

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 3, 2024**

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by James Knoeller, Chairman. Other members present were Michael Masciale, Ralph Lanuto, Alan Baker, and Jeff Nilon. Also present were Brian Waldron, auditor; Troy Dittenhofer and Trace Dittenhofer, engineers; Chris Dasti, Esq., attorney; Mark Dykoff, 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.

**RATE
HEARING**

Christopher Dasti, Hearing Officer – Mr. Dasti stated this rate hearing is conducted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1, in particular subsections 22 and 23. The notification of this rate hearing was published in the Asbury Park Press and Atlantic City Press on March 17, 2024.

Brian Waldron, Auditor – Mr. Waldron spoke of the proposed adjustments to water and sewer service charges, and sewer connection fees. His office provided a letter with calculations for the maximum allowed connection fees for both water and sewer.

Edward A. Woolf, Executive Director – Mr. Woolf stated the Authority is proposing to adjust the sewer and water connection fees (outline attached).

Adjustments to Current Water & Sewer Connection Fees - Mr. Woolf stated currently water service size is the basis of the connection fee for water, with three-quarter inch service size being 1 EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit), which is equal to \$9,000.00. He recommends changing the EDU to \$8,752.00 for one (1) unit. It is important to note it is based on the water service connection fee with the size of the pipe that enters the

building. Therefore, it would be changed to 1 EDU per unit, meaning that for a single family dwelling it would be \$8,752.00.

Sewer EDU – The sewer is currently on an EDU basis at a rate of \$2,200.00. He recommends increasing the rate to \$2,324.00.

Connection Fees for Affordable Housing Projects - The current charge is based on pipe size with the three-quarter inch 1 EDU at a rate of \$3,700.00. He recommends increasing the rate to \$4,376.00. Sewer is already calculated on an EDU basis at a rate of \$775.00. He recommends increasing the rate to \$1,162.00.

Connection Fees for Multiple Family Residential and Non-Residential projects – Currently, the water connection fee is based on the pipe size as it enters the building. He recommends to change it to the EDU system, which is based on the attached schedule. One (1) EDU would be \$8,752.00 for water and 1 EDU would be \$2,324.00 for sewer. It should be noted that each unit will be one (1) EDU. If there are 18 apartments there will be 18 EDUs.

Mr. Woolf stated at this time for non-residential projects, sewer is based on the EDU schedule from the engineer’s calculation of how many EDU’s exist for the proposed project. The proposal is to change the water to the EDU schedule as well.

**COMMISSIONERS
COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

**PUBLIC
TESTIMONY**

There was no public testimony.

**FORMAL
ACTION**

A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Nilon to approve the adjustments on the water & Sewer connection fees effective April 3, 2024. Roll call vote: Baker-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of March 6, 2024 - A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2024. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR’S
REPORT**

Cash Balance Report - Period Ending March 31, 2024 - Mr. Woolf summarized the cash balances for period ending March 31, 2024 as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$10,535,329.98 with earnings of \$59,094.50. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$661,431.97 with earnings of \$3,294.91. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$62,389.41. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$113,876.70.

Financial Disclosure Statement – Mr. Woolf stated the Financial Disclosure Statements from the Commissioners are due by the end of April. It can be filed on the NJDEP website or if you need assistance Michele will help.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

The business report was submitted for review.

**ENGINEER'S
REPORT**

Antenna Read and Meter/MXU Replacement 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 Lacey MUA's existing meters. The Authority is currently installing meters under this phase.

Route 9 Water Service – Electrical upgrades to be completed within the vaults and RVE to assist, as necessary.

Holtec Route 9 Service – Holtec has completed the water service installation under Route 9 and has installed meters.

Meter Replacement Phase 2 – All radios and meters in Phase 2 have been furnished and the contractor is targeting the beginning of installation to begin in May of 2024.

Water Treatment Plant #2 Replacement Generator and Diesel Tank – Automatic transfer switch has been received by the Authority and a delivery date of June 2024 has been provided for the generator.

Water Treatment Plant #1 Expansion – RVE has submitted the conceptual plan to the NJDEP and has scheduled a follow up meeting to discuss proposed improvements.

Water Treatment Plant #2 Valve Replacement – RVE has issued the notice to proceed to the Contractor for the base bid and alternate bid in the total amount of \$416,100.00 to TKT Construction.

**ATTORNEY'S
REPORT**

Plant #2 Valve Replacement – Mr. Dasti reported his office reviewed the contract documents and approved for form and content of same.

Connection Fee - Mr. Dasti reported his office has researched the issue with regard to reclassifying the apartment units requiring them to have multiple connections for each unit. Based upon the fact the subject applicants are seeking amended preliminary approval, the Authority can revise the connection fee requirements and apply it to current applications that have not yet been approved.

**AUDITOR'S
REPORT**

Accountant's Status Report – Month Ended February 29, 2024 – 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 an unfavorable variance for the month and year to date.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. & Mrs. Mahon, Hollywood Blvd. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to high toilet leak. Since the leak was based on a toilet issue, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to offer customer payment plan. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Al Dompieri, Bay Ave. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to high toilet leak. Since the leak was based on a toilet issue, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to offer customer payment plan. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Joseph Iacona, Orlando Dr. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to outside pipe leak. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Nilon and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$382.45. Roll call vote: Nilon-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Vincent Spadafora, Aquarius Dr. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to pipe 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 \$148.14. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Robert Trybun, Sunrise Blvd. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to pipe 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 \$759.96. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Nilon-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Greg Johnstone, E. Hickory Dr. – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to pipe leak in crawl space. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Nilon to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$382.45. Roll call vote: Nilon-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Kramer reported the LMUA is now accepting credit cards at the counter and by phone. There will be a 2.95% fee associated to using a credit card.

PUBLIC BUSINESS/ COMMENT

Regina Discenza, Sunset Drive – Mrs. Discenza asked will there be a fee if using a debit card. Mrs. Kramer said there will be a fee if using a debit card.

Mrs. Discenza asked if Ryan Homes are paying connection fees for individual units. Mr. Knoeller stated yes, they are paying fees for individual units.

Mrs. Discenza stated she asked Mayor Juliano not to accept any money from the LMUA for the school district. The school superintendent indicated at a recent meeting that the school may be able to get funds from other sources, and she believes she was talking about the LMUA. Mrs. Discenza stated she has a friend that is a CPA who informed her that moving money from the LMUA to the Township then to the school district is convoluted. Additionally, donated money should come off the Authority's taxes as a tax deduction if it was a donation. She implores that the LMUA not donate money this year. Mr. Knoeller stated the Authority does not give money directly to any school district, it goes to the Township. The Township requested a donation last year, and what was requested from the Authority is that the money be used to save jobs, and apparently it was not used for that purpose. Mrs. Discenza asked if there was a stipulation Agreement with the Township. Mr. Knoeller stated there was not. The Authority gave them a donation because they said they were going to use it for the school and the Authority took their word for it.

**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 \$380,706.56 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; Nilon-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy
Executive Secretary

