

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2023**

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, October 4, 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 September 6, 2023 - A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Ms. MacArthur to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR’S
REPORT**

Cash Balance Report - Period Ending August 31, 2023 - Mr. Woolf summarized the cash balances as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$8,359,556.55, with earnings of \$39,852.93. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$2,352,693.32, with earnings of \$9,249.36. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$49,102.29. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$329,046.37.

Mr. Knoeller reported a meeting was held with the Authority’s investment manager to discuss what funds are available for short-term investments to obtain a higher interest

rate. It was concluded that two-million dollars will be invested into short-term certificates of deposits with an interest rate over 5%.

Water Treatment Chemicals - 2024 – Mr. Woolf requested authorization to advertise and receive bids for water treatment chemicals for 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale authorizing advertisement to receive bids for water treatment chemicals 2024. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Proposed 2024 Sewer and Water Budget - Mr. Woolf stated the Finance Committee discussed and reviewed the 2024 sewer and water budgets in detail. He prepared and submitted the proposed budgets for the Commissioners review.

BUSINESS REPORT

The business report was submitted for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Resolution 2023-46 – Maintenance Bond Release – Harbor Run – Phase 1 – On recommendation by the Authority's engineer, a motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2023-46, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Maintenance Bond Release, Harbor Run Major Subdivision Phase 1, Ridgemont Homes, LLC*. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

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. The utility pole is scheduled to be installed in October.

Holtec Route 9 Service – Holtec has received the meters and the design has been completed by Enercon. Holtec to provide updated plans for the proposed water service installation. A traffic control plan was prepared and sent to Holtec for the installation of the water service.

Beach Boulevard Sewer Rehabilitation – Manhole Rehabilitation was completed on Beach Boulevard including the resetting of several manhole covers and all punch list items.

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 October.

Water Treatment Plant #2 Replacement Generator and Diesel Tank – Lamanna Construction is in the process of approving submittals and mobilization. However, there is a delay in getting the generator. Mr. Knoeller asked if the project can be rebid. Mr.

T. Dittenhofer stated at some point it could be rebid, however it is an industry-wide issue. Mr. Knoeller asked Mr. Dittenhofer to see if anyone else has it available.

Water Treatment Plant #1 Expansion – RVE prepared a proposal to provide engineering design and construction management services for the Treatment Plant No. 1 expansion project. The project will consist of developing plans and specifications to publicly bid construction for the upgrades to the existing treatment plant with the installation of three (3) additional filters to bring the total number of filters to nine (9) and provide a total treatment capacity of 2,400 gallons per minute (GPM). Along with the installation of additional filters, the design will include the required upgrades to the existing chlorine contact infrastructure and also a pre-treatment aeration apparatus in order to extend the useful life of the filter media. In addition to the design of the proposed improvements, RVE will obtain the required NJDEP Water Allocation Permit Modification required in order to operate Treatment Plant No. 1 at the intended treatment capacity of 2,400 GPM. The anticipated construction cost estimate for the scope of work is \$2,500,000. To complete the scope of work there a numerous tasks to be executed.

Mr. T. Dittenhofer focused on Task 1, which is the Permitting and Permit Modifications. In this task, the required permits will be obtained and existing permits will be modified to allow for completion of the work and operation of the proposed facilities. Currently, the Authority holds a NJDEP Water Allocation Permit permitting a maximum diversion rate of 1,500 GPM for Treatment Plant No. 1. Under this proposal, RVE will prepare the permit modification to permit Treatment Plant No. 1 to treat a maximum of 2,400 GPM. In addition to the Water Allocation Permit Modification, Ocean County Soils Conservation District Approval, and Bureau of Water System Engineering Permits will be obtained. The estimated engineering services fees associated with Task 1 are \$40,000.00

Mr. Knoeller recommended proceeding with Task 1. It is important to know if the Authority can obtain the proper permits before continuing on with the other tasks. Once the permitting process allows the Authority to proceed, the project can be revisited. Additionally, he recommends bridging the project over two separate years.

A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Lanuto authorizing R&V to proceed with Task 1, Permitting and Permit Modification associated with this project. Roll call vote: Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Resolution 2023-45 – Settlement of Litigation – On recommendation by the Authority's attorney, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Ms. MacArthur to adopt Resolution 2023-45, *Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Settlement of Litigation in Robert Long v. Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Accountant's Status Report – Month Ended August 31, 2023 – Mr. Waldron reported sewer and water 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 a favorable variance for the month.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nicholas Puzzo, Puffin Court – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to water leak in garage. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$269.90 (52,000 gallons). Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Paula Vargas, Alpine Drive – Requesting payment plan due to financial hardship. A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to offer customer payment plan and inform customer of the NJ Home Energy Assistance Program. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

David Meakem, Chelsea St. – Requesting payment program for connection fees. A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Ms. MacArthur to offer customer a payment program to pay connection fees without interest. Roll call vote: Baker-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Janet Cieslak, Mallard Dr. - Requesting relief of utility bill, due to sprinkler system valve leak. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$1,071.06. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Deborah Kramer thanked the Board for allowing her to take the Certified Public Manager class, which she passed and graduated. The Board congratulated her on her accomplishment.

PUBLIC BUSINESS/ COMMENT

There was no public business/comment.

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 \$343,307.06 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.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy
Executive Secretary