

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on July 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	J. Alvarez	S. Testa
B. Delano	C. Santore	
J. Formisano	A. Zorzi	
J. Johnston	R. Smith	
J. Santagata	R. Casella	

m/Baker s/Johnston to adopt resolution R-17-2020 authorizing an interlocal agreement with the Board of Education of the Buena Regional School District for the renewal of services to be performed by the BBMUA's employee Alan Zorzi for the 2020-2021 school year. m/passed

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent a change in scope proposal for the Septage Receiving Station project for review and discussion with the board at the last regular meeting. If the board still wants to place this matter on the back burner and not move forward with the project at this time, Mr. Smith asked for the board to approve the additional \$2,200.00 in engineering costs that have already been performed which exceeded the original \$18,900.00 previously approved at the start of the project. Chairman Santagata asked Mr. Smith to submit an itemized bill for the additional amount and present it at the next meeting to the board.

Solicitor Robert Casella of Testa, Heck, Testa & White stated he did not have anything to discuss tonight, however he did receive a piece of correspondence regarding Infinity Fence that was directed to the Borough of Buena and was for information purposes only which he forwarded to Secretary Cheryl Santore.

Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr stated the 2019 Audit is continuously being worked on. Their firm will be reaching out to Secretary/Treasurer Cheryl Santore to obtain more information in the next few days. He will keep the board abreast of the audit status as it progresses.

Chairman Santagata reviewed an issue that occurred with the Black Diamond Restaurant and their water usage. The Black Diamond Restaurant had a zero reading when the meters were read on 05/04/2020. Cy Damon went out to check the meter and found that the head had been removed from the body of the meter which is why there was a zero reading. The owner stated it must have fallen off because they had boxes stacked on top of it. The meter head was sitting on top of the hot water heater. The owner was told that the meter head must stay on the body at all times and if something happens to it we must be notified immediately and that nothing is to be stacked on top of the meter at any time. The problem that we have now is the entire time they have been doing takeout during the pandemic no water usage was being registered. They were charged a minimum water bill of \$63.50 and a minimum sewer bill of \$136.25, however the sewer billing is based off of water usage. Unfortunately we have no way of knowing exactly how much water was used to bill them accurately. Member Jeff Johnston asked the question of how easy is it to knock a head off of a meter body. Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi said it is not easy. Mr. Zorzi had Cy take pictures of it. The meter was definitely tampered with it. It was not broken and was put on top of the hot water heater. When the restaurant was contacted they stated they haven't been doing much business due to COVID and when they let us in we saw the meter was sitting on top of the hot water heater. Mr. Delano stated there is no way they were using zero amounts of water. Chairman Santagata stated they will be paying the minimum water and minimum sewer billing but there is no way to tell what they actually used to bill them accurately. Mr. Delano stated they should be charged for the repair. Mr. Zorzi stated there is no repair. Chairman Santagata asked if there is a way that can be sealed on there. Mr. Zorzi stated it was when it was installed. There is a black tab lock that is put in there but there was no tab anywhere around the area so we know it was tampered with. Since this is a new business we do not have any history to go by to know what they would have used had the head not been removed from the body. Chairman Santagata stated we will have to keep an eye on this and if it happens in the future this could be a legal matter with a criminal charge.

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

m/passed

m/Delano s/Baker to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on June 24, 2020.

m/passed

Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi told the board he reached out to Michael Drummy of Comcast asking for pricing on the upgrade to the new technology if we did not use auto pay. Mr. Drummy stated that the price would be \$178.34 plus taxes and fees if auto pay was not used compared to the proposed rate of \$168.34 quoted at the last meeting. The current rate the BBMUA is paying is \$158.35 plus tax and fees. Mr. Zorzi stated it is up to the board. Mr. Zorzi stated he doesn't see a reason to need to change the service but he will check with Wes Barber of Barber Consulting to see if we need to spend an extra \$20.00 per month for no reason. This item has been tabled until a later date.

Mr. Zorzi received an email from Morgan Johnson of Engineering Design Associates on June 30, 2020 requesting information on the 4" line at Buena Vista Campground and Mr. Zorzi provided her with that information.

Mr. Zorzi received a letter from Steve Filippone of Engineering Design Associates certifying the capacity of the gravity sewer main from the tie in point of the force main to the manhole on the opposite side of Wheat Road from the 4" Main that services Buena Vista Campground. If the information provided is acceptable, Mr. Filippone is requesting the Statement of Consent be signed on the Treatment Works Approval application to the NJDEP and returned to their office so they can proceed with the Treatment Works Approval at the Buena Vista Campground. Alan Spoke with Robert Smith on a few issues he was concerned with on that line. Mr. Smith stated his office had prepared a recommendation letter back in August of 2019 when they had originally applied to have the Chairman sign the Statement of Consent. One of the items they had asked of the Campground was to return the flow meter at the existing pump station to working order and their engineer stated that would not be a problem. They were also asked to certify the capacity of the gravity main from the tiniest point of the force main to the manhole on the other side of wheat road and their engineer provided a calculation indicating that there was sufficient capacity for the additional flow that was being provided by the campground. We also noted it was the applicant's responsibility to verify the existing pump station and force main had the actual capacity to handle the flows and the fact that all facilities that are to be constructed were to be privately owned and maintained so their office didn't review the actual application for the plans that were in the report. The applicant submitted a letter that the line across Route 54 has sufficient capacity but the other thing that Alan and Robert talked about today was the condition and viability of that line. The BBMUA does not want to be responsible for maintenance of that line so Mr. Smith spoke with the campground engineer and expressed that we have to tighten the whole agreement up and enter into some sort of maintenance agreement whereby they take responsibility of the line that crosses Route 54. The campground engineer did not think that would be a problem. Therefore, Mr. Smith's recommendation would be that the board approve the Chairman signing the Statement of Consent contingent upon the applicant returning the flow meter to working order and also to the owner of the campground entering into a maintenance agreement with the BBMUA for the maintenance of that line. When Mr. Smith spoke to the engineer for the campground today he stated the applicant is getting a lot of pressure from the NJDEP to

get the campground tied into the treatment plant and their engineer asked that we take action on this. Mr. Smith mentioned to him that the letter issued by Remington & Vernick was dated almost a year ago and nothing has really taken place since then. At this point and time if they agree to put the flow meter back in order and enter into the maintenance agreement so we are not responsible for the line it is ok for the MUA to move forward. Alan Zorzi stated these were the only concerns he had and as long as we come to some kind of agreement with the campground regarding this line. This is the campground's line but we have customers on it. This is the perfect time to tighten this up and come into some form of agreement stating this is your line and you are going to maintain it up to this point of discharge. On paper the line looks like it will take this type of flow but is it going to hold up. The board made a motion to approve the chairman to sign the Statement of Consent based on the contingencies being met.

m/Baker s/Johnston to approve the Chairman of the BBMUA to sign the Statement of Consent for the Buena Vista Campground NJDEP Treatment Works Application contingent upon the flow meter on the existing pump station being restored to working order and to enter into a maintenance agreement on the maintenance of the line being the Campground's responsibility as they own that line. m/passed

m/Delano s/Baker to file all correspondence sent out for review without reading number 1 through number 6. m/passed

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

The next regular meeting scheduled to be held on August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. will be cancelled due to it being summer and will only be held if necessary. Otherwise the next regular meeting will be August 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

m/Delano s/Johnston to adjourn the meeting 7:22 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by  
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary