

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 10, 2024**

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

The Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, July 10, 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, engineer; Chris Dasti, Esq., attorney; Deborah Kramer, office manager, and Troy Burton, 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 June 5, 2024** - A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2024. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR’S  
REPORT**

**Cash Balance Report - Period Ending May 31, 2024** - Mr. Burton summarized the cash balances for period ending May 31, 2024 as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$10,693,429.26, with earnings of \$66,247.69. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$825,666.03, with earnings of \$9,781.91. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$76,029.60. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$287,566.13.

**Request to Receive Bids – Decommissioning of Well #1** - Mr. Burton requested authorization for Remington & Vernick engineers to advertise and receive bids for decommissioning of Well #1. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Request to Receive Bids – Repainting of Tower #2** - Mr. Burton requested authorization for Remington & Vernick engineers to advertise and receive bids to paint Tower #2. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**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** – RVE investigating viability of completing interconnect with Ocean Township water system.

**Meter Replacement Phase 2** – Installation has begun and is anticipated to be complete by end of summer.

**Water Treatment Plant #2 Replacement Generator and Diesel Tank** – Automatic transfer switch has been received by the Authority and the generator is set to be installed mid-July.

**Water Treatment Plant #1 Expansion** – RVE has submitted revised water allocation permit inventory to Bureau of Water Allocation.

**Water Treatment Plant #2 Valve Replacement** – Work anticipated to commence in Fall of 2024.

**ATTORNEY'S  
REPORT**

**LMUA Family Apartments III, LLC** – Mr. Dasti reported his office has reviewed the draft bonds by the developer and find them to be acceptable.

**LMUA v. 2020 Equities, LLC** – On recommendation the Authority's attorney, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and second by Ms. MacArthur to adopt *Resolution 2024-35, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, Authorizing Settlement of Litigation Title Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority v. 2020 Equities, LLC*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**AUDITOR'S  
REPORT**

**Accountant's Status Report – Month Ended May 31, 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 a favorable variance for the month, unfavorable year-to-date.

Mr. Knoeller stated the OCUA is increasing their sewerage bulk rate. They have done so twice in the past two years. Last year it cost the Authority \$60,000.00, this year it will cost the Authority \$120,000.00. He pointed out within the last six years, the Authority has not passed on OCUA increases to the ratepayer. There was discussion on whether or not the Authority absorb the cost or pass the increase on to the ratepayer. Mr. Knoeller recommended the Authority absorb the increase. The Board concurred. Mr. Knoeller asked Mayor Juliano to relay a message at the next Township meeting of the LMUA's decision to absorb the increase.

## CORRESPONDENCE

**Marvin Beferman, Emerlada Park Dr.** – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to faulty internal valve failure at the bathroom sink faucet. Since the basis of high water usage was due to a faulty sink faucet, a waiver of the service charge could not be supported. A payment plan will be offered to customer. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Thomas Siconolfi, Angelique Court** – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to outside hose leak. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Masciale to grant a credit adjustment in the amount of \$485.70. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Robert DeGrazia, Polaris Court** – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to plumbing leak in crawl space. 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 \$530.82. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Patricia Lapsley, Stuyvesant St.** – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to toilet leak. Since the basis of the high water usage was due to a toilet leak, a waiver of the service charges could not be supported. A payment plan will be offered to customer. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Barry Bendar, Bay Avenue** – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to outdoor water leak. Since the water from the leak did not go into the sewer system, a motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Baker to grant an adjustment on the sewer charges in the amount of \$1,644.77. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-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 Drive** – Mrs. Discenza stated she is aware the Authority donated \$420,000.00 to the school district via the Township again. She asked why is the

money being filtered through the Township and not given directly to the school district. Mr. Knoeller stated legally it cannot be done that way. Mr. Waldron explained the State statute permits an Authority to contribute up to 5% of their operating appropriations to a municipality. If the Township uses that money to donate to the Township there is a State statute that would allow them to do so. However, the Township is free to do what they want with those funds. Mr. Knoeller pointed out he informed the Mayor that that in the next few years the Authority will be unable to donate money to the Township. The Authority has seven million dollars' worth of infrastructure projects.

Mrs. Discenza stated she appreciates the Authority absorbing the OCUA increase.

Mrs. Discenza asked how much the settlement between the LMUA vs. 2020 Equities was. Mr. Dasti stated it was settled for \$6,500.00.

**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 \$1,518,759.72 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.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances;

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of this closed session concerns personnel matters.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated matters will be made public once these matters have been resolved.

4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Ms. MacArthur to adopt the above resolution. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.

Separate minutes were kept on the above closed session.

**REOPEN  
MEETING**

**Resolution 2024-36 – Appoint James Meehan to Sewer Superintendent** – On recommendation by the executive director, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Ms. MacArthur to adopt *Resolution 2024-36, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Appointing James Meehan to Sewer Superintendent*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Resolution 2024-37 – Creating Position of Collection System Foreman** – On recommendation by the executive director, a motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2024-37, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, Creating Position of Collection System Foreman*. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**Resolution 2024-38 – Appointing Harry Peckham to Collection System Foreman** – A motion was made by Ms. MacArthur and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution 2024-38, Resolution of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority, Appointing Harry Peckham to Collection System Foreman*. Roll call vote: MacArthur-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Knoeller asked Mr. Burton to bring the new hires to the September board meeting to be introduced to the Board members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy  
Executive Secretary

