

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 1, 2020**

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

A Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by James Knoeller, Chairman. Other members present were Michael Masciale, Jack Nosti, Arthur Miklosey, Ralph Lanuto, Alan Baker and Paul DeNicola. Also present were Brian Waldron, auditor; Christopher Dasti, attorney; Alan Dittenhofer, engineer; Deborah Kramer, office manager; Edward A. Woolf, executive director; Nick Juliano, Lacey MUA/Township Committee Liaison.

**“SUNSHINE
LAW”
STATEMENT**

Mr. Knoeller read the following statement.

Notice of this meeting was adequately provided pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

Such Notice was posted at both the Lacey Township Municipal Building and at the Office of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, Forked River, New Jersey.

Such Notice was forwarded to the following newspapers:

- a. Asbury Park Press
- b. Atlantic City Press

Such Notice was also forwarded to the Lacey Township Clerk for posting and filing.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of June 3, 2020 - A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Nosti to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2020. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Nosti-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Cash Balance Report - Period Ending May 31, 2020 – Mr. Woolf summarized the cash balances for period ending May 31, 2020 as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$11,455,365.34, with earnings of \$16,817.50. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$3,550,677.62, with earnings of \$5,119.25. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$21,936.75. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$133,335.06.

Resolution 2020-38 – Adjustment of Authority's Bid Threshold – On recommendation by the executive director, a motion was made by Mr. Nosti and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2020-38, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Authorizing*

Adjustment of Bid Threshold. Roll call vote: Nosti-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

BUSINESS REPORT

The business report was submitted for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Solar Panel Evaluation – Mr. Dittenhofer stated a revised solar evaluation report was submitted to the Authority for review. The evaluation was to install solar panels on the roof of the newly constructed Administration Building to remove financing cost from the Return on Investment since the LMUA may procure the project out of current funds. His office used a spreadsheet to analyze the return on investment for the installation of solar panels. Based on this spreadsheet, the project return on investment would pay back the Authority in 10 years. The anticipated Project Capital Cost is \$63,000.00 without soft costs with Project Interest Rate of 0.00%. At the end of the 20 year life cycle there is a positive cash balance of \$50,860.42. Mr. Knoeller asked Mr. Dittenhofer to research how many solar panels can be put on the Administration building.

Mr. Baker recommended using micro inverters instead of bringing the DC unit down from the roof.

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Mr. Dittenhofer recommended payment #3 in the amount of \$70,099.89 be approved. The lining process has commenced and is being performed at night. Approximately 800 LF of pipe has been lined.

Repainting of Tank No. 1 – Mr. Dittenhofer stated contracts were sent to the attorney for review. A preconstruction meeting will be scheduled, and construction shall commence in Fall of 2020.

Column Investigation Well #7 – Mr. Dittenhofer stated A.C. Schultes has completed the column removal and pump removal. They are preparing for water quality testing and additional pump testing.

Route 9 Watermain Extension - Mr. Dittenhofer stated notice to bidders was issued, and the bid opening is scheduled for July 14, 2020.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Repainting of Tank #1 Re-Bid – Mr. Dasti stated his office reviewed and approved the contract documents.

LMUA Route 9 Water Main Extension – Mr. Dasti stated his office reviewed and approved the bid specifications.

LMUA-LBOE Lease Agreements – Mr. Dasti stated his office reviewed the Lease Agreement and Addendums between the Authority and the Lacey Board of Education with regard to the garage building. He received correspondence from the Board of Education's attorney requesting the Authority pay for the installation and repair of the HVAC equipment. As a result, the Board of Education, at its own cost, will replace and/or repair the faulty HVAC equipment. The Board of Education reserved all rights to

come back to the Authority and ask for reimbursement. He indicated to the Board of Education that this matter can be amicably resolved with a joint meeting between members of the Board of Education and the Authority.

Shutoff Notices and Municipal Liens for Failure to Pay for Authority's Services – Mr. Dasti stated his office issued a Legal Opinion advising there is nothing in the COVID-19 Executive Orders or restrictions that will prohibit the Authority from issuing shutoff notices or asserting liens against properties for failure to pay for the Authority's water and sewer services as it otherwise would under any other circumstance.

Mr. DeNicola recommended sending a notification to delinquent customers informing them there would be a lien put on their account if they do not pay their utility bill.

Amendments to the Bid Thresholds – Mr. Dasti stated the Division of Local Government Services issued notices increasing the bid threshold for public entities that have a Qualified Purchasing Agent. As a result, the maximum bid threshold was increased to \$44,000.00 for bids and \$6,600 for quotations.

**AUDITOR'S
REPORT**

Accountant's Status Report – Month Ended May 31, 2020 – Mr. Waldron reported water and sewer revenues had a favorable variance for the month and year to date. Sewer and water expenses had a favorable variance for the month and year to date. Sewer and water user charges had an unfavorable variance for the month and year to date.

Audit – Mr. Waldron stated his office is preparing the final audit report to be accepted by the Board at the August board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mark Nascimento/Patricia Pack, Taylor Lane – Requesting relief of utility bill due to broken pipe in basement. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Nosti and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment in the amount of \$1,923,54 (269,000 gallons) as well as a payment plan. Roll call vote: Nosti-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Miklosey-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS/
COMMENT**

Regina Discenza, Sunset Blvd. – Mrs. Discenza asked how many customers have not paid their utility bills. Mr. Woolf stated approximately 20% of customers have not paid their utility bills.

**PAYMENT OF
VOUCHERS**

WHEREAS, the members of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority carefully examined all vouchers presented for payment of claims;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority that:

1. Said vouchers in the sum of \$327,768.02 be and the same are hereby approved to be paid.

2. Said vouchers are listed on the attached computer check register.

A motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt the above Resolution. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Miklosey-Yes; Nosti-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy
Executive Secretary