

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on November 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting notice was provided to The Daily Journal and the Atlantic City Press 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 in the large meeting room located in the Municipal Building, Minotola while practicing social distancing and complying with guidelines.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Delano.

Those present were:

R. Delano	C. Santore	S. Testa
J. Johnston	A. Zorzi	M. Chalow in at 6:45 pm
D. Romeo	J. Erber	
A. Sasdelli	D. Horst	
M. Bertonazzi	R. Casella	

Chairman Delano informed the board they were provided with a copy of the letter sent to Marathon Engineering & Environmental Services regarding the Buena Vista Campground for their information. To date we have not heard back from them on this. Again, as we discussed the first hurdle they have to clear is Buena Vista Township has to approve any allocation that the Campground wants to utilize of their approved allocation per the MOA. Once the Township responds to them, they can come back to us and we can make a decision from that point.

Mr. David Horst provided the Board with an update on the October 31, 2024 zoom call with the NJ I-Bank. Mr. Horst stated it is his understanding that the Borough is going to take the lead on the clean water application and the BBMUA will be the lead for the drinking water application. Chairman Delano said his understanding and take on the meeting is that they are still in negotiations as to who is going to take the lead for the clean water project for \$3,000,000.00 because the MUA is the one who would own the project when it is done since we own the sewer lines. Once the project is to the point where the loan has to be issued then the I-Bank will see how much of the \$3,000,000.00 is forgivable at that point. The project will be done through an interlocal agreement with the Borough of Buena and the BBMUA. The applications have to be submitted before June 2025 and bids have to be awarded prior to June 30, 2025. Steve Testa stated that there is possibly one more year of funds available for 2026 as well as the 2025 but it doesn't mean everyone will get money as the important thing is to get the applications in as early as possible to be high on the list of the available funds being distributed.

David Horst stated that the bids for materials and services will be advertised. Ms. Santore said she is working on getting them advertised and bids opened by December 10, 2024.

Robert Casella of Testa, Heck, Testa & White submitted the letter for the auditor as requested for the 2022 Audit via email prior to tonight's meeting. The letter was emailed to Steve Testa as well as Cheryl Santore.

Auditor, Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr stated we need to adopt two resolutions pertaining to the 2025 Sewer and Water Operations Budget.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to adopt Resolution R-37-2024 ratifying the late introduction and submission of the 2025 Sewer and Water Operations Budget. m/passed

Mr. Steve Testa presented the 2025 sewer and water budget for the BBMUA to the board for introduction. This year we will be utilizing \$404,890.00 of unrestricted undesignated net position to balance the water and sewer budget. While we are not projecting a rate increase on the water side in the 2025 budget, we will have to revisit the possibility of a water rate increase because there are items we need to address with the water accountability act. Also, we increased line items to cover inflating chemical and other costs that are being passed on to us by vendors for this budget. If everything works out with the State review, we would like to adopt the budget at the December 11, 2024 meeting.

m/Johnston s/Romeo to adopt Resolution R-38-2024 a resolution introducing the Sewer and Water Operation Budget for 2025. m/passed

Mr. Testa stated that the draft 2022 Audit Report will be emailed to Cheryl Santore so it can be distributed to the BBMUA Board members and the group form affidavit can be placed on the agenda for the December 11, 2024 meeting.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to approve the treasurer's report as read. m/passed

Secretary Cheryl Santore provided the board with an email from Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick where he provided minutes from the preconstruction meeting held on October 31, 2024 for the well no. 3 emergency generator project.

Ms. Santore received an email from John Smith of Mantis Innovation formerly EMEX informing us that although our contract for electricity with Smartest Energy expires in June 2025, they are suggesting that we hold an online energy auction now that will lock in pricing that will begin when our current contract expires due to the anticipated high cost of energy increases coming down the line. Therefore, we have scheduled an online auction to be held tomorrow, November 14, 2024 at 11 am. Per the Chairman's recommendation we will be looking to do a 12 month contract instead of 18 or 24 months.

m/Johnston s/Romeo Adopt Resolution R-36-2024 Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services for Public Use on an Online Auction Website.

m/passed

Cheryl Santore provided the Board with the BBMUA meeting schedule for 2025 for approval.

m/Johnston s/Sasdelli to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

m/passed

Ms. Santore also provided the board with a list of the 2025 Holiday Schedule that were approved per the employee contracts and memorandum of agreements.

m/Romeo s/Johnston approving the MIS Proposal for 2025 to Barber Consulting Services LLC for unlimited MIS services in the amount of \$3,600.00.

m/passed

Cheryl Santore brought up the meter readings for Michael Vicidomini. Two quarters ago Mr. Vicidomini disputed his water meter readings. A new water meter was installed and the current readings were reviewed. Mr. Vicidomini requested a credit for the two quarters where he had excessive usage. Although the meter checked out fine when it was removed and taken back to the plant the Board agreed to issue a credit to Mr. Vicidomini in the amount of \$63.00 for the overage.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to issue credit in the amount of \$63.00 to Michael Vicidomini 108 S. Auburn Street, Landisville, NJ.

Roll Call: Johnston – yes; Romeo – yes; Sasdelli – Yes; Bertonazzi – No; Delano – Yes

m/passed

m/Johnston s/Romeo to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 23, 2024.

m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston to approve the 2025 AllMax Software, Inc. support contract through January 31, 2026 in the amount of \$4,022.00. m/passed

The State of New Jersey issued a drought warning. Although this does not affect us at this time Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi is forwarding information to Cheryl Santore to place on the website as well as post around the Borough Hall and they will refrain from flushing the hydrants unless absolutely needed.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to purchase the monitoring software from Bayview Bearing for the MBR aerators and gear box in the amount of \$2,850.00. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston to file all correspondence sent out for review without reading numbered 1 through 15. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston to pay all bills presented. m/passed

The next regular meeting will be held on December 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. It was requested by the Board that all professionals be in attendance at that meeting as well as we will not have the 2nd meetings due to the holiday.

m/Johnston s/Romeo to adjourn the meeting 7:33 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary