

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

The regular meeting of the BBMUA was held on March 22, 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:

J. Formisano	C. Santore
J. Johnston	A. Zorzi
J. Santagata	R. Smith
D. Romeo	R. Casella
F. DeStefano	S. Testa

Chairman Santagata informed the board that The Borough of Buena adopted a resolution 63-23 at their last regular meeting held on March 13, 2023 pertaining to the interlocal agreement project with the Borough of Buena MUA. The resolution they adopted authorizes TRIAD Associates to apply to the USDA for funding under the USDA PPG and if approved prepare and submit a USDA Water and Waste Sanitary Sewer full application for an amount not to exceed \$19,500.00 which will be split 50/50 by the Borough of Buena and the BBMUA. It also states that the Borough's Engineer, DeBlasio & Associates will be appointed lead engineer and all mutually approved costs incurred will be paid 50/50 as well as all other mutually approved expenses incurred not covered by the grant paid at 50/50 by the Borough of Buena and the BBMUA. Mr. Adams stated the Borough's priority remains with the maintenance of roadways and they are choosing roadways that are in need of repair and if the roadway needs sewer pipes repaired that is the time to do it. He also stated they are not choosing roadways solely based on the condition of the sewer pipes and if the BBMUA has suggestions on roadways that need repair and know the sewer pipes also need repair they would address that. The BBMUA's Engineer Robert Smith asked the Chairman why the Borough's Engineer is the lead on this project if the project has to do with the BBMUA's infrastructure. The Chairman stated it is because it is his understanding that they have the in on the grant. Member Jeff Johnston asked why their engineer has anything to do with our water and sewer. He can understand them being involved with the road aspect but he doesn't feel they should be the lead when it comes to the pipes that belong to the MUA. Mr. Smith also stated that if they are now asking for our input regarding the sanitary lines that might

need improvement, maybe we can target the roads where Alan knows he has a problem where the mains may need to be replaced. Mr. Smith feels that the Borough Engineer should involve us because if we are going to be paying 50 percent of the bill, we should get something out of it. A new roadway is great but it doesn't benefit the MUA or its ratepayers. If our mains are repaired or replaced then it definitely benefits us and is worth the cost share. Alternate Member David Romeo said in reading the email it says that if we have roadways that we know the sanitary sewer line is bad the Borough would work with us on that project and if they have roadways they are going to do and we know the sanitary sewer is bad they want us to work with them. He feels it would be in everyone's best interest to save the taxpayers money that we work together. Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi stated that if an entire sewer line is going to be replaced, like the last two that we had to repair, especially for clay and asbestos sewer piping you do trenchless excavation. This was done on Route 40 and Route 54. You put a sock in the pipe and heat the water up and the sock expands and adheres to the inside of the pipe and you cup out the connections. With this process you don't tear the road up because it is done through the manholes. Now if there are little breaks that you want to repair that is when the road would be opened and that area is patched. Mr. Zorzi stated normally the road would be opened more to repair water services than sewer. Mr. Romeo said he feels that to ease the burden on either agency it would be best to work together. Robert Smith stated that any time they have done a roadway project when they were the Engineer for the Borough, they would notify all of the utility companies that they would be repaving the roadway and if there were any repairs or work that needs to be done plan on doing it now because once the road is paved there is either a 3 year or 5-year moratorium depending on the roadway. Mr. Smith stated that we do normally work with the Borough when necessary. Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi highlighted to the board that the resolution says, and this was one of his main questions from day one, "Whereas, the Borough of Buena and the Borough of Buena Municipal Utilities Authority have identified the need to replace asbestos and clay tile sewer pipes..." Mr. Zorzi stated he is wondering where the information came from because unless it came from one of our board members or our Engineer, he has never notified anyone of any clay or asbestos pipe. And with asbestos pipe the best thing to do is leave the pipe and slip line the pipe to repair it because that is the most cost-effective way to handle that. The Chairman stated that he thinks we should move forward with this and asked if we should adopt a resolution for the interlocal agreement. Secretary Cheryl Santore said that we should adopt a resolution and that she will work with the BBMUA Solicitor to have one drawn up for the next meeting. Ms. Santore stated that the Borough made reference to a shared services agreement which she asked for a copy of but nothing has been given to her yet. Ms. Santore wants to make sure she has all of the information needed when the resolution is drawn up. Chairman Santagata asked Ms. Santore to take a vote to make sure that all of the members are good with entering into the interlocal agreement. Roll call was taken and all members present voted yes that they were ok with entering into the interlocal.

Chairman Santagata informed the board that a letter was received from Buena EMS Chief, Rhonda Ciraolo seeing if there is any interest by the BBMUA in purchasing one piece of equipment for Buena EMS as listed for their new ambulances. The equipment

they are looking to purchase is a Lucas Device that has a cost of \$23,000.00, Motorola mobile radios for their new ambulance that has a cost of \$5,000.00 or a Stryker Power load device which has a cost of \$33,000.00. The BBMUA Auditor, Steven Testa stated that he does not believe that we can purchase equipment for the Buena EMS. The letter makes reference to the BBMUA donating to the EMS in the past but that was never done unless the Borough used funds they requested from the BBMUA. The BBMUA Solicitor, Robert Casella stated that he agrees with Mr. Testa that we cannot purchase equipment for the EMS if it is something that does not have a connection directly with the BBMUA and is not in the budget. Chairman Santagata asked Secretary Cheryl Santore to advise Rhonda Ciruolo that we are unable to purchase equipment for them or give funds directly to the EMS. The Borough would have to request the funds from us and the funds would have to be available in our budget. Ms. Santore stated that she would do that.

Robert Smith of Remington & Vernick received an email from David Scheidegg of Schaeffer Nassar Scheidegg asking Mr. Smith if he can recommend approval of the Lincoln Avenue project they proposed to the BBMUA for Buena Vista Township. Mr. Smith sent an email to the BBMUA Solicitor, Robert Casella of Testa, Heck, Testa & White regarding the Buena Vista Township sanitary sewer application that was proposed at the March 8, 2023 meeting for a new EMS/Emergency Management Building and retail space. Mr. Smith went back and looked at the 2011 amendment to the 2007 MOA (memorandum of agreement). Basically the 2007 MOA stated that Buena Vista Township was guaranteed 15,000 gallons per day of our committed flow of 400,000 gallons to our sewage treatment plant. Cheryl Santore went back to 2007 and researched which properties have come on line and calculated how many gallons of that 15,000 gallons have been utilized since then. Ms. Santore came up with a total of approximately 10,560 gallons which leaves approximately 4,440 gallons remaining. Mr. Scheidegg estimates the flow for the EMS/OEM Building and retail space to be approximately 2,740 gallons per day. Mr. Smith stated he has to check on something with the office building because part of that is storage although that wouldn't affect the flow very much. Mr. Smith stated when checking the MOA and the way it is written it states when the BBMUA gets the increase in their capacity from 400,000 to 600,000 gallons per day Buena Vista Township is guaranteed 1/3 of those flows for 10 years after it was approved and increased. In his discussion with Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi until such time as the 12-month rolling average exceeds the 400,000 gallons per day for three consecutive months the BBMUA is not eligible to apply for the permit increase from 400,000 gpd to 600,000 gpd. So, at this point we have not had a 12-month rolling average for three consecutive months that exceeds the 400,000 gpd and our NJPDES Permit still has a permitted flow of 400,000 gallons per day. Mr. Smith's concern is that as one of the requirements in the MOA Buena Vista Township has to, within 10 years, fund an interceptor up Route 40 where it will pick up those businesses and pick up the Buena Vista Township Municipal Building and they also have to sewer the Buena Vista Camping World. In the meetings with the Campground, they were throwing out numbers of 70,000 gallons per day but they did not have definite numbers of what they think the flow will be for the Campground. Mr. Smith doesn't know if we should be reserving

some of this capacity for the Campground to make sure that we have sufficient allocation for them for the timeframe they were given to connect. When he read the MOA the 15,000 gallons per day belong to Buena Vista Township regardless of what happens with the Campground. So, it looks like we can approve the additional flow as long as it is below their cap of 15,000 gallons per day. He just sent the email to Bob Casella to see what he thought and he wants the board to understand that if we approve this it is within their 15,000 gallons per day but it may adversely impact the flow that may be required in the future for Buena Vista Camping World. Mr. Smith said the board can grant the initial approval of the applications if they choose with the contingency that they obtain all other approvals. The Township will still have to come in and do a treatment works approval and submit final plans to us and what the Township was looking for is an agreement or understanding that they can have that committed flow in order to move forward with their project. Buena Vista Township would still have to do the same thing as any other developer or applicant and purchase the units. Mr. Smith doesn't see it as being a problem.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to recommend approval of the flow to Buena Vista Township for their application for the EMS/Emergency Management and Retail Space contingent upon any and all other necessary approvals. m/passed

m/Johnston s/Romeo to approve the proposal to provide engineering services to upgrade the water system SCADA controls for a cost not to exceed \$14,500.00 m/passed

Steve Testa of Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr stated that his office is diligently working on the Audit.

Secretary Treasurer Cheryl Santore provided the board with an email she received from the NJ I-Bank regarding the NJ I-Bank Water and Transportation Bank Seminar Series that will be held on March 24, 2023 and March 29, 2023. Ms. Santore stated she forwarded this email to the Borough Clerk and Chief Financial Officer in case they had any interest in attending or to forward to the Council if they wish. This webinar is about program financing changes coming for the State Fiscal Year 2024.

m/Johnston s/Romeo to accept the minutes of the last regular meeting held on March 8, 2023. m/passed

Plant Superintendent Alan Zorzi presented the board with the 2023 Grass Cutting Quotes that were obtained. Three quotes were attempted and Cutting Edge came in as the lowest quote in the amount of \$240.00 per cut at the plant with an estimated 16 cuts and \$240.00 per cut if additional cuts are needed and \$220.00 per cut at the pump stations for an estimated 6 cuts for a total estimated cost for 2023 in the amount of \$5,160.00.

m/Johnston s/Romeo to authorize Cutting Edge to perform the grass cutting services at the plant and pump stations for a total estimated cost of \$5,160.00 for the year 2023.

Mr. Zorzi also presented three quotes that were obtained for 5000 linear feet of perforated poly pipe used in composting. Preferred Choice Supply Company came in with the lowest quote in the amount of \$4,315.00.

m/Romeo s/Johnston to authorize the purchase of 5000 linear feet of perforated poly pipe from Preferred Choice Supply Company in the amount of \$4,315.00 m/passed

m/Romeo s/DeStefano to file all correspondence sent out for review without reading number 1 through number 8. m/passed

The next regular meeting will be held on April 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

m/Romeo s/DeStefano to adjourn the meeting 7:35 p.m. m/passed

Submitted by
Cheryl Santore-BBMUA Secretary