

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on January 25, 2023 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.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Santagata.

Those present were:

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

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick provided a copy of the cover letter transmitting the contracts for the furnishing and delivery of wood chips to the BBMUA office for signature. The contracts have been signed and will be returned.

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick provided a copy of the cover letter transmitting the contracts for the furnishing and delivery of liquid aluminum sulfate to the BBMUA office for signature. The contracts have been signed and will be returned.

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick provided a copy of the cover letter transmitting the contracts for the furnishing and delivery of Micro C2000 or approved demonstrated equal to the BBMUA office for signature. The contracts have been signed and will be returned.

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent an email to BBMUA Solicitor, Robert Casella, of Testa, Heck, Testa & White regarding the performance bond and payment bond for the bid for the furnishing and delivery of liquid aluminum sulfate and the furnishing and delivery of Micro C2000. The contract term on both contracts is for the calendar years 2023 and 2024. The bond says it shall be effective for the period 1/2023 to 1/2024 but further indicates the contract has a term ending 1/1/2025. Mr. Smith asked

if this is acceptable. Mr. Casella stated that it is acceptable. Mr. Smith stated when he sends the cover letter back with the contract, he will indicate the date on the bond and remind them that at the end of the first contract year that a substitute bond must be sent to the MUA for the second year of the contract.

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent a letter to Chairman Santagata making a recommendation to award the furnishing and delivery of water meters to Rio Supply, Inc. with a bid amount of \$49,700.00 pending the BBMUA Solicitor approval. This is a two-year bid. Solicitor Robert Casella of Testa, Heck, Testa & White responded via email to Mr. Smith's question regarding the contract and stated that Rio Supply, Inc. is eligible to be awarded the contract.

m/Delano s/Johnston to award the bid for the furnishing and delivery of water meters to Rio Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$49,700.00. m/passed

m/Johnston s/Delano to adopt resolution R-4-2023 awarding the contract for the furnishing and delivery of water meters to Rio Supply in the amount of \$49,700.00 for a two-year contract. m/passed

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent a letter to Chairman Joseph Santagata with the recommendation of award for the furnishing of electrical repair and maintenance. After careful review of the bids received on January 19, 2023 the apparent low bidder was Lee-Way Electrical, LLC. Therefore, in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., the contract should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder which is Lee-Way Electrical, LLC. The award has been approved by the MUA Solicitor and funds are available. The BBMUA board decided to award the bid for a two-year term. The contract was bid jointly with the Borough of Buena. However, the bid bond and consent of surety only lists the BBMUA. Mr. Smith sent this to the Borough of Buena Solicitor for his input. If the Borough is ok with us awarding the contract with the current bid bond the board can adopt to award the contract this evening.

m/Delano s/Johnston to award the bid for the furnishing of electrical repair and maintenance services to Lee-Way Electrical, LLC for a two-year term contingent upon the Borough approving the bid bond as submitted. m/passed

m/Delano s/Formisano to adopt resolution R-5-2023 awarding the contract for the furnishing of electrical repair and maintenance services for a two-year term to Lee-Way Electrical LLC. m/passed

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick sent a letter to Chairman Santagata making a recommendation to award the furnishing of mechanical and plumbing repair and

maintenance services to Falasca Mechanical, Inc. for a two-year term pending the BBMUA Solicitor approval. Mr. Smith emailed Solicitor, Robert Casella of Testa, Heck, Testa & White and Mr. Casella emailed Mr. Smith answering the questions he had pertaining to the bid received. Mr. Casella stated that Falasca Mechanical is eligible to be awarded the contract contingent on verification of the SAMs registration showing no active exclusions from bidding on government contracts.

m/Delano s/Johnston to award the bid for the furnishing of mechanical and plumbing repair and maintenance services to Falasca Mechanical, Inc. for a two year term.
m/passed

m/Delano s/Johnston to adopt resolution R-6-2023 awarding the contract for the furnishing of mechanical and plumbing repair and maintenance services for a two-year term to Falasca Mechanical, Inc.
m/passed

Mr. Smith stated he spoke with the Borough of Buena and their next meeting is February 13, 2023 and will make their recommendations to award the contracts for the furnishing of electrical repair and maintenance services as well as for the furnishing of mechanical and plumbing repair and maintenance services at that meeting. Therefore, Mr. Smith will hold off on preparing the contracts until after the Borough's meeting on February 13, 2023.

m/Formisano s/Johnston adopt Resolution R-7-2023 ratifying the late introduction and submission of the 2023 water and sewer operations budget.
m/passed

Mr. Steve Testa presented the 2023 sewer and water budget for the BBMUA to the board for introduction. This year we will be utilizing \$137,088.00 of unrestricted undesignated net position to balance the water budget and \$266,124.00 of unrestricted undesignated net position to balance the sewer budget. While we are not projecting a rate increase on the water side in the 2023 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.

m/Johnston s/Formisano to adopt Resolution R-8-2023 a resolution introducing the Sewer and Water Operation Budget for 2023.
m/passed

Secretary Cheryl Santore opened the (RFQ's) Request for Qualifications for Professional services on January 19, 2023 at 11:00 am as advertised in the official newspapers of the BBMUA. All the RFQ packages were received within the timeframe and the recommendations to the board members were set forth after their review and discussion. Only one RFQ was received for the Auditing, Engineering & Solicitor. Three RFQ's were received for Bond Counsel. One was received from JP Capizzi Law Office, a second was from Parker McCay and a third was from McManimon, Scotland & Bauman, LLC. The following awards will be made at our reorganization meeting on February 8, 2023 and resolutions will be adopted at that time:

Auditing: Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr
Engineering: Remington & Vernick
Solicitor: Testa, Heck, Testa & White
Bond Counsel: JP Capizzi Law Office

All Board Members were in agreement to award the professional services as recommended at the reorganization meeting to be held on February 8, 2023.

Rio Supply provided the annual Neptune 360 software subscription invoice in the amount of \$4,725.00 and the annual premium support in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a total support and software cost of \$7,725.00 for 2023. This is actually \$1,275.00 less than last year due to a discount offered by Rio Supply. This is the software and equipment that we use to read our water meters.

m/Delano s/Johnston to approve the purchase of the annual support and software subscriptions in the total amount of \$7,725.00 for 2023 from Rio Supply, Inc.

m/passed

Secretary Treasurer Cheryl Santore received an email from the Borough of Buena Administrator Maryann Coraluzzo and Borough Councilwoman Marina Barsuglia regarding the installation of a water line hookup for the lot behind the American Legion and in front of the Commerce Center for a community garden project that the Borough of Buena Recreation Commission would like to install. The BBMUA Engineer Robert Smith stated that there is some soil contamination in that area from the old factory that was in that area years ago. He stated that he has a map of the contaminated area that he would be happy to provide to the Borough. While some of the BBMUA Board Members feel this is a good idea for the community they had a few questions about the water line. The BBMUA does not tap or install water lines anymore. Therefore, the board is asking who would install the water line and what contractor would be used. The Board would also like to know how much water will be used and therefore, a water meter would have to be installed and maintained so the meter and the water line do not freeze. This leads to the question of how will they be kept from freezing. Ms. Santore stated she will email the Administrator and Councilwoman Barsuglia back with the questions from the board and notify the board of the response.

m/Formisano s/Johnston to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on January 11, 2023. m/passed

Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi received a quote from Lee-Way Electric for various lighting improvements at the BBMUA Plant. There are seven different lighting improvements to be made around the plant which would replace existing lights with LED Lights once the repairs are made. The total cost quoted for all of the lighting repairs is a cost not to exceed \$9,236.69. Robert Smith said this should be billed per the contract at the hourly rate contracted as well as providing certified payrolls and invoices on parts. Mr. Zorzi said the office does handle that part but he always requests a quote so he can get board approval prior to making repairs.

m/Delano s/Johnston to make the necessary lighting improvements through the BBMUA electrical contractor, Lee-Way Electric, in the amount not to exceed \$9,236.69. m/passed

At a previous meeting the BBMUA Board asked Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi to obtain a membrane replacement proposal from Suez Water Technologies & Solutions for the MBR system due to the 60-week lead time on the membrane replacements. The scope of the membrane replacement includes materials, on-site/off-site support and delivery, cassette refurbishment, and an optional LEAPmbr upgrade. The total cost of the proposal is \$491,165.00 to \$538,375.00. The membranes have a life span of 7-10 years and we have now exceeded the 10-year life expectancy. Steve Testa said that he will check the capital budget to make sure the money is available to cover the cost. Mr. Testa stated that we have been budgeting for the replacement but he has to make sure it is in the capital budget for this year. Mr. Zorzi said this is a critical piece of equipment for the operation of our plant. Robert Smith stated the one thing that was previously talked about is whether we could take advantage of the exception in the Local Public Contracts Law rather than bidding this since it is a propriety part. Mr. Testa said it would be the GG exception but you would have to have Solicitor Robert Casella review that and see if it is able to be taken advantage of. Mr. Zorzi said that he will do a bit more research on the LEAPmbr system as this is newer technology and he has heard good and bad things about the technology. Chairman Santagata said that we should check to see if the money is available in the capital budget for this year and we should look into the exception in the Local Public Contracts Law which will give Mr. Zorzi more time to research the technology. Steve Testa stated that when we do make this purchase it should be awarded by resolution. Mr. Testa stated he will work on this with the Solicitor and check the capital budget. Mr. Testa also wanted to make the board aware that there is a payment schedule in this quote so although the lead time is 60 weeks there are a couple of payments that would have to be made this year.

m/Johnston s/Delano to file all correspondence sent out for review without reading
number 1 through number 20. m/passed

The next regular meeting will be held on February 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This is our annual
reorganization meeting so there is a time change for this meeting only.

m/Delano s/Johnston to adjourn the meeting 7:51 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary