

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by James Knoeller, Chairman. Other members present were Michael Masciale, Ralph Lanuto, Alan Baker, Karen MacArthur and Jeff Nilon. Also present were Brian Waldron, auditor; Trace Dittenhofer, Alan Dittenhofer, engineers; Chris Dasti, Esq., attorney; Mark Dykoff, Lacey Township Liaison; Deborah Kramer, office manager; and Edward A. Woolf, executive director.

**“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 August 2, 2023 - A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 2, 2023. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR’S
REPORT**

Cash Balance Report - Period Ending July 31, 2023 - Mr. Woolf summarized the cash balances as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$7,650,730.71, with earnings of \$35,263.34. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$2,242,763.89, with earnings of \$15,170.83. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$50,434.17. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$279,944.08.

Resolution 2023-44 – JIF Membership Renewal – On recommendation by the executive director a motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2023-44, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County*

of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Renewal of Membership in the New Jersey Utility Authorities Joint Insurance Fund. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Knoeller recommended a Finance Committee meeting be held regarding the restricted and unrestricted accounts. He stated some unrestricted accounts are making little or no interest. He understands some money is earmarked for certain capital improvement projects, however, if the project is not going to occur in the near future that money should be invested in short term investments. He asked the Authority's investment manager also attend the meeting.

BUSINESS REPORT

The business report was submitted for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Antenna Read and Meter/MXU Replacement Phase I – The installation of both fixed base antenna read systems has been completed and Core and Main has completed the integration of the fixed base system with the Authority's existing meters. The Authority is currently installing meters under this phase.

Route 9 Water Service – RVE is working with the Authority to have electric run to the vault. An easement shall be required by JCP&L to install the utility pole. The signed easement was received and accepted by JCP&L. Utility Pole installation and installation of the electric service to the vault to be scheduled.

Holtec Route 9 Service – Holtec has received the meters and the design has been completed by Enercon. RVE has completed the Traffic Control plan for the Holtec Water Service Installation. The completed plan was sent to Holtec on August 17th. Holtec to provide updated plans for the proposed water service installation.

Beach Boulevard Sewer Rehabilitation – Manhole Rehabilitation was completed on Beach Boulevard. Some manhole covers were not reset to a sufficient standard and shall be reset by the contractor. The contractor will be on site on September 7th to make these repairs.

Meter Replacement Phase 2 – Preconstruction meeting was held with Core and Main. Replacement of in-house meters in Zones 4 & 6 is expected to commence in July of 2023. Meter locations have been finalized and a list of all addresses is being compiled to be sent to the contractor. Meters anticipated to be fully furnished by the end of September.

Water Treatment Plant #2 Replacement Generator and Diesel Tank – Lamanna Construction is in the process of approving submittals and mobilization.

Water Treatment Plant #1 Expansion – RVE prepared a preliminary report and cost estimate on the expansion of Treatment Plant No. 1 to increase filtration capacity for the plant for consideration by the Authority. Our office will make a presentation at to what propose for water treatment plan #1 expansion.

In regards to the Holtec connection, Mr. Knoeller asked if they will mole under Route 9. Mr. Dittenhofer stated that is currently the plan since NJDOT will not give them a permit to shut the road down.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Route 9 Water Main Extension Interconnection Vault Electrical Service - Mr. Dasti reported his office reviewed the adjacent JCP&L Agreement and documents provided by the Authority's engineer and recommend execution of same.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Accountant's Status Report – Month Ended July 31, 2023 – Mr. Waldron reported sewer revenues had a favorable variance for the month. Sewer and water expenses had a favorable variance for the month. Sewer and water user charges had a favorable variance for the month.

Mr. Knoeller asked is there a way to determine what the water revenues potentially will be for the new townhomes being built in Lacey. Mr. Dittenhofer stated his office can pull all the water permit applications to get a projection.

CORRESPONDENCE

George Sayre, Clubhouse Drive – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to a pipe leak. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$520.60 (88,000 gallons). Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Steve Burton, Laurel Blvd. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to leaky pressure relief valve in crawl space. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$451.54. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Brian Baran, Leeward Drive – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to leak in crawl space. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$257.37 (55,000 gallons). Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Stephanie Stein, Letts - Requesting relief of utility bill, due to leaky expansion tank in crawl space. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$1,016.58 (169,000 gallons). Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-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 if Holtec is hooked up to the water service. Mr. Knoeller stated they are not, however, they paid the connection fee.

**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 \$1,156,959.64 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; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Knoeller asked that Troy and Darren attend the October meeting for the engineer's presentation of the Water Treatment Plant #1 expansion.

Mr. Dykoff reported the Township spent a lot of money hiring new police officers. The new police chief outlined what he would like to see the police department become. The Township committee pledged to give them what they need.

Mr. Dykoff reported the fire at Miller Airport could have been catastrophic. There is no fire equipment at the airpark so there will be conversation about the future of Miller Airport.

Mr. Dykoff reported building a new Township and recreation facility is uncertain. The Township is working with the State Finance Board to determine if building a new Town hall is affordable. If determined unfeasible, there is something new to the State of New Jersey which is a public private partnership. He explained a private entity would build the facility and the Township would lease it back from them. This would be the only way to do it without affecting the residents detrimentally.

Mr. Knoeller stated since the school budget last year was a big issue and he anticipates is not getting better this year. Mr. Dykoff stated they have to fall within the cap or make drastic cuts. Mrs. Discenza stated the school board announced they will be looking for a referendum to the budget for mechanical upgrades, HVAC, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy
Executive Secretary

