

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on February 14, 2024 at 6 p.m. This meeting notice was provided to The Daily Journal and The Press of Atlantic City 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 Cheryl Santore.

Those present were:

R. Delano	J. Santagata	R. Smith
J. Formisano	A. Sasdelli	M. Testa Sr.
J. Johnston	C. Santore	S. Testa
D. Romeo	A. Zorzi	F. Carpino

The first order of business tonight was the BBMUA's reorganization for the year 2024.

Nomination was made by Joseph Santagata for Robert Delano as the BBMUA's Chairman.

m/Santagata s/Romeo to appoint Robert Delano as the BBMUA's Chairman.  
m/passed

Nomination was made by Joseph Santagata for David Romeo as the BBMUA's Vice-Chairman

m/Santagata s/Johnston to appoint David Romeo as the BBMUA's Vice-Chairman.  
m/passed

Nomination made by David Romeo for Cheryl Santore as the BBMUA's Secretary/Treasurer

m/Romeo s/Formisano to designate Cheryl M. Santore as the BBMUA's Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Officer.  
m/passed

m/Romeo s/Formisano to approve The Atlantic City Press and The Daily Journal as the official newspapers for the BBMUA for 2024. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Santagata to adopt resolution R-7-2024 a resolution designating official newspapers of the BBMUA as the Atlantic City Press and The Daily Journal for the year 2024. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston retain Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr, P.A. as the BBMUA's auditor for the year 2024. m/passed

m/Johnston s/Romeo to adopt resolution R-8-2024 awarding contract for professional services pursuant to the fair and open process to Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr for auditing services for the year 2024 for a yearly amount not to exceed \$64,000.00. m/passed

Chairman Delano stated that we are at the portion to appoint an engineer. Chairman Delano stated that we were asked to revisit the engineer. The engineer was skipped and the Solicitor and Bond Counsel were appointed and resolutions were adopted and then they came back to the Engineering appointment. Mr. Delano stated that there are questions about the awarding of the Engineering Contract to Remington & Vernick. There were two bids presented to the board at the last meeting on Engineering services and it wasn't clear that the second bid from DeBlasio & Associates was the engineering firm the Borough of Buena uses. DeBlasio & Associates comes highly recommended from the Borough and therefore Chairman Delano isn't comfortable with moving forward with the recommendation of Remington & Vernick and would like to have more discussion on this matter with the board before a decision is made. Chairman Delano asked if the board is open and willing to make a change and are we open to making a change to DeBlasio. Member John Formisano stated that the only thing he is looking at is that Remington & Vernick have so many projects out there and knows what is going on than a new man that would be coming in unless you want to hire both. Solicitor Michael Testa Sr. stated that he feels the best way to handle this would be to table this issue and revisit it at the next meeting. He feels the prudent thing to do would be to table the issue and have an executive session meeting since it is contracts and personnel and then discuss the matter in executive session and then you can come out with your decision to make your vote.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to table the matter of engineer for an executive session to discuss the matter before voting until the meeting scheduled for February 28, 2024. m/passed

Chairman Delano stated that in the mean time we can ask our current engineer to compile a transition list in case the change happens as well as asking DeBlasio & Associates to provide an explanation of how they would take over any ongoing projects and how they would be handled moving forward.

m/Romeo s/Johnston retain Testa, Heck, Testa & White, P.A. as the BBMUA's solicitor for the year 2024. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Santagata to adopt resolution R-10-2024 a resolution awarding the contract for professional services pursuant to the fair and open process to Testa, Heck, Testa & White for legal services for the year 2024 for a yearly salary amount of \$12,000.00 and an additional salary amount of \$145.00 per hour for non-salaried services. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston retain JP Capizzi Law Office as the BBMUA's bond counsel for the year 2024. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston adopt resolution R-11-2024 a resolution awarding the contract for professional services pursuant to the fair and open process to JP Capizzi Law Office for bond counsel services for the year 2024. m/passed

The decision on the committees for the year 2024 are being tabled until the February 28, 2024 meeting.

m/Formisano s/Johnston to table the formation of the committees until the next regular meeting on February 28, 2024.

A copy of the contract for Legal Services for execution in accordance with the response to the Request for Qualifications was provided. The contract is for the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr thanked the board for the reappointment as the BBMUA's Auditor for the incoming year. He informed the board that his contract was provided for execution in accordance with the response to the Request for Qualifications. The contract is for the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

Mr. Testa stated they are working on the 2022 Audit. They have chosen some samples and the information was given to them by Secretary/Treasurer Cheryl Santore. However, they are still waiting on the work papers from the Financial Consultant Maryann Chalow. m/Romeo s/Johnston to approve the treasurer's report as read. m/passed

Jason Capizzi of JP Capizzi Law Office forwarded the proposed contract for execution in accordance with the response to the Request for Qualifications and needs to be executed. The contract is for the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

Ms. Santore was contacted by Assistant Superintendent Jon Erber regarding joining the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System. The NJWCP is a cooperative procurement program approved by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. There is no charge to join the Cooperative. Several of our vendors are in the Cooperative for items such as pumps, instrumentation equipment, tools and accessories, valves and accessories, various hose couplings and fittings, safety equipment and supplies, bulk chemicals, various filters, etc. Ms. Santore stated that by joining the cooperative it could potentially save money because the items in the cooperative have already been bid through a public bidding process which we would not have to pay for. Ms. Santore stated if the board is in agreement with us joining the Cooperative, we need to adopt a resolution and sign the agreement and send it to the Cooperative. They are scheduled to meet again on March 14, 2024 at which time they will either accept us as a member or deny us. Once that meeting takes place and if we are approved, we would be able to begin utilizing the Cooperative. Ms. Santore provided the board with a copy of the agreement for the NJWCP that will need to be executed along with the adopted resolution.

m/Santagata s/Romeo to adopt Resolution R-12-2024 approving the BBMUA to become a member of the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System.

Rio Supply provided the annual Neptune 360 software subscription invoice in the amount of \$4,866.93 and the annual premium support in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a total support and software cost of \$7,866.93 for 2024. This is the software and equipment that we use to read our water meters.

m/Romeo s/Santagata to approve the purchase of the annual support and software subscriptions in the total amount of \$7,866.93 for 2024 from Rio Supply, Inc. m/passed

The minutes for the January 24, 2024 regular meeting and closed executive session meeting will be presented for approval at the next regular meeting scheduled for February 28, 2024.

Chairman Delano asked if Mr. Carpino was provided the answers to the email that was sent to Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi. Mr. Zorzi stated the email was sent to Cheryl Santore and was forwarded to the BBMUA Solicitor Robert Casella. Mr. Casella stated that any answers should go through the Solicitor and then he will respond to Mr. Carpino through his attorney since this is a case with potential litigation. Solicitor Testa stated that they do not want anyone answering questions directly and they want any and all correspondence to go through their office and they will respond accordingly.

Frank Carpino asked if the public session could be opened up so he could speak. Mr. Carpino stated that he has information that everyone might want. Mr. Carpino stated that he is Frank Carpino with Liberty Village for anyone that doesn't know him. Mr. Carpino happened to bump into the BBMUA employee reading the meter yesterday on site and was able to take a picture of the tablet screen. He provided everyone with photos of the tablet screen and meter heads to follow along with his presentation. The first picture is of the tablet with the time and date and the second picture is of the regular meter or low side meter and the third picture is of the fire meter or high side meter. When comparing the tablet reading of 02705164 gallons which is different than the bills coming to him. A few minutes after the employee left, he went down into the meter pit and was able to confirm what is on the tablet and what is on the actual meter. Mr. Carpino feels that there is a problem with the billing side or the communication with the tablet and what information Cheryl gets and that the multiplier might be in the wrong place. Mr. Carpino feels there may be a break in communication. Mr. Carpino doesn't think anyone did it on purpose but that maybe the billing software is accustomed to normal meters that don't read all the way to the gallon where this digital meter does. Mr. Carpino is going on the information and in the past has asked for meter readings and such and just feels that unfortunately after seeing this he feels that Cheryl has the wrong information because something doesn't jive. Mr. Carpino said he wants to pay for the water that he used and he is willing to so he wants get the problem solved. The BBMUA Solicitor said that his office will address it and will be in contact with his attorney. Mr. Romeo asked if we have a meeting on this on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Testa confirmed that we have a closed session meeting scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup>.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to accept and file all correspondence sent out for review without reading numbered 1 through 13. m/passed

m/Romeo s/Johnston to pay all bills presented for the month of February 2024. m/passed

The next regular meeting will be held on February 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to adjourn the meeting 6:37 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by  
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary