

BOROUGH OF BUENA
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
P. O. BOX 696
MINOTOLA, NEW JERSEY 08341

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on April 22, 2020 at 7 p.m. This meeting notice was provided to The Daily Journal and the Atlantic County Record which are the BBMUA's official newspapers. Notices are also posted on the bulletin boards within the Municipal Building as well as the Borough of Buena and BBMUA's websites. The meeting took place via freeconferencecall.com phone in meeting software due to the COVID-19 pandemic and no one being allowed to gather in large groups in person per order of the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the President of the United States of America.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Santagata.

Those present were:

R. Baker	C. Santore	S. Testa
J. Formisano	A. Zorzi	
J. Alvarez	R. Smith	
J. Santagata	R. Casella	

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent an email to Frank Carpino regarding the posting of the bond for the sanitary sewer and water improvements and developer's escrow money to pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,755.00 to Remington & Vernick for the Liberty Village project he is constructing. To date Mr. Carpino has still not posted the bond or sent in a check to replenish the developer's escrow account so the invoice can be paid. As a side note Mr. Carpino was also billed for his first sewer bill for the project as it has been 18 months since the connection fees were paid.

Dennis Yoder of Remington & Vernick sent an email to Jerome Palmer of the NJDEP regarding the NJIB project S340518-06 for the upgrades to Pump Stations #1, #2, #3, and the grit removal system. Mr. Yoder sated they will address the issues stated in the email and get the revised documents uploaded for review.

Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr stated they are still waiting to begin the field work in earnest of the given situation for the 2019 Audit. They have still not received the pension report or health benefit report that is needed for the audit. The State has not given any indication if this will be delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary Cheryl Santore stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic any water rate hearings will be postponed until a later date and discussions are hence tabled until further notice.

Newfield Bank provided a copy of the GUPDA Certificate dated December 31, 2019 for our records.

Ms. Santore sent a letter to the NJDEP, the NJ Department of Community Affairs, and the Board of Public Utilities notifying them that the BBMUA is committed to cooperate with all agencies in keeping the water on for our customers during the public health emergency created by the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the BBMUA will suspend shut offs for reason of non-payment of services until the outbreak has subsided.

Ms. Santore posted a customized flyer on our website under both the Education and Policies & Procedures tabs as well as the doors of the municipal building effective 04/14/2020 regarding the safe disposal of wipes and what can and cannot be flushed down the sewer system to try to prevent damage to our sanitary sewer lines.

m/Baker s/Formisano to approve the treasurer's report as read. m/passed

Ms. Santore received an email from Jason Capizzi formerly of Winne Banta the Bond Counsel firm we appointed in February 2020. Mr. Capizzi has established his own law office and will be continuing his practice under the firm name JP Capizzi LLC. Jason is no longer affiliated with Winne Banta. Joseph Basralian, President of Winne Banta sent a letter stating the since Jason ended his professional relationship with the firm they will not be providing Bond Counsel services but would be able to serve as General Counsel or Litigation Counsel in the future if given the opportunity. As Jason does not foresee us needing Bond Counsel services in the near future he didn't feel we needed to advertise again for Bond Counsel services at this time. If something should change in that area we would have to advertise for professional services and have an RFQ for Bond Counsel.

m/Baker s/Formisano adopt Resolution R-14-2020 authorizing the purchase of electricity supply services for public use on an online auction website. m/passed

The online energy auction was held by Energy Market Exchange (EMEX) on behalf of the BBMUA. It appears that NextEra Energy will provide us with a rate of \$0.08420 per kWh for a term of 24 months. This rate is \$0.0077 lower than our current rate with Constellation (\$0.09186/kWh). EMEX estimates this will result in a savings of approximately \$9,548.39 per year than if we were turned back over to Atlantic City

Electric. However, the savings can be greater depending on Atlantic City Electric's fluctuating rate. The NextEra Energy rate of \$0.08420 will be a fixed rate.

m/Baker s/Alvarez to approve the signature of the contract for electricity for a period of 24 months with NextEra Energy at a fixed rate of \$0.08420 per kWh for all meters which includes any power used by the plant that is not supplied and serviced by the Solar contract at the BBMUA sewer plant. m/passed

m/Formisano s/Alvarez to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 11, 2020. m/passed

m/Formisano s/Alvarez to accept the minutes of the last closed executive session meeting held on March 11, 2020. m/passed

m/Formisano s/Alvarez to accept the minutes of the special meeting held on April 2, 2020. m/passed

m/Formisano s/Alvarez to accept the minutes of the last closed executive session meeting held on April 2, 2020. m/passed

Jason Lonardo, Administrative Analyst 4 of the State of NJ DEP Division of Water Quality Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals Permit Administration Section sent a letter regarding the FY2020 Annual Fee Report and Assessment of Fees for the NJPDES permit program. This year's fee will be around \$12,057.00.

m/Baker s/Formisano authorize the purchase of perforated poly pipe from Caterina Supply in the amount of \$122.50 per roll. m/passed

m/Baker s/Formisano authorize Cutting Edge to perform the grass cutting at the plant and pump stations for an estimated cost of \$3,620.00 for the year 2020. m/passed

Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi received a phone call last week stating that Bridgeton MUA is having a problem at their plant and aren't accepting septage. They asked if we could take on all of their customers and Mr. Zorzi told them that we didn't have the capability to do that. We did, however, pick up a few extra ones. We will do what we can and take on as much as we can at this time. We picked up three new haulers and they

have been coming in pretty steady. We have reduced our hours and are only accepting haulers from 7 am to 4 pm which is helping out a little bit.

m/Baker s/Formisano to file all correspondence sent out for review without reading number 1 through number 12. m/passed

m/Baker s/Formisano to pay all bills presented for the month of April 2020. m/passed

m/Baker s/Formisano adopt Resolution R-13-2020 authorizing the meeting of the Borough of Buena Municipal Utilities Authority closed to the public to discuss matters that included possible litigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(7). m/passed

m/Baker s/Alvarez to open the executive closed session meeting at 7:17 pm. m/passed

m/Formisano s/Alvarez to close the executive closed session meeting and return to regular session at 7:24 pm. m/passed

m/Baker s/Alvarez adopt resolution R-15-2020 allowing the solicitor to move forward with what was discussed in the closed executive session to settle the case. m/passed

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and is subject to the correspondence that comes in between now and then. Otherwise the next regular meeting would be May 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

m/Baker s/Alvarez to adjourn the meeting 7:26 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary