

**LACEY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

The Reorganization and Regular Meeting of the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by James Knoeller, Chairman. Other members present were Michael Masciale, Gary Quinn, Ralph Lanuto, Alan Baker, Karen MacArthur and Jeff Nilon. Also present were Jerry Conaty, auditor; Alan Dittenhofer and Trace Dittenhofer, engineers; 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.

REORGANIZATION

Chairman – A motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to appoint James Knoeller as Authority Chairman. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Abstain. Motion passed.

Vice Chairman – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to appoint Jeff Nilon as Authority Vice Chairman. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Secretary – A motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to appoint Alan Baker as Authority Secretary. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Abstain; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Treasurer – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Baker to appoint Ralph Lanuto as Authority Treasurer. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Abstain; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06- AUTHORIZE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-06, Authorizing Regular Meeting Schedule*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Burton stated the administrative staff of the Authority received and reviewed the submissions of qualifications for professional service contracts. The Fair and Open process was utilized in determining the most qualified professionals; therefore, he recommends the following professionals be appointed to the Lacey Municipal Utilities Authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07 - APPOINT ENGINEER – REMINGTON AND VERNICK ENGINEERS

- A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-07, Appointing the Firm Remington and Vernick Engineers as Authority Consulting Engineers*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08 – APPOINT ATTORNEY – DASTI & STAIGER

– A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-08, Appointing Dasti & Staiger as Authority Attorney*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-09 – APPOINT AUDITOR – HOLMAN, FRENIA & ALLISON, PC

– A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-09, Appointing the Firm Holman, Frenia, & Allison P.C as Authority Auditor*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10 – APPOINT LABOR COUNSEL – CHRISTOPHER J. DASTI

– A motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-10, Appointing Christopher J. Dasti, Esq. as Authority Labor Counsel*. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11 – APPOINT RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT CONNOR STRONG COMPANIES, INC.

– A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-11, Appointing Connor Strong Companies, Inc. as Authority Risk Management Consultant*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 – APPOINT PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER – TROY BURTON

- A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-12, Appointing Troy Burton as Public Agency Compliance Officer, P.L. 1975, c. 127*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13 – APPOINT PERSONNEL OFFICER – TROY BURTON – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-13, Appointing Troy Burton as Personnel Officer*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14 – APPOINT FUND COMMISSIONERS AND ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONER TO THE NEW JERSEY UTILITY AUTHORITIES JOINT INSURANCE FUND – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-14, Appointing Fund Commissioners and Alternate Fund Commissioner for the New Jersey Utilities Authorities Joint Insurance Fund*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15 – APPOINT COMPANY PHYSICIAN – CITY MD/SUMMIT HEALTH – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Baker to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-15, Appointing City MD/Summit Health Management as Company Physician*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16 – APPOINT COMPUTER CONSULTANT – CSI COMPUTERS – A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-16, Appointing CSI Consultants Computer Consultant*. Roll call vote: Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-17 – APPOINT FINANCIAL ADVISOR – ACACIA FINANCIAL – A motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Baker to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-17, Appointing Acacia Financial Group*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL
OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of January 8, 2025 - A motion was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2025. Roll call vote: Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Quinn-Abstain; Masciale-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Cash Balance Report - Period Ending December 31, 2024 - Mr. Burton summarized the cash balances for period ending December 31, 2024 as follows: Total cash balance for the unrestricted accounts were \$9,818,246.10, with earnings of \$63,797.62. Total cash balance for the restricted accounts held by the trustee were \$481,575.42, with earnings of \$5,874.65. Current period interest on the restricted and unrestricted accounts was \$63,797.62. Year-to-date earnings on all interest bearing accounts were \$804,631.22.

Resolution 2025-18 – Award of Contract – Pump Maintenance Repairs 2025 – On recommendation by the executive director, a motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2025-18, Awarding Contract, Pump Maintenance Repairs 2025, to Motors & Drives, in the amount of \$60,153.00*. Roll call

vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Abstain; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 2025-21 – Award of Contract – Tank No. 2 Rehabilitation – On recommendation by the executive director, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Lanuto to adopt *Resolution 2025-21, Awarding Contract, Tank No. 2 Rehabilitation, to Dynamic Sandblasting & Painting, LLC in the amount of \$1,518,000.00*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Abstain; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

BUSINESS REPORT

The business report was submitted for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Resolution 2025-20 – Performance Guarantee Release – Ridgemont Homes - On recommendation by the engineer, a motion was made by Mr. Masciale and seconded by Mr. Baker to adopt *Resolution 2025-20, Performance Guarantee Release, Sewer and Water, Ridgemont Homes, 697 Lake Barnegat Drive North*. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Quinn-Abstain; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 2025-19 – Release Performance Bond – Accept Maintenance Bond – Final Payment – Change Order No 1 – Water Treatment Plant Static Mixer & Valve Replacement - On recommendation by the engineer, a motion was made by Mr. Lanuto and seconded by Mr. Masciale to adopt *Resolution 2025-20, Accept Maintenance Bond, Release Performance Bond, Final Payment, Change Order No.1, Water Treatment Plant Static Mixer & Valve Replacement, TKT Construction Company, Inc*. Roll call vote: Lanuto-Yes; Masciale-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn- Abstain; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

Water Treatment Plant #2 Replacement Generator and Diesel Tank – Construction is complete, startup and commissioning of generator scheduled for February 4th and 5th. Removal of old generator will take place after new generator is commissioned.

Water Tower #2 Rehabilitation – Bid opening was held on January 31, 2025.

Franklin Court Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – NJDEP Treatment Works approval application is administratively complete. Ocean County Soils Plan Certification is complete.

Plant No. 1 Aerator Pilot – BWSE Temporary Pilot Permit Application has been submitted to determine feasibility.

2025 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation – Specifications have been completed and to be advertised February 7, 2025.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Covered Bridge Sports Complex – Mr. Dasti reported his office reviewed the documents from the developer and reviewed proposed easements and surveys.

Telecommunication Bid for 1025 East Hickory Drive – Mr. Dasti reported his office reviewed the draft bid specifications prepared by the Authority’s engineer and find same to be acceptable.

Pump Maintenance and Repair Bid – Mr. Dasti recommended to the Authority’s purchasing agent that the bid could be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.

Plant #2 Valve Replacement – Mr. Dasti reported his office reviewed the engineer’s final payment certification as well as the maintenance bond and recommend approval as to form and content of same.

**AUDITOR’S
REPORT**

Accountant’s Status Report – Month Ended December 31, 2024 – Mr. Conaty reported water and sewer revenues had a favorable balance 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. The Authority can anticipate a surcharge of \$126,632.00 through the month of December from the OCUA.

CORRESPONDENCE

Betty Ann Johnson, E. Hickory Drive – Requesting relief of utility bill, due to a broken pipe. 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 \$256.64. Roll call vote: Masciale-Yes; Lanuto-Yes; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Yes; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Rate Hearing – Due to a clerical issue, Mr. Knoeller asked Mr. Dasti to re-advertise that the LMUA will hold a public rate hearing to consider an adjustment to the Authority’s water and sewer connection fee model from the meter size to the equivalent dwelling unit model.

Board of Education – Mr. Knoeller stated apparently the Board of Education is looking for financial assistance from the Authority. He pointed out the Authority has \$18 million dollars’ worth of projects to be completed within the next five years. Therefore, the Authority is unable to allocate funds to the Board of Education, due to ongoing commitments to projects and obligations. When these projects are complete and the Authority develops more surplus, the first thing he would want is to give the ratepayers a reduction in rates before giving money to another organization. The Board of Education needs to work on their own budget and come up with an appropriate plan. The Board agreed that no money will be given to the Board of Education.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS/
COMMENT**

Regina Discenza – Mrs. Discenza stated she is adamant that the LMUA not give the Board of Education financial assistance. In the past two years, the LMUA gave the Board of Education approximately \$1 million dollars that went towards salaries, and it was not supposed to be used for that.

Mrs. Discenza thanked the Authority for its vigilance with the rock salt issue. She asked who maintains the snow clearing on the railroad right of way. Mr. Burton stated he will research this issue.

**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 \$578,445.57 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; Baker-Yes; Quinn-Abstain; Knoeller-Yes. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Kennedy
Executive Secretary