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ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

G. Bruce Ward, Executive Director
Linda R. Bazemore, Deputy Executive Director
Garth Moyle, Deputy Executive Director
Fredric L. Bor, Esquire, Board Solicitor
Andrew Weber, Esquire
Stella Johnson, Board Administrator

B E F O R E:

Milton L. Smith, Chairman
Gary L. Hill, Vice Chairman/Secretary
John McGettigan, Treasurer
William Lea, Board Member
Edmund J. Colanzi, Board Member
William K. Cheatham, Alternate
Patricia Bailey, Alternate

TAKEN BEFORE: JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO,
Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey,
License No. XI01786, at the ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES AUTHORITY, 401 North Virginia Avenue,
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08404, commencing
at 10 a.m.

JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
1724 TILTON ROAD
NORTHFIELD, NEW JERSEY 08225
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I N D E X

PUBLIC

(NO PUBLIC PRESENT.)

PAGE

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1 MR. BOR: Ms. Bailey?

2 MS. BAILEY: Here.

3 MR. BOR: Mr. Lea?

4 MR. LEA: Here.

5 MR. BOR: Colanzi?

6 MR. COLANZI: Here.

7 MR. BOR: McGettigan?

8 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Here.

9 MR. BOR: Hill?

10 MR. HILL: Here.

11 MR. BOR: Smith?

12 MR. SMITH: Here.

13 MR. BOR: Quorum.

14 MR. SMITH: You know, I don't have the
15 paper for the opening statement, special meeting.

16 MR. WARD: Notice of the special
17 meeting has been --

18 MR. BOR: This is a special meeting of
19 the Board of Directors of the ACMUA in compliance
20 with the law. The Press has been notified. The
21 proper time frame has been notified. It's been
22 posted on the website, and in my opinion, we've
23 followed all the requirements to have the special
24 meeting today. We've already called roll, we do have
25 a quorum and are ready to proceed.

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1 MR. SMITH: For the most part, we're
2 going to turn this meeting over to -- we did roll
3 call?

4 MR. BOR: We did roll call. Quorum is
5 present.

6 MR. SMITH: Turn this meeting over to
7 the Solicitor and the Director.

8 MR. WARD: Just a quick announcement.
9 We've received the MBCA announcement for the
10 unofficial State of the City Winter Kickoff Luncheon.
11 We would like to know if Members of the Board would
12 like to attend and this would be the State of the
13 City address.

14 MR. SMITH: Where is it being held this
15 year?

16 MR. WARD: At the new convention center
17 at Harrah's.

18 MR. SMITH: We always -- I think we
19 always had a table and some of the Board Members who
20 wanted to go have gone that wanted to go.

21 MR. WARD: We never did a resolution
22 for this, but we would like to.

23 MR. HILL: It's going to be an
24 interesting meeting.

25 MR. WARD: We would like to know who

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1 would like to attend so that we can --

2 MS. BAILEY: State of the City?

3 MR. WARD: It's unofficial State of the
4 City address. Is it the 13th?

5 MR. WEBER: The 13th.

6 MR. HILL: At the new Harrah's center.

7 MR. WARD: At the new Harrah's center.

8 Could I get names of individuals --

9 MR. HILL: It's the day after the
10 legislature closes, which is the 12th.

11 MS. BAILEY: What time?

12 MR. HILL: Noon.

13 MR. SMITH: Any Board Members that want
14 to go, notify Stella or Bruce.

15 MR. WARD: So we'll do a table.

16 MR. BOR: If the table has room, I
17 would like to attend.

18 MR. WARD: We'll make sure.

19 MR. CHEATHAM: I would like to attend.

20 MR. WARD: Stella, can I have a list of
21 the individuals would have submitted for the counsel?

22 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

23 MR. WARD: Number three is appointment
24 of professionals for Authority Solicitor and Labor
25 Counsel. We received I think possibly five and six

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1 on the respective ones. My recommendation is that
2 for Authority Solicitor, we reappoint Mr. Fred Bor.
3 My recommendation for Labor Counsel, we reappoint
4 Andrew Weber.

5 MR. HILL: I would like to move them.
6 Before I do, I would like to make a statement. It's
7 been a very interesting and difficult year, and I
8 just admire both of the work you gentlemen have done
9 for the Authority and for the Board, and thank you
10 very much.

11 MR. BOR: I appreciate it.

12 MR. WEBER: Thank you.

13 MR. HILL: And I'll move it.

14 MR. COLANZI: Second.

15 MR. BOR: Mr. Lea?

16 MR. LEA: Yes.

17 MR. BOR: Colanzi?

18 MR. COLANZI: Yes.

19 MR. BOR: McGettigan?

20 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Yes.

21 MR. BOR: Hill?

22 MR. HILL: Yes.

23 MR. BOR: Smith?

24 MR. SMITH: Yes.

25 MR. BOR: Carries. Thank you,

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1 gentlemen.

2 MR. SMITH: I would like to echo the
3 statement of Mr. Gary.

4 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Ibid.

5 MR. WARD: Number four, budget summary.
6 Let me summarize by saying 2016 budget was prepared
7 under the direction of DEP Executive Director Linda
8 Bazemore, finalized in October, presented on two
9 public hearings, which one was attended by the Press.
10 There was a subsequent story by the Press.

11 We received e-mails. First e-mail from
12 the Division of Local Government Services. I believe
13 that e-mail comes in on December 9th, saying we could
14 not approve our budget in our Board meeting in
15 December, which was sort of ten days in advance. One
16 of the reasons was given that they had staffing
17 conflicts or something. We continued on to set up a
18 special meeting, notified Division of Local
19 Government Services that we would have this special
20 meeting so we would be prepared to go forward with
21 our budget. To which we received another e-mail
22 indicating that they are not going to be in a
23 position of approving the budget, and also inserted a
24 statement saying that given some of the issues in the
25 City of Atlantic City, and in discussion with our

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1 attorneys, that comment could be considered ultra
2 virus from one department of government to another.
3 Once you have the executive branch, and we did not
4 have any policy arising from the legislature at that
5 time, but be that as it may, we set up the special
6 meeting today.

7 And in discussions with our lobbying
8 group, we're going to go forward with a conditional
9 ratification of our budget and proceed. There is no
10 other option. We have a critical service to continue
11 to provide. You know, if we took literally some of
12 what was said in those e-mails, it would mean shut
13 down January -- excuse me, December 31st at 12:01 and
14 there would be no water in the City's hospital and
15 City's hotels and so forth and so on.

16 In discussions with our lobbyist, we're
17 going to have a meeting. I'm going to have a meeting
18 set up with the department and we're going to go very
19 very carefully over what their view is and give them
20 an opportunity to hear us. And in fact, in a
21 conversation it was clear that they did not really
22 understand all of the issues that are going on that
23 -- so be that as it may, Ms. Bazemore also did
24 provide responses to questions that were raised with
25 respect to the budget, and that's been a usual thing

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1 all along. I mean, in the budget review there are
2 some times when they're asking for a little bit of
3 specific here, a little bit of specific there and Ms.
4 Bazemore very very carefully outlined our responses
5 and sent them back to the DCA. So this would be an
6 effort that we will have an opportunity to be at the
7 State level on the table for the budget.

8 MR. BOR: And just from a legal
9 standpoint, the formulation of these, the resolution
10 resulted from many hours of Andy and I, with Bruce's
11 consultation, trying to formulate in a way that would
12 protect the interest of our constituents, visitors,
13 etcetera, etcetera, but yet be appropriate and legal
14 given the nature of our services.

15 Now as I put into the resolution, we
16 submitted our budget on October 22nd to the DCA and
17 as I indicate, thereby statute, they had 45 days to
18 approve or disapprove. They did not approve or
19 disapprove within 45 days. They just sent
20 suggestions, so 45 days from October 2nd is passed,
21 but I also reviewed a statute with my colleague here,
22 5A-11, that I put in there that says, "No authority
23 budget shall be finally adopted until the director
24 shall have approved same." So we said the word, the
25 use of the word "finally" doesn't mean at long last.

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1 It means to make final approval. And Andy said to me
2 in his other MUA and others, they often continue
3 going, and this process of back and forth continues
4 without adoption of the budget by the year end.

5 So I then reviewed whether it would be
6 any prohibition against such a conditional adoption,
7 as I'm asking the Board to adopt. I saw no
8 prohibition in light of the fact what we do as a
9 service. I think any challenge to it will be upheld,
10 so that's why I'm recommending. And if Andy wants to
11 bring to light, this is not a one-off suggestion. I
12 think it's the appropriate thing to do.

13 MR. WEBER: I would just from, just in
14 my multiple years of experience with MUAs and
15 currently in the position I do hold with Willingboro
16 as Executive Director, I can tell you this. My
17 experience, these budgets, unlike council budgets
18 let's say or municipal budgets, are sort of an
19 ongoing thing. In fact, I've seen where dialogue
20 between the DCA and the finance person or Executive
21 Director go on for months and they may not
22 necessarily finally finalize everything until
23 sometime in April. And to me, I don't think this is
24 unusual, except for the circumstances that are
25 obviously outside the MUA. I don't think this is too

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1 terribly unusual, that we end up approving it
2 conditionally, and there will be questions that will
3 be asked beyond this point in time.

4 MR. BOR: And it may be that upon
5 further review it gets tweaked in a way that we have
6 to come back to the Board, but that's an ongoing
7 process.

8 Plus as Bruce mentioned, I found it
9 very unusual in the letter that they sent to us, by
10 statute, they're supposed to review our resources,
11 supposed to review our budget, our appropriation, our
12 revenues, and by putting in writing, as the Executive
13 Director indicates, that based upon what's going on
14 in Atlantic City with pending legislation, and that
15 was so off the wall, because it went beyond the scope
16 of what they're supposed to be doing. They're
17 interjecting into it the gutter politics of what is
18 going on at the intergovernmental level, so I thought
19 that was a very strange paragraph. It should have
20 been, we're reviewing or need more time to review
21 revenues.

22 MR. WEBER: To add a little humor, I
23 appeared before the local finance board, which is the
24 DCA which oversees this, several years ago and on
25 behalf of an MUA, and at the time they hadn't adopted

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1 their budget yet and we were halfway through the year
2 and the budget had gotten fouled up somehow and they
3 were still moving along, and it came up in a
4 conversation and here I am under oath and blah, blah,
5 and saying, you know, you forgot to do this, this and
6 this.

7 And I said, I promise we'll get it done
8 right away. And it sort of went on. I think that's,
9 let's just say the rule is there and we should be
10 obviously following it. And I think we have done
11 everything we need to do. And for whatever reason,
12 they're just busy or whatever the situation is.

13 MR. SMITH: Just for a point of
14 reference, if you don't have a budget for the new
15 year, don't you still go by the budget you had last
16 year, working within that?

17 MR. BOR: I think you're done.

18 MR. HILL: No.

19 MR. WEBER: Not really.

20 MR. SMITH: You have to have a new
21 budget?

22 MR. WEBER: Yes, even under council
23 title 40, as we all know, you know, you approve a
24 temporary budget at reorg, and there is a reason for
25 that.

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1 MR. SMITH: Is that what we're working
2 under now, a temporary budget?

3 MR. BOR: We're calling it a
4 conditional budget, conditioned upon more interaction
5 with DCA, complying with what they need from the
6 budget standpoint.

7 Some city councils, and we're a little
8 different, we'll call it an emergency appropriation,
9 do other things, but I don't think we have to go that
10 route. I think additional -- besides, I think we did
11 bounce it off our lobbyist, who has a good
12 understanding of those folks up there. He said, That
13 sounds like a good idea of calling it that. It makes
14 it look like you're not too cocky. You're not doing
15 it in defiance.

16 MR. WEBER: This isn't, I dare you to
17 go ahead and do something with us. Because of the
18 lobbyist, I do know there has been discussions
19 informally to the State that we have to take this,
20 and it's not like they came back to him and said, You
21 do that and the world is coming to an end. Of
22 course, you know --

23 MR. WARD: Some of the e-mails came
24 from lower level staff at the DCA, and once the
25 lobbyist got into the exchange, he went straight to

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1 the top.

2 MR. WEBER: Right.

3 MR. WARD: Now we're in conversation
4 with the actual decision makers.

5 MR. WEBER: And yes, I think the main
6 thing would have been --

7 MR. SMITH: We have an ally in the
8 lobbyist.

9 MR. WEBER: Yes. I think the main
10 thing is no surprises, so I believe there is no one
11 from the press that's going to be surprised if they
12 were somehow to read that we've done the conditional
13 thing.

14 MR. HILL: You also stated there was
15 past precedents for doing this.

16 MR. WEBER: Yes, other towns do this.

17 MR. HILL: So we didn't all of a sudden
18 come up with this idea.

19 MR. WEBER: Also agencies --

20 MR. HILL: I know our agency did it,
21 the other agency.

22 MR. WEBER: I think I may have
23 commented, there are some very smart people at the
24 CRDA and they did the same thing.

25 MR. BOR: Just one last point. I don't

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1 believe there are any other comments before the vote.
2 Obviously we still have another battlefront. This is
3 one battlefront. Obviously the whole statutory
4 modifications may or may not happen. If it goes to
5 council, may or may not happen, but it's all part of
6 one scheme to try to blow us up. At least this takes
7 care of the time being of, one, that allows us just
8 to do business as usual as we should be doing.

9 And we're dealing with the other two in
10 kind of an effective way, which we'll talk about in a
11 few minutes.

12 MS. BAILEY: What if we kept on
13 operating and didn't pass that? What would be the
14 problem?

15 MR. WEBER: I think we would be in
16 ultra virus. I don't think we can write any checks.
17 That's why Fred and I did do some research and --

18 MS. BAILEY: We're in a position we
19 don't have any other alternative.

20 MR. BOR: But it still opens the door,
21 Ms. Bailey. Just as Andy indicates, we're not being
22 cocky with them, saying screw you. Linda has given
23 what they wanted. I'm sure they're going to have
24 comments. It still keeps the conversation ongoing on
25 what you guys need in Trenton to finally approve us.

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1 MS. BAILEY: In case you don't have any
2 other alternative, what else could you have done? We
3 know we're not being combative. If I was to make a
4 statement there was no other alternative, I'm
5 standing on that statement.

6 MR. BOR: If at some point we get
7 approval from them, we'll come back to the Board,
8 switching the approval to a final adoption.

9 MR. CHEATHAM: I think it's important
10 that we protect our employees. That's the first
11 bottom line. Employees feel that they're going to be
12 left out or rejected on payroll. They won't get
13 paid. That's a terrible thing.

14 MR. BOR: I know, Mr. Cheatham.
15 Without this a main blows January 1st, without
16 this --

17 MR. WARD: Without this the toilets
18 don't flush after New Year's. There is a public
19 health responsibility that we have. And you know, we
20 just tried to create the proper context with the
21 State to proceed forward while these discussions
22 continue.

23 MR. CHEATHAM: Okay.

24 MR. BOR: Okay. Any other comments or
25 a motion?

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1 MR. WARD: 4.b motion.

2 MR. SMITH: Move it.

3 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Second.

4 MR. BOR: Mr. Lea?

5 MR. LEA: Yes.

6 MR. BOR: Colanzi?

7 MR. COLANZI: Yes.

8 MR. BOR: McGettigan?

9 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Yes.

10 MR. BOR: Hill?

11 MR. HILL: Yes.

12 MR. BOR: Smith?

13 MR. SMITH: Yes.

14 MR. BOR: Carries.

15 MR. WARD: Briefly we'll go into Closed
16 Session.

17 (Closed Session from

18 10:20 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.)

19 MR. WARD: We are back in Open Session.

20 During the Closed Session we had a discussion of the
21 State of the City on various developments.

22 We also have resolved to submit to
23 actually bring an RFQ for Special Legal Counsel at
24 our next Board meeting.

25 We also have a resolution number 5.c(1)

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1 for approval. Mr. Bor?

2 MR. BOR: Is there a motion for 5.c(1)?

3 MR. SMITH: Move it.

4 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Second.

5 MR. BOR: Mr. Lea?

6 MR. LEA: Yes.

7 MR. BOR: Colanzi?

8 MR. COLANZI: Yes.

9 MR. BOR: McGettigan?

10 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Yes.

11 MR. BOR: Hill?

12 MR. HILL: Yes.

13 MR. BOR: Smith?

14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15 MR. WARD: We also have a resolution
16 for appointment for Anita Thapa. That would be 5.e.

17 MR. SMITH: Move it.

18 MR. HILL: Second.

19 MR. BOR: Mr. Lea?

20 MR. LEA: Yes.

21 MR. BOR: Colanzi?

22 MR. COLANZI: Yes.

23 MR. BOR: McGettigan?

24 MR. MCGETTIGAN: Yes.

25 MR. BOR: Hill?

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1 MR. HILL: Yes.

2 MR. BOR: Smith?

3 MR. SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. BOR: Carries.

5 MR. WARD: We also discussed the
6 importance of continuing health care for our staff
7 and Executive Director. We'll approach the human
8 resources director to begin to assess certain
9 continuing health care opportunities for our staff.
10 And that concludes our meeting today.

11 MR. SMITH: We need to -- what do you
12 need, Bruce? Do we need adjournment?

13 MR. BOR: Hearing no objection.

14 (The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO, a Certified Court Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that I am neither a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel of any of the parties to this action, and that I am neither a relative nor employee of such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the action.

JACQUELINE M. ZARRILLO
Certified Court Reporter
License No. XI01786

DATED: January 5, 2016

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