

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on December 22, 2021 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 in the large meeting room located in the Municipal Building, Minotola while practicing social distancing and complying with mask guidelines.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Santagata.

Those present were:

R. Delano	C. Santore	S. Testa
J. Formisano	A. Zorzi	
J. Johnston	R. Smith	
J. Santagata	R. Casella	

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick provided a copy of payment certificate #10 to Michael Itri of MBE Mark III Electric, Inc. for his signature on the pump station project. Mr. Itri noted a few changes that needed to be made on the payment certificate. Mr. Smith made the corrections and changes and sent a new copy to Mr. Itri for his signature. Payment for certificate #10 is on the bill list for tonight's meeting for approval and payment.

Muhammad Mushtaq of the NJDEP emailed Paul Kelley of Remington & Vernick regarding foreign materials that were used in the pump station project that need to be replaced with materials made in the USA. The funding for the project has a stipulation that all of the equipment has to be manufactured in the United States. There were apparently some fittings and parts that the contractor was having trouble getting during construction that were not manufactured in the United States. When the DEP came down and did an inspection they observed there were parts used that were not manufactured in the US and the contractor was told they had to be replaced because approval was not sought prior to installation. The contractor wanted to submit a waiver for substitution. The contractor was told that in order to obtain approval to utilize parts that are not manufactured in the US you have to submit the waiver for substitution prior to installation. Therefore, because the protocol was not followed the waiver was denied and the email was to let the contractor and Remington & Vernick know that the parts have to

be swapped out for parts made in the USA. The Board asked if there is a timeline for when the parts have to be swapped out. Mr. Smith stated there is not a timeline and the NJDEP wants it done as soon as possible and the money will be withheld from the final payment to the contractor until the parts are changed out. During the inspection Mr. Mushtaq also requested a revised timeline of the completion of the project. Mr. Kelley provided that timeline to him for his records.

Mr. Smith provided a copy of change order #2 for review and approval for the contract with MBE Mark III Electric, Inc. for the rehabilitation of sewer pump stations #1, #2, #3 and the grit removal system. The change order is for a net cost modification of a decrease of \$1,906.59. If the board approves the change order a resolution needs to be adopted approving the change order. The original cost of the contract was \$1,188,378.00 and with the change order added to the contract the cost would be \$1,192,828.11.

m/Delano s/Johnston adopting resolution R-30-2021 accepting change order #2 to amend the contract with MBE Mark III Electric, Inc. for the rehabilitation of pump stations #1, #2, #3 and grit removal system for a net decrease cost modification of \$1,906.59.

m/passed

Ed Wengrowski of the NJ Pinelands Commission sent an email providing background correspondence between his office and Buena Vista Township and the MOA between the Pinelands Commission, the BBMUA and Buena Vista Township. This correspondence was provided in anticipation of a zoom call that was held on December 16, 2021 between the Pinelands Commission, the BBMUA, Buena Vista Township and Diamond Properties who own Buena Vista Campground. Everyone is aware that Buena Vista Campground came in and received approval from the BBMUA Board to tie their 39 units into the BBMUA Sanitary Sewer System. The plan that was put together had septic systems spread throughout the campground as well as onsite pumping stations at the force main that was going to tie into the existing pump station behind route 40. Jay Black of Diamond Properties approached us about tying in to the system since they have the approval for the 39 units. Mr. Black reached out to Alan and Alan made him aware of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Pinelands Commission and Buena Vista Township which states that 10 years after the BBMUA receives approval for the increase in flow from the Pinelands, Buena Vista Campground has to tie their entire facility into the BBMUA sanitary sewer system. Upon finding this out the Campground abandoned their plans for the septic systems and decided they were going to do an overall plan to tie everything into our system. At the last meeting the discussion was had with Buena Vista Campground to use some of the allocation and dispense some of the tanks into the pump station. The BBMUA has been working with Jay Black to come to a resolution that allows them to use some of their purchased committed flow but protects the plant and the treatment processes from what they are going to discharge into the system. Robert and Alan went out and looked at the tanks they were proposing to pump. There were initially eight and the campground reduced it to seven tanks. They told them that before they can

discharge into the system they have to evaluate the impact on the treatment process and we are in the process of doing that. So the campground is looking into the overall plan to tie the entire campground into the system. Mr. Smith told the campground that Buena Vista Township has to get involved because they have to approve the allocation going against their allocation that they receive when the flow increase was approved from upgrading the treatment plant. The Pinelands Commission also has to be looped into the discussion because the Pinelands Commission was the drafter of the MOA and we have to make sure the Pinelands is on board with what they are planning to do. If you read the MOA it states BVT is responsible for installing an interceptor up Route 40 so the Campground, businesses, residents, school and municipal building can tie into that interceptor. A zoom meeting was created and held with Jay Black and Jim Diamond of Diamond Properties (Buena Vista Campground owners), Alan Zorzi, Jon Erber, Robert Smith, the Administrator from Buena Vista Township, the Township Engineer, two members of the Pinelands Commission which included Ed Wengrowski who was involved in the treatment plant upgrade and the Pinelands Commission Engineer. During the conversation it was discussed that the timeline to get the campground tied into the MUA system is much quicker than the required 10 years after the increase approval of flow was granted. Buena Vista Township just paid \$50,000.00 on a septic system for their municipal building and they are in no hurry to run an interceptor up Route 40. So it was discussed as to how Diamond Properties can get their system tied in without having to get BVT to run the interceptor. The Pinelands Commission came up with a list of conditions that have to be satisfied before the Campground can tie into our system. Whether it be running an interceptor up Route 40 or replace the force main that already exists behind the businesses on Route 40 and tie in where it is already tied in. The multiple conditions are one, the BBMUA has to take all steps to maximize beneficial reuse of the wastewater. We feel we already achieved that requirement but the Pinelands said it has to be demonstrated to them before they will allow that condition to be satisfied. Alan had some discussions with Ed Wengrowski of the Pinelands Commission and we believe that based on the reuse on site of the processed water we satisfy that condition. Condition two is the BBMUA has to assist BVT in applying for grants, loans, or other subsidies and help design the interceptor. The discussion at the zoom meeting was we stand ready willing and able to help BVT any way we can to help BVT find grants, loans, or other subsidies to construct the interceptor. The Pinelands Commission wants something from the BBMUA in writing that says we are willing to help out in any way we can. Robert Smith is asking for permission or authorization to draft a letter to the Pinelands Commission that basically says we are willing to help out in any way we can without attaching any monetary value to it in helping BVT to procure grants, loans, or other subsidies to construct the interceptor up Route 40 to the BVT Municipal Building. Condition three is the BBMUA needs to undertake a public education campaign to distribute information about water conservation, not disposing household hazardous waste in the sewer system and not disposing pharmaceuticals in the sewer system. We are working on getting the information requested on the BBMUA's website to satisfy that condition. Buena Vista Township has two conditions to meet. One condition is showing that they are utilizing their best efforts to minimize the nutrient run off from the Country Club. There were concerns that the fertilizers and pesticides the Country Club is using are negatively impacting the Deep Run stream and they have to implement measures to

improve the water quality for the discharge off of the Country Club. The second condition is when the agreement was inked back in 2007 and updated in 2011 BVT had to deed restrict 232 acres of land to meet the Pinelands wastewater dilution standards and they had to provide a deed of conservation. BVT also had to add that to their recreation and open space inventory and provide a copy to the Commission. The BVT Administrator is looking into that. The BBMUA is working from our end doing everything that was asked and more and has spent a ton of money to satisfy the Pinelands Commission. Now they are looking to us to address even more conditions of the MOA so the one thing we need the board's action on is to grant Robert Smith and Remington & Vernick to draft a letter that the BBMUA is willing to help BVT with obtaining the grants loans or other subsidies for construction of the interceptor. The BBMUA only has minor issues to comply with compared to Buena Vista Township. The Buena Vista Campground is stuck in the middle of this issue because they cannot proceed with the connection until these conditions are met. The Board is willing to write the letter however they want it to be clear that we are not in a position to contribute monetarily. Robert Smith stated he will compose the letter and send it to Mr. Casella for his review and then forward it to Cheryl Santore for the next meeting and if the board is in agreement they can authorize the letter to be sent at the next regular meeting.

Chairman Santagata asked Robert Smith to look into any government grants that can be used toward the infrastructure of the MUA and possibly the repainting of the water tower.

Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr stated that there will be water accountability act costs that will be incurred in the very near future which will qualify as infrastructure on the water side. Any government grant monies that we can get to cover some of those costs would be great. The BBMUA will have to do something with the water rates to keep up with the water accountability act so any monies we can obtain will be very helpful.

m/Delano s/Johnston adopt Resolution R-28-2021 ratifying the late introduction and submission of the 2022 water and sewer operations budget. m/passed

Mr. Steve Testa presented the 2022 sewer and water budget for the BBMUA to the board for introduction. This year we will be utilizing \$64,578.00 of unrestricted undesignated net position to balance the water budget and \$158,264.00 of unrestricted undesignated net position to balance the sewer budget. While we are not projecting a rate increase on the water side in the 2022 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 costs that are being passed on to us by vendors for this budget. If we can adopt our budget by January 31, 2022 we shouldn't have to prepare a temporary budget.

m/Delano s/Johnston to adopt Resolution R-29-2021 a resolution introducing the Sewer and Water Operation Budget for 2022. m/passed

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

Secretary Cheryl Santore received an email from Mary Pearsall of the NJ I-Bank providing a copy of the accrued interest statement for the month ending November 30, 2021 for the construction loan on the pump station rehabilitation project.

A copy of the public notice to be advertised for the solicitation of professional services contract appointments for February 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023 was provided to the board for approval to advertise.

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve advertisement of the public notice to be advertised for the solicitation of professional services contract appointments for February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. m/passed

m/Delano s/Formisano to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 24, 2021. m/passed

Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi informed the board he received a letter from Charles Bisese of the NJDEP regarding the Teligent Pharma Inc. bankruptcy, their discharge permit and the requirements of the BBMUA regarding strength of discharge. Mr. Zorzi had an inspection performed at the beginning of December and there was no discharge on the operations end just basically regular sanitary sewer discharge. The NJDEP is allowing Teligent to check off that there is no discharge and they do not have to test for the strength of their discharge for the NJDEP. However, the NJDEP stated that the BBMUA can still require monitoring because we bill sewer based on their strength tests. Mr. Zorzi recommended to the board that if operations are to begin again in April 2022 they should continue monitoring and sampling for strength and if there is no strength they will be billed the minimum for the sewer that was discharged. If anything changes in April we can address that issue at that time.

Three quotes were attempted in all of the lab testing quotations. The vendors listed below came in with the lowest quotations.

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by the lowest bidder Suburban Testing Labs in the amount of \$13,392.00 per year for Compost Fecal & Total Solids Testing. m/passed

m/Johnston s/Delano to approve testing by Suburban Testing Labs in the amount of \$1,134.00 per year for Compost Quarterly Testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by American Aquatic in the amount of \$1,300.00 per test for Bioassay Testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by Suburban Testing Labs in the amount of \$1,298.00 per year for Annual WCR Testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by Suburban Testing Labs in the amount of \$1,496.00 per year for Semi-Annual WCR Testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by ACUA in the amount of \$3,830.16 per year for Influent/Effluent TP, Nitrite, Ammonia, TSS, BOD, E. Coli testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve testing by Suburban Testing Labs in the amount of \$1,160.00 per year for Influent/Effluent O&G, TKN, Copper, Antimony, Bis 2 phthalate, Zinc testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve drinking water testing by SJ Water in the amount of \$1,137.00 per year for TTHM, HAA5's Regulated PFAS testing. m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve drinking water testing by ACUA in the amount of \$1,275.58 per year for TC, Nitrate, Sodium Chloride testing. m/passed

Mr. Zorzi asked the board when they would like to conduct interviews for the open plant position. The board asked how many applications were received. Mr. Zorzi stated we received a lot of applications, however most of the applicants do not live close. Mr. Delano and Mr. Zorzi are going to get together and set up a day that they can interview the top three applicants. Chairman Santagata stated that he is also available but to give him a call to set up a day.

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

m/Johnston s/Delano to pay all bills as presented.

m/passed

The next regular meeting will be held on January 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

m/Delano s/Johnston to adjourn the meeting 7:58 p.m.

m/passed

Submitted by
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary