Director's report as submitted. All in favor.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

1. Mr. DiFrancia is happy to report the Authority has received Federal Approval of Sodium and Chloride sampling results for required water samples tested. The results have been submitted and posted on the NJDEP website. This completes the required sampling for the present quarter and results have been acknowledged by the DEP and posted on their website.

2. Mr. DiFrancia noted that the recent Nor'easter was significant and the flooding was the worst seen since Superstorm Sandy. Mr. DiFrancia recognized and lauded the Authority personnel who answered his call and made themselves available to work tirelessly throughout the entire event. The Authority dedicated continuous, round-the-clock efforts in order to verify and safeguard the integrity of our water and wastewater infrastructure.

3. The Authority is still relentless in its efforts to continually improve our existing infrastructure, and recently had SWERP, Inc. complete full manhole rehabilitation on two of our gravity manholes at Pump Station #2 on Osbourne Island. Due to years of hydrogen sulfide gas exposure, the interior concrete surfaces were in very bad shape and infiltration of ground water was evident. Having SWERP, Inc. complete the rehabilitation, the Authority saved a significant amount of money by not having to replace the manholes and substantially reducing the amount of wastewater going to OCUA which is ultimately billed to our rate payers. The manholes will last at least another 25 years. Mr. DiFrancia acknowledged the great job that SWERP, Inc. did in completing these repairs.

4. Mr. DiFrancia advised the board that Resolution 2026-64 is on the agenda concerning preliminary water compliance for "The Oaks" restaurant; Chindo Enterprises, LLC. The property location is on the corner of Frog Pond Road and Route 539. The Engineer's letter is attached. Approval of the resolution is recommended.

5. Mr. DiFrancia advised the board that Resolution 2026-64 is on the agenda concerning preliminary sewer compliance for "The Oaks" restaurant; Chindo Enterprises, LLC. The property location is on the corner of Frog Pond Road and Route 539. The Engineer's letter is attached. Approval of the resolution is recommended.

6. Mr. DiFrancia advised the Board of an emergency sewer collapse that occurred on North Spinnaker Drive on Monday, October 5, 2026. Due to the proximity to traffic and the depth of the sewer main, the Authority had to call in the emergency contractor, Crest Construction, to complete the repairs. Mr. DiFrancia praised the wonderful and speedy work done by Crest Construction. Therefore, Resolution 2026-66 is on the agenda concerning the declaration of an emergency. The Engineer's letter is attached. Approval of the resolution is recommended.

7. The Work Order Management Report indicating the water leaks, meter repairs, sewer jobs, etc. was provided to the Board by Mr. DiFrancia.

Mr. DiFrancia then stated that his report is complete unless there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approve the Superintendent's Report as submitted. All in favor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dittenhofer stated that his report has been submitted for review by the Board. Mr. Dittenhofer remarked that the LEHMUA building improvements and additions looked great.

Mr. Dittenhofer added:

- His report acknowledged the need to find and investigate additional sites for the new water tower.
- The design work for the new pump station is about 30% completed and they anticipate permits would be secured by Spring of 2027.
- Permits for the Phase IV water and sewer main projects are expected to be available Spring of 2027.
- Included in his report are recommendations to approve the resolutions for preliminary water and sewer applications for "The Oaks Restaurant and Banquet Hall".

Mr. Sutton advised Mr. Dittenhofer that once adopted, the Authority's Rules and Regulations would be made available to his firm so that they can be incorporated into existing and future projects.

Mr. Sutton also requested a report from Mr. Dittenhofer outlining all costs and fees from his firm, so they can be accounted for in the next budget. Mr. Sutton requested that this be done in a timely manner by the next Board Meeting. Going forward, the report should be submitted annually in January.

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mrs. Rumpf advised the Board that her report had been submitted and she would be happy to answer any questions.

Mrs. Rumpf also wished to clarify that pertaining to Resolution 2026-63 regarding healthcare coverage for retirees, 25 years of service can be earned through other eligible state jobs, e.g. teachers, etc. and that not all 25 years need to be at the same position.

Additionally, Mrs. Rumpf reiterated that Chapter 88 rules still apply for current full-time employees as of 10/13/26.

There being no further questions, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approved the Attorney's report as submitted. All in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

- A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to approve Resolution 2026-59 authorizing approval and acceptance of the Authority's Rules and Regulations governing installation and maintenance of the water system. Roll call vote: Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution 2026-60 authorizing approval and acceptance of the Authority's Rules and Regulations governing installation and maintenance of the sewer system. 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 Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution 2026-61 awarding Chemical Contract #1 to Miracle Chemical Company. 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 Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution 2026-62 rejecting bids for Chemical Contracts #2, #4 and #5 so that they can be offered for re-bid. 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 approve Resolution 2026-63 regarding healthcare coverage benefits for retirees pursuant to Chapter 88, P.L. 1974 and Chapter 78, P.L. 2011. 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 approve Resolution 2026-64 approving the preliminary water application for The Oaks Restaurant and Banquet Hall, Block 194, proposed lot 10.01. 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 2026-65 approving the preliminary sewer application for The Oaks Restaurant and Banquet Hall, Block 194, proposed lot 10.01. 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 approve Resolution 2026-66 declaring an emergency repair at North Spinnaker Drive. Roll call vote: Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Keenan, seconded by Mr. Cicco to approve Resolution 2026-67 approving reimbursement in the amount of $525.00 to the homeowner of 18 Spruce Drive. Roll call vote: Arlene Keenan – yes, Kenneth Maxwell – yes, Marie Skelly – yes, Mr. Cicco – yes, Kenneth Miller – yes.

Mrs. Princiotti asked for a motion to accept and file general correspondence. A motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan. 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.

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

Mr. Miller asked if there were any other matters to come before the Board. There being no additional issues to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Cicco, seconded by Mrs. Keenan to adjourn. All in favor.

Marie Skelly