

ATLANTIC CITY  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

RE: REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE  
ATLANTIC CITY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

OPEN SESSION

September 21, 2022  
COMMENCING AT 10:02 a.m.  
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY L. HILL, Chairman  
MOHAMMED DEDAR, Vice Chairman/Deputy  
MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, Executive Director  
INDIA STILL, Deputy Executive Director  
BRUCE WARD, Solicitor  
CLAUDE SMITH, Deputy Executive Director of  
Engineering  
STEPHANIE DAVIES, Alternate #1  
SAYED KAUSAR, Alternate #2

ALSO PRESENT:

WASTELLA JOHNSON, Board Secretary  
ANITA THAPA  
MICHAEL RILEY, ESQUIRE, Board Attorney

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

WENDY L. WALINSKI, RPR, NJ CCR

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1                   CHAIRMAN HILL: So we're going to  
2 call the meeting to order. Adequate notice of this  
3 meeting has been provided as required by law by  
4 mailing to The Press a list of the regularly  
5 scheduled meeting, September 21st, 2022, at 401  
6 North Virginia Avenue Conference Room, Atlantic  
7 City, New Jersey. A copy of said notice was sent to  
8 the City Clerk to be posted. All of the aforesaid  
9 complies with Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 known  
10 as the Public Meetings Law.

11                   And we'll do a roll call, please.

12                   MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Hill?

13                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Present.

14                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

15                   MR. DEDAR: Yes.

16                   MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

17                   MS. DAVIES: Yes.

18                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

19                   MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

20                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you all for  
21 attending.

22                   MR. ARMSTRONG: Could I just --  
23 sorry, Chairman. I think for the record you've got  
24 to call all names that are not here.

25                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: To make sure.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr.

4 Banfield? Not present.

5 Ms. Nynell informed us. She's not  
6 present.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

8 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Eccles, not  
9 present.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. So that means  
11 our alternates will be voting today unless, of  
12 course, one of our other regular board members come  
13 onboard.

14 Let's do our flag salute, please.  
15 Mr. Dedar, our vice chair, would you lead us,  
16 please?

17 (The Pledge of Allegiance is  
18 recited.)

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, sir.

20 MR. DEDAR: You're welcome.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Public  
22 participation. Of course, even though we're on  
23 Zoom, the public is, of course, invited to attend.

24 Ms. Johnson, do we have anybody from  
25 the public who would like to participate at this

1 time?

2 MS. JOHNSON: No, we do not.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Very good.

4 Then we're going to move on the agenda to approval  
5 of minutes. Again, there are two set of minutes,  
6 the open set, which we've all been -- all the board  
7 members have looked at and hopefully reviewed, and  
8 closed session, and I'm told that we have four board  
9 members who came in, read the closed session, signed  
10 off on them, and so we can move on both of those.

11 So we will start with opening session  
12 minutes for August 17th, resolution 5 a.

13 Would you read that, please?

14 MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, the Atlantic  
15 City Municipal Utilities Authority held their  
16 regularly scheduled board meeting on August 17th,  
17 2022.

18 Now therefore be it resolved, on the  
19 21st day of September, that the board of directors  
20 approved the transcript of the open session meeting  
21 minutes.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. Any  
23 discussion, changes, or edits?

24 Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion  
25 to accept.

1 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

3 And a second?

4 MR. KAUSAR: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

6 Roll call.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

10 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

12 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

14 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.

16 Moving on to the September open session meeting,  
17 resolution 5 a. (2).

18 Would you read the resolution,  
19 please?

20 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Whereas, the  
21 Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority held  
22 their special board meeting on September 1st, 2022.

23 Now therefore be it resolved, it is  
24 on the 21st day of September '22, that the board of  
25 directors hereby approve the transcript of the open

1 session special meeting minutes.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.

3 Discussion, edits, changes?

4 Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion  
5 to accept.

6 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

8 A second?

9 MR. KAUSAR: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

11 Roll call.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

15 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

17 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

19 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.

21 Moving on to 5 b., our closed session minutes that  
22 we all reviewed at the MUA offices. We'll move on  
23 resolution 5 b. for August.

24 Ms. Johnson, can you read that,  
25 please?

1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Whereas, the  
2 Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority held  
3 their regularly scheduled board meeting on August  
4 17th.

5 Whereas -- now therefore be it  
6 resolved, it is on the 21st day of September '22,  
7 that the board of directors hereby approves the  
8 transcript of the closed -- closed session meeting  
9 minutes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.  
11 Discussion, changes, edits you should have done in  
12 the office, so we're going to vote.

13 Roll call.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Hill?

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

17 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

19 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

21 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving on  
23 to approval of closed session minutes for September  
24 1st, 2022. This is resolution 5 b. (2).

25 Ms. Johnson, could you read that,

1 please?

2 MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, the Atlantic  
3 City Municipal Utilities Authority held their  
4 special board meeting on September 1st, 2022.

5 Now therefore be it resolved, it is  
6 on this 21st day of September 2022, that the board  
7 of directors hereby approves the transcript of the  
8 closed session meeting minutes.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. No  
10 discussion at this time. We'll call the vote.

11 Ms. Johnson, could you call the vote  
12 for that?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

16 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

18 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

20 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.  
22 Moving on to number 6. It's my distinct pleasure,  
23 I'd like to welcome somebody new to our team and to  
24 our family, our new deputy executive director Ms.  
25 India Still, who is on the video. I hope you can



1 all see her, and soon we'll be able to meet her in  
2 person.

3 And, you know, Ms. Still is a very,  
4 very highly skilled professional, as well as I think  
5 she -- what I like about Ms. Still, as I mentioned  
6 at the last meeting when I -- when we filled  
7 everybody in, she has a lot of -- a lot of strings.  
8 She has a lot of things that she can do, and we're  
9 going to make sure she does all of that.

10 She's highly skilled educationally,  
11 administratively, financially, and also community  
12 wise. She has a really good handle on our  
13 community, so we'd like to officially welcome her to  
14 the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority.

15 We're very glad you decided to join  
16 us, Ms. Still. India, would you like to just say  
17 hello or a special just one or two things about  
18 yourself, please?

19 MS. STILL: Yes. Thank you. I  
20 really appreciate being part of this team. And I  
21 have to apologize, but I'm not in the office today.  
22 I'm battling some type of upper respiratory  
23 infection. It's not COVID, but I think I was -- I  
24 was there on site yesterday, and I felt like, you  
25 know, I was coughing a little bit, and I thought

1 maybe I was freaking out the staff, so I decided to  
2 just try to, you know, recuperate a little bit more  
3 at home.

4 But yes. I'm really excited about  
5 being part of this team. I know that the operation  
6 has a long history of being very well run, and I'm  
7 just looking to contribute as best possible.

8 As you mentioned, Director Hill, I  
9 have a lot of ties in the community through my prior  
10 position with the DCA, and I think that those --  
11 some of those relationships will be helpful moving  
12 forward.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: I -- I so agree. I  
14 agree.

15 Is there any board member that would  
16 like to ask a question or comment?

17 Okay. Well, welcome again, and I  
18 know you're going to be getting settled in and so  
19 forth, and I wish you a good -- quickly recovery,  
20 too.

21 I had that same thing last week, and  
22 it wasn't COVID, so -- that respiratory thing. I  
23 had the same thing.

24 Two other things under my report not  
25 listed, just because it came up, and I wanted to

1 make sure we were all aware. As some of you know, I  
2 sit on the CRDA board of directors, and we had a  
3 meeting yesterday, and there was one item that I  
4 abstained from because I believe we had provided a  
5 nonprofit just recently about \$11,000 hookup fee.  
6 It was for the -- the church -- for the -- not for  
7 the church. It was for the --

8 Anita, help me out. It was for  
9 the --

10 MS. JOHNSON: Inlet?

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: John Brooks, I think  
12 the John Brooks Center. We had to -- we had to give  
13 them -- we had to expand their line.

14 MS. THAPA: Connection.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's correct.  
16 Right, about \$11,000. They paid that. The  
17 nonprofit paid it at the nonprofit rate, okay,  
18 connecting to the MUA. However, they went now to  
19 the CRDA to ask for a grant to pay them back.  
20 Nothing to do with us. We have our money for the  
21 nonprofit, but I wanted to be -- make sure all of  
22 you are aware I obviously recused myself from that  
23 vote. So that happened yesterday.

24 And also, maybe some of you read in  
25 the paper today -- I did -- that the governor has

1 now signed into law a new law about public -- public  
2 and private water utilities, including sewer and  
3 water, accountability where we will be having to  
4 report to the utility board shutoffs, any effects on  
5 liens with property owners, our rates, which are  
6 very good. That will be good for us in the report.

7 And if you haven't read it, it's in  
8 the main section of the Atlantic City Press.  
9 Apparently it went through all the legislative  
10 bodies. It is now signed by the governor. We will  
11 have to comply with this.

12 And, Ms. Still, you might have to  
13 look at that.

14 And I think, Anita, you already do a  
15 lot of that work, shutoffs and so forth. So we're  
16 going to have to make sure we're on top of that,  
17 that we are in compliance.

18 It's to make sure that everybody in  
19 the state is aware of our rates, our issues, yadda,  
20 yadda. So I don't know if anybody else read that.

21 Maybe, Mr. Ward, you could look at  
22 that, as well, that law and what we need to do to  
23 comply with that.

24 MR. WARD: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Anybody else

1 saw it today? I was like, wow. More work.

2 MR. DEDAR: We are working people,  
3 you know.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. So I just  
5 wanted to --

6 MS. THAPA: So according to the  
7 report, we have to submit the report to the state or  
8 public --

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: To the Public Board  
10 of Utilities.

11 MS. THAPA: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: And then they, I  
13 guess, present it to the state, and it's not just  
14 us. Public and private water and sewer companies.  
15 So interesting I thought. More work.

16 Okay. That will do me. And we're  
17 going to move on to authority solicitor report.  
18 This was an issue that I'm hoping that we've now  
19 settled with our -- the City of Atlantic City. Mr.  
20 Ward's been working hard on this.

21 So I'm going to turn it over to Mr.  
22 Ward.

23 MR. WARD: Good morning, board  
24 members. Good morning, staff. This is still a work  
25 in progress. The history is that Mr. Armstrong

1 offered the --

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry.

3 MR. WARD: -- opportunity for the  
4 authority and the city to work together on a shared  
5 service agreement. And I don't have the exact date,  
6 but somewhere back in April --

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Bruce, if I can --  
8 Bruce, I don't mean to --

9 MR. WARD: Yes.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: I don't mean to cut  
11 you off. But two things, one, I had a subsequent  
12 conversation with Anthony and Toro this week.

13 MR. WARD: That's where I was going.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, but I think it  
15 should be in closed -- I think it should be in  
16 closed session because it's contract negotiations.

17 MR. WARD: Okay. All right.

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: We should hold that.

19 MR. WARD: I was just saying that,  
20 you know, it's still a work in progress, so yes.

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: So we'll discuss both  
23 of those in closed session?

24 MR. WARD: So we should move 7 to  
25 closed session. We're going to move 7 to closed

1 session.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. No  
3 problem. Yeah. That -- there's a lot of components  
4 to this, so we'll handle that then. Right. Very  
5 good.

6 Okay. Engineering committee. We met  
7 this month. It was kind of a long engineering  
8 meeting for September, but I did want to inform the  
9 other board members who are not on the committee --  
10 Mr. Eccles is on the committee with myself -- we had  
11 a very good engineer report update on all the  
12 projects that we are doing, what is completed,  
13 almost completed, monies involved, contractors'  
14 names, status, a status report.

15 I believe Ms. Johnson just sent an  
16 updated status report to the entire board; correct?

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: It was -- I just  
18 asked about that actually. I was wondering why it  
19 wasn't attached.

20 Am I understanding that it was  
21 pulled?

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Smith --

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: The updated one?

24 MS. JOHNSON: You're on mute, Mr.  
25 Smith. You're on mute. Mr. Smith?

1 MR. SMITH: Yeah. I didn't send  
2 everything out to everyone. I just sent it to  
3 the -- to the engineering committee individuals.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Engineering  
5 committee?

6 MR. SMITH: So if next -- the next  
7 engineering committee meeting we can send the full  
8 report out, which will actually be updated on a  
9 final type of a basis, and everything could be -- be  
10 seen on that particular report.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Yeah. I  
12 think it's a good idea --

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: That's not for two  
14 more months, though; right? That's not for at least  
15 two months, for our next meeting; right?

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

17 MR. SMITH: We can -- no. We can --  
18 you can actually send it out -- you can send it out  
19 at the next board meeting, Mike. It might not -- it  
20 won't be -- it wouldn't be our engineering meeting  
21 as in current, but it will still be the report to be  
22 given to everyone.

23 MR. ARMSTRONG: If we could just  
24 tweak what the board already -- or the committee  
25 already saw and just at least give them something



1 now so that if anybody asks them questions about any  
2 of the projects, they'll be aware, but we can tweak  
3 it later, but I think that based on what I saw, you  
4 know, and the committee saw, I thought it was pretty  
5 good.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. And if we  
8 could just, you know, tweak it, you know, for typos  
9 or whatever, and then we can just adjust it as  
10 things happen.

11 Because I'm sure it's a work in  
12 progress anyways. This is just the first one.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: And I would like for  
15 them to see -- because this has been a while, and  
16 you know, and people are asking questions, so the  
17 board should be aware of a lot of the projects that  
18 are going on in the event that questions come up.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. All of the  
20 information is -- is very well documented,  
21 construction companies, project status. Mr. Smith  
22 will work very hard on it.

23 So could we do that, Claude, send it  
24 to the other board members, please?

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Send it to me first,

1 Claude. We'll talk about it after the meeting.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: How you do it, right.  
3 I think it's a good idea for everybody to be aware  
4 of what's going on, and of course, I think it's  
5 obviously very important for Ms. Still -- Ms. Still,  
6 as well, to review.

7 But that was one report we reviewed.  
8 We also did -- Anita Thapa did a great job on how  
9 much monies are balances for each of the projects  
10 that correspond with the engineering report.

11 Anita, thank you for your work.  
12 That's very helpful.

13 And we also had a plant operations  
14 report from Mr. Goldsmith, who was -- it was also  
15 very complete, water levels, when testing was done.  
16 So we're going to be incorporating those three  
17 reports quarterly I believe throughout the year.

18 It's also good information for the  
19 state. So I just wanted people to know of that --  
20 about that. That happened, and I'll let Mr. Smith  
21 continue from there.

22 MR. SMITH: Now, just -- just to give  
23 you a summary of some of the projects that are  
24 ongoing at this particular time. We do have several  
25 water main projects that are ongoing. One of them

1 actually is complete. I will be having a -- well,  
2 it's considered to be complete. We'll be having a  
3 closeout meeting tomorrow on the Chelsea Heights  
4 location.

5           If you've been traveling around town,  
6 especially around the Texas Avenue location between  
7 Atlantic Avenue and Fairmount, that's an ongoing  
8 water main project that's being done at that  
9 particular location. I'd say they're probably about  
10 80 to 85 percent complete with that particular  
11 project.

12           Of course, as we go along and -- and  
13 we're trying to turn valves and so forth, with the  
14 age of some of the equipment or materials that we  
15 have in the ground, you run into little snubs --  
16 setbacks, I should say, in regards to getting some  
17 of this work done. But we're still pursuing and  
18 prevailing through that particular location.

19           And the other location that they're  
20 currently working on right now is Oriental Avenue,  
21 which is from Rhode Island Avenue down to New  
22 Hampshire Avenue. That project just -- the actual  
23 removal started last week, and they're about three  
24 quarters of the way on Oriental Avenue for the  
25 location that they're working on.

1                   Drexel Avenue is completed, so for --  
2 for this particular contractor that has all three  
3 projects, they've been moving along in the best  
4 capacity that they can based on, of course, some of  
5 the locations and, of course, with our valve  
6 situations that we have at some of the locations.

7                   The other project that's ongoing is  
8 the emergency electrical repairs for the upper  
9 reservoir, which is at our technical center. That  
10 project is ongoing. They're about -- there's 2,000  
11 feet of length of conduit that has to be installed.  
12 They're about -- about 800 feet of conduit  
13 installation has been completed already. So they're  
14 moving along.

15                  We're still waiting on finalizing  
16 some prices on the actual electrical cabling  
17 installation, and hopefully, we'll be having a  
18 meeting with Calvi pretty soon to go over that and  
19 finalize pretty much what the cost is.

20                  At the last engineering -- at the  
21 engineering meeting, I did mention to the committee  
22 that there will be some additional costs that has to  
23 do with some concrete structure that has to be  
24 prepared and installed at each of the transformers  
25 in order to make that connection from the old

1 cabling or wiring at that location to the new cable  
2 or wiring that has to be installed.

3 We have a couple contracts that will  
4 probably be coming up pretty soon. You'll see that  
5 on the agenda, as well, too, which will be under new  
6 business. I won't go into it. I'll just leave that  
7 until the time -- until the time we get into it. If  
8 there's any questions on that, then I can actually  
9 answer those particular questions.

10 Well 19, this particular item --  
11 project is ongoing. This is as a result of a 2013  
12 oil spill that occurred at that particular location.  
13 Remediation work was being done. Testing -- testing  
14 has been ongoing, and at the same time, it falls  
15 under Pinelands in terms of Pinelands regulations.  
16 Pinelands regulations are different -- different  
17 from the DEP regulations, a little bit more  
18 stringent based on meeting the -- the action levels  
19 in regards to getting even some sort of a reprieve  
20 in regards to what's actually going on.

21 Buchart Horn is actually the  
22 engineers that's been working on this, and we've  
23 been in constant communication just to try to get  
24 this particular thing ongoing. There's some reports  
25 that needs to be completed and sent to DEP on that,

1 and they're currently working on that, as well, too.

2                   Solar project is -- is also ongoing.  
3 The majority of the panels are actually installed or  
4 have been installed. The connectivity is something  
5 that we're waiting on to be done, and I don't  
6 necessarily have a full report on that. That's  
7 something that will be coming down the pipeline in  
8 maybe a few weeks or so where they'll make the full  
9 connectivity back to our -- our low lift plant so  
10 that we can start using the solar power or -- or the  
11 power from the solar panels in order to help and  
12 assist in terms of running the plant.

13                   What else? I think that might be it.

14                   CHAIRMAN HILL: How about the  
15 boardwalk? It's just a project with --

16                   MR. SMITH: That is -- that is --  
17 that's just the initial -- well, for the boardwalk  
18 assessment basically, which is actually being done  
19 by Remington & Vernick, as well, too, that's just in  
20 the infancy stage of actually trying to determine  
21 where our pipelines actually are on -- along the  
22 boardwalk location and making some determination of  
23 where we can actually have control of our pipeline  
24 along that boardwalk from Albany Avenue going all  
25 the way down to New Jersey Avenue.

1                   We have facilitated them with some  
2 plans over the last several weeks. They've been  
3 reviewing those particular plans. We more than  
4 likely will have to have another meeting with them  
5 to go over what their review actually encountered or  
6 what they've actually been able to determine and at  
7 least start looking into where those location of  
8 those valves can be installed.

9                   There's -- there's no control pretty  
10 much from Albany Avenue going all the way back down  
11 to New Jersey Avenue. And if there were any valves  
12 at -- installed at -- in any particular point in  
13 time, more than likely those valves are old. The  
14 objective is to -- is to try to have some form of  
15 control that if -- if -- if anything was to occur  
16 where we had a break or a leak on that line, that we  
17 can control that line to be able to make any repairs  
18 in the near future.

19                   The depth of that piping -- I'm  
20 not -- I'm not certain or aware of the -- aware of  
21 the depth of the piping at the -- the boardwalk  
22 location. I recall several years ago they did find  
23 some issue close to the Albany Avenue location, and  
24 they were down about 12 feet or so at that location.  
25 So, you know, we might have a very deep bury on that

1 particular piping, but that's all going to be a part  
2 of the analysis, as well, too. They'll probably  
3 find out pretty much what the depth of the piping  
4 is. They can probably use that as an average for  
5 the depth -- average depth of the pipe going the  
6 full length of the boardwalk, and like I said, to  
7 also determine pretty much where you can actually  
8 install some valve and -- based on -- based on the  
9 flow of -- of -- of water in that system going the  
10 length of the boardwalk.

11 Now, what else? That's it. Yeah.  
12 The other three stuff are -- are projects that are  
13 not started -- I have not started yet, but we'll be  
14 starting sometime soon once the approvals are  
15 actually made at this particular board meeting.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Smith.

18 Personnel committee. I'm happy to  
19 say that we -- besides Ms. Still, we have a few new  
20 hires, which we desperately need. So we're going  
21 to discuss those a little bit.

22 Mr. Dedar, would you like to --

23 MR. DEDAR: Yes, sir. Good morning,  
24 everyone. I'd like to thank Ms. India Still for  
25 becoming an ACMUA family member, and of course, I've



1 seen her resumé and everything. I hope our ACMUA  
2 will be much, much better.

3 As soon as we had, like I think  
4 almost a year and a half, Mr. Mike for executive  
5 director, his intelligency (phon), his experience, I  
6 think, so ACMUA is the best right now, last previous  
7 year or last decade, so I think that team will be  
8 very good working, and from my side, I'm thankful to  
9 you guys. You are doing a great job.

10 And one thing, Mr. Chairman, I'd like  
11 your attention. I did mention before also ACMUA  
12 budget, if you check 2021, 2019, '18, even '23  
13 coming in, we have a million -- million dollar  
14 budget. What I'd like to say, it's very sorry to  
15 say is front entrance -- when you go in this  
16 building, front entrance like leaves and cracked  
17 concrete. It does not look good.

18 I bring like months -- a few months  
19 before on the board meeting also. So I think so  
20 it's going to be -- I think Mr. Mike told me it's  
21 going to be fixed or something. There's going to be  
22 a contract, and front entrance and other things I'd  
23 like to mention. If you go see the grass cut or you  
24 can trimming the trees in front of the -- whatever,  
25 the small trees for decorate, it will look better

1 and people can feel -- when it goes -- people  
2 goes -- like our customer goes there, and  
3 environment look and feel very good. So please  
4 check it out, this one.

5 And I think so I don't have enough --  
6 and Mr. Mike is going to explain everything as the  
7 personnel committee.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: What I'll mention  
11 with respect to just the response to the concrete,  
12 Claude, if you can add the concrete to your  
13 engineering report as one of the to-do items,  
14 miscellaneous to-do items on the last page, we can  
15 keep track of that and monitor it.

16 We've -- there's some other stuff,  
17 Mr. Dedar, that we had to do that took priority over  
18 actually fixing the -- the cosmetic portions of the  
19 building. We had some issues with our doors that  
20 weren't operating properly. We had to have them  
21 changed out.

22 We're also having some issues with  
23 the card scanning equipment that has to be changed.  
24 So once those things are completed, then we'll start  
25 to look into doing some of the more cosmetic aspects

1 of repairing the building. We even have some  
2 internal issues that have to be resolved with  
3 respect to roof leaks.

4           The -- with respect to the  
5 landscaping, we utilize our own staff to do the  
6 landscaping, but we're short staffed right now, and  
7 we're going to be considering hiring or going back  
8 to using a landscaping company until we have the  
9 staff again. But, of course, that is conditioned  
10 upon Anita saying that the money is available in the  
11 budget, and maybe something that has to wait until  
12 next year.

13           With respect to personnel, most --  
14 the only thing I can say in general is that we  
15 posted for new positions. Of course we made an  
16 offer to Ms. Still, and she accepted, and she's here  
17 today working with us.

18           And I'd like to say formally welcome  
19 to Ms. Still. She comes highly educated, a -- a  
20 substantial background, and I'm sure that she's  
21 going to do a great job and offer a lot to the  
22 authority and take the authority to another level.

23           Also we have made some postings on  
24 our website with respect to positions, and some  
25 individuals have applied. And we could go into more

1 detail about who and what in closed session, but I  
2 just want to speak generally about the fact that  
3 we're moving forward in that direction.

4 Other than that, there's nothing else  
5 that I have with respect to personnel that I would  
6 like to mention.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: I just -- I just  
8 wanted to comment that part of the state's request  
9 is that before we can hire anybody -- it's not like  
10 we can just hire everybody -- we need to make sure  
11 we can prove that we can pay them.

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: So we have to sign  
14 off on a waiver, and that comes through Ms. -- Ms.  
15 Thapa, you know, do we have the money to hire  
16 whoever that is, whatever position, so the other  
17 people are aware of that.

18 It's not like we don't want to hire.  
19 We do want to hire, and we have hired some new  
20 people, laborers and so forth, but it is a process  
21 so everybody understands that.

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. We're going to  
24 go to our executive director's report.

25 Mr. Armstrong, I know there are a

1 couple of issues you wanted to discuss.

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: One issue we'll  
4 discuss in closed session.

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. The -- the only  
6 thing I would say with respect to the insurance,  
7 that involves the insurance broker's contract that I  
8 just need your authorization to put out an RFP for  
9 the hiring of a broker for 2022.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: '23.

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right. I'm sorry.  
12 2023.

13 You might want to consider whether  
14 you want to do it subject to legal approval for the  
15 balance of the JIF contract, which is -- it was a  
16 three-year JIF contract. This broker -- particular  
17 broker found that contract and we're stuck in that  
18 contract for another two years, so it -- there's  
19 no -- nothing that's going to change with respect to  
20 our contract over the next two years in terms of  
21 what insurance company we use.

22 So I -- it may not be necessary to  
23 keep changing brokers if nothing is going to be done  
24 during that course of that time. So they'd just be  
25 acting for the purposes of servicing us during the

1 course of the contract.

2 So one of the things you can consider  
3 is whether or not you want to do it up to the  
4 remainder of the balance of the JIF contract subject  
5 to legal review assuming, that that can be done,  
6 appointing a broker for more than two years.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. We -- we go  
8 through this every year, and perhaps that's a good  
9 way of keeping it more together.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: But I'm not sure if  
12 we're allowed to do that.

13 Bruce, do you know? I think we  
14 could. I don't -- you're the lawyer, not me.

15 MR. WARD: I wouldn't want to make a  
16 snap judgment on this. I think, you know, this  
17 requires some study, some review --

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right.

19 MR. WARD: -- before acceptance from  
20 me.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Right. But I  
22 think -- do we -- I think we should move, though, on  
23 going out for an RFP because it is September, so I  
24 think we'll need to do that.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

1                   CHAIRMAN HILL: I don't think we need  
2 a -- do we need a resolution for that?

3                   MR. ARMSTRONG: Just a motion is  
4 fine --

5                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Just a motion?

6                   MR. ARMSTRONG: -- to allow us to go  
7 out --

8                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

9                   MR. ARMSTRONG: -- up to two years,  
10 subject to legal review.

11                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Up to two years,  
12 right. Okay. Right. Right now, the insurance  
13 broker for the people -- all of you, I believe, were  
14 there -- is Fairview Insurance. Just so you know  
15 now. That's who has it now.

16                   MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

17                   CHAIRMAN HILL: But we'll go out for  
18 RFPs as we did last year.

19                   So I'll entertain a motion to move  
20 for RFPs.

21                   MR. DEDAR: Motion.

22                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

23                   And a second?

24                   MR. KAUSAR: Second.

25                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

1 And roll call, please.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Hill?

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

5 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

7 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

9 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.

11 All right. COVID, did you want to talk about COVID  
12 a little bit?

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: We've been going back  
15 and forth and then it changed and...

16 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I broke it  
17 down into three areas. And the only reason why I  
18 say that is because some -- two areas may have to be  
19 discussed in closed session if we go into too much  
20 detail. But if it's simply policy, we can discuss  
21 it in open session.

22 But the first is whether or not we  
23 open up the building to the public. The reason why  
24 I raised this again was because pretty much  
25 everywhere we go now people aren't required to wear



1 masks. We're not wearing masks when we leave our  
2 own building, and the president just announced the  
3 other day that the pandemic is -- as far as he's  
4 concerned, is officially ended, so there's not much  
5 justification for keeping the building closed for  
6 COVID reasons. And the -- everything leans towards  
7 public buildings -- when I say everything, the law  
8 leans towards public buildings being open to the  
9 public.

10 We had extensive discussion and --  
11 and debate about this in the office yesterday,  
12 whether or not it should open to the public. I  
13 think we came to some agreement that it should not  
14 open to the -- it should be open to the public for  
15 COVID, but safety concerns were raised that have not  
16 been raised in the past as a basis for keeping the  
17 building closed to the public.

18 When we mean closed, we still mean  
19 available to the public by way of appointment, drop  
20 box, and things like that, but not just simply  
21 walking in. And here's why we say that: As you  
22 know, there has been a series of shootings in the  
23 area, quite a few, quite frankly, in the year and a  
24 half that I've been here. Some have actually -- the  
25 bullets have actually hit the building during

1 working hours. Some of the shootings have occurred  
2 across the street where, you know, employees have  
3 said that they've had to dive on the floor, you  
4 know. I happened to not be here that day. And  
5 there has been times when I'm told prior to me being  
6 here there have been shootings in the area.

7           So there's some concerns for, you  
8 know, our -- the safety of the employees here. As  
9 you know, too, that we have employees who have been  
10 getting harassing calls, anonymous packages, and  
11 things like that that has raised our safety concern  
12 with respect to the individual employee's safety.

13           So we -- I believe, after hearing the  
14 employees discuss the safety concerns yesterday,  
15 that there is good reason to support maintaining the  
16 closed status, not for COVID, but for safety  
17 concerns.

18           Also, the fact that when we go back  
19 to opening, considering what I've just told you, we  
20 start to take in more cash and have to have cash on  
21 hand, and we're not doing that right now. So with  
22 that -- you know, I don't know how long it will  
23 last, the fact that we may have to get a legal  
24 opinion on to what extent we can limit access. I  
25 don't like using the word closed because we're

1 really not closed, but we can continue to limit  
2 access for that reason.

3 But that would be the position that  
4 we would like to take now, is that we're not  
5 continuing to remain closed for COVID, but for the  
6 purposes of safety given the recent activity at the  
7 building targeted towards individual employees, as  
8 well as the activities surrounding the building in  
9 the local community.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: We all know about  
11 some of those issues. We won't get into names and  
12 that. And I know the Atlantic City Police  
13 Department has -- has been very much on top of this.  
14 However, I understand what you're saying. I -- you  
15 know, and I know Mr. Dedar wants the building wide  
16 open, too, and -- for the public. We've talked  
17 about this, and you're right. It's not a COVID  
18 issue anymore.

19 So I guess I am asking how the rest  
20 of the board members feel about that. I have no  
21 problem going along with the recommendation.

22 Anybody? Okay.

23 MR. DEDAR: Could you repeat again,  
24 Mr. Chairman?

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: If you had any

1 comments. Now it's not because of COVID. It's  
2 security reasons. We'll still follow the same  
3 plan -- plan we did for COVID, which was  
4 appointments, come in. If we know you, buzz you in,  
5 you know, but as Mr. Armstrong said, we know that  
6 there's been some security issues. We need to be a  
7 little bit more cautious.

8                   You know, I'm even thinking -- and I  
9 know it's an expense -- do we even -- as schools are  
10 doing, do we have to, you know, even hire a security  
11 person? I don't know. That might be down the line.  
12 I hope not, you know, but that's something we could  
13 consider, which a lot of -- you know, Atlantic  
14 County Building has security in it. The schools,  
15 Atlantic Cape Community College, they have security  
16 people in them. Atlantic City High School has  
17 security in them. So, you know, maybe we want to  
18 think of that, too.

19                   MR. DEDAR: Well, Mr. Chairman, I  
20 have made -- about comments on these things.

21                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

22                   MR. DEDAR: Because when I go --  
23 because, you know, a lot of our nation people, like  
24 Bangladesh community people, some other Indian  
25 people, Pakistani people, when they seen us, I think

1 those same answer -- same question also, to Mr.  
2 Kausar also. They are like talking behind the scene  
3 as the third wheel of the MUA, 100 percent represent  
4 over there.

5 Even its funniest part, yesterday  
6 somebody got the one letter from the MUA because  
7 they are fixing the road on the Texas Avenue. I  
8 know because water is leaking. Already Mr. Smith,  
9 he mentioned.

10 So they got the one letter, and they  
11 called me, hey, what's going on? I don't know. I  
12 said, just send me the letter, check it out, what  
13 happened. So I see the letter say they're going to  
14 be working. Maybe their line will be turned off a  
15 few days or few hours. That's the letter first.

16 So I just bring this part because  
17 people are asking every agency, even the federal  
18 building, the state building, county building,  
19 they're open. Of course I agree with Mr. Mike,  
20 whatever our executive director, he said. Yes. It  
21 is security concern. If it is security concern, we  
22 can hire some -- if we have the money, like he said,  
23 every time he say, and our chairman, stop. Hey, we  
24 need the money from state. Of course, it is.

25 But, again, this is the public place.

1 People wants to go. I know because our policy right  
2 now, people can call. They can come with  
3 appointment. They can see. Their problem is not  
4 the issue. The issue is people wants to see, go  
5 there, check it out, and meanwhile, we cannot regret  
6 Mr. Michael whatever say for the security of all  
7 employees, whatever the -- I mean, you know, that  
8 work there. So it's the -- both side is the party.

9 So which one we go -- I think so  
10 which one will be better for MUA and the reputation  
11 also, because right now, people are start talking.  
12 They said, when are you going to be open? When are  
13 you going to be open? So I say it is open. It's  
14 not closed.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

16 MR. DEDAR: So go over there. So  
17 that's -- I mean, you know, this is the thing. So  
18 yeah.

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: I mean, it's -- we  
20 can explore the -- the option of having some  
21 security there and leaving the building open.  
22 That's the only alternative.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's what I said.

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. So we can look  
25 into it and then maybe come back and have a further

1 discussion.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: But if we could at  
4 least in the interim remain closed for security  
5 concerns and maintain the status quo, that would  
6 help us and give us time to come up with some other  
7 options.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. We did have a  
9 security company for -- for the yard and everything.  
10 Do we still have them, Claude?

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, we don't.

12 MR. SMITH: No, we don't. No, we  
13 don't.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: We got rid of that,  
15 right. Because I know we had issues with the  
16 security people.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. One -- one  
18 thing popped in my head, though, and we can explore  
19 it a little further because the -- we have an  
20 opening for that reception position out front. And  
21 it's a possibility, because there's money for that  
22 position, instead hire a security person to sit  
23 there.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: You know, and greet

1 people and sign them in and --

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- work that station,  
4 as opposed to having -- but, you know, it's just  
5 something as a thought. I see Anita looked at me.  
6 So we -- it's going to take some discussion with  
7 India and Anita and Debbie about whether or not that  
8 position can be somebody with security background  
9 and also serve whatever functions that person served  
10 with the department downstairs, as well.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Even at City  
12 Hall you have to go through security. They have  
13 security at the reception desk, which is what you're  
14 saying.

15 MR. KAUSAR: Right. You are right.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: It's the same place.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: So -- okay. Let's  
19 follow up on that if we can and maybe get some  
20 resolution by the next, you know...

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Let me -- the  
22 other two items, more internal between us and  
23 employees, but it is a policy, so I want to raise it  
24 with you, is the second with respect to COVID.

25 The employees in the building, and



1 you, as board members when you enter the building,  
2 the policy has always been that when you came in the  
3 building, you had to wear a mask, but like I said,  
4 most places now have dropped the mask mandate. It's  
5 certainly your right if you want to continue to wear  
6 the mask. We wouldn't take that -- try to take that  
7 option away from anyone.

8 But the -- you know, it seems  
9 contradictory in some ways when, you know, we leave  
10 here and some of the same people are seen in other  
11 buildings without masks, and we're requiring them as  
12 if we're in the middle of the pandemic again, so  
13 we're -- I'm leaning towards, I explained to them,  
14 dropping the requirement that you wear a mask, but  
15 you can -- anyone indoors. I'm talking about  
16 indoors amongst employees, but you, of course, can  
17 still wear the mask at your own discretion.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: But no one's  
20 required, and we can adjust it in ways and say that,  
21 you know, if you're vaccinated, you can not wear a  
22 mask, but I still think that that's not what's  
23 happening in society.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: No.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: And trying to mimic

1 what's going on in society. No one's  
2 distinguishing -- well, to be honest with you,  
3 actually, people are. I just went to an event on  
4 Saturday night, and if you weren't vaccinated, you  
5 couldn't get in --

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Uh-huh.

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- you know, and  
8 that's two out of multiple events I've gone  
9 throughout the year. And they were only allowing  
10 vaccinated people. It didn't matter if you were  
11 unvaccinated and wearing a mask, so...

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: And indifference --  
13 and indifference, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ward and I were  
14 at -- was at the Atlantic City Community Foundation  
15 event with the lieutenant governor last night, and  
16 I -- and I think there was only one or two people  
17 that wore a mask. I know Ms. Davies did. I was  
18 speaking with her. And, again, that's your -- your  
19 personal choice. The lieutenant governor did not,  
20 and that was her personal choice.

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right. Right.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: So -- and this was in  
23 a closed area. It was at Hard Rock, so yeah.

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: I think we need to

1 move on from here.

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. So that's the  
3 direction I'm leaning in, but I'll hear from -- get  
4 any ideas with respect to how people feel about that  
5 because it does affect you, too, entering the  
6 building.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Uh-huh.

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: The other -- the  
11 third is something that we brought up that kind of  
12 delayed us from instituting a COVID policy in the  
13 past, but this is a little different. This is  
14 regarding a return to work policy.

15 If you recall, we had Alliance come  
16 in and talk about the fact that, you know, we had a  
17 situation where an employee wanted to return to  
18 work, but couldn't get a negative COVID test, and it  
19 went on for 10, 11 days. The person ran out of  
20 vacation and sick time and was not receiving any pay  
21 whatsoever. But our current policy stated that you  
22 could not return unless you had a negative COVID  
23 test.

24 But if you recall -- and I don't  
25 remember the doctor's name, but he was an expert in

1 this area. He said --

2 MR. WARD: Dr. Regis (phon).

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- the COVID  
4 policy --

5 I'm sorry?

6 MR. WARD: It was Dr. Regis, but  
7 he -- he appointed another doctor. You're right.

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. That's the  
9 other doctor I'm talking about I don't remember.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. The  
11 infectious doctor, the expert.

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. But he  
13 indicated that at his own workplace or his clients,  
14 people came back despite the fact that they did not  
15 have a negative test. And after a certain number of  
16 days, they followed the CDC policy, and they just  
17 were required to wear a mask up to a certain number  
18 of days once they returned, because the evidence or  
19 statistics showed that there's an incubation period  
20 which COVID can be spread, and after those five  
21 days, initial five days, more than likely it's  
22 unable to be spread.

23 That's creating a problem for us, and  
24 especially if -- we had a situation with -- with an  
25 operator who was going on 10 days, 11 days, and you

1 know, as -- you already know that we have a shortage  
2 of operators, and operators are doing overtime, you  
3 know, as much as 72 hours in 2 weeks time. So  
4 anything that we can do to get these people back to  
5 work, you know -- you know, as long as it's safe for  
6 the others, because we don't want them to come back  
7 obviously and then put everybody else out.

8                   But given that we've received expert  
9 reports -- advice stating that this is what they do  
10 in their own medical facilities, I think I'm  
11 comfortable implementing a plan that would allow  
12 them to come back and comply with the CDC -- as long  
13 as they comply with the CDC guidelines, and we'll  
14 continue to test them on a daily basis, as well,  
15 because we do have some test kits. All right?

16                   Anybody have any comments with  
17 respect to that? If that's okay, then I'll write up  
18 a policy with respect to all three of the ones that  
19 I've mentioned today, circulate it with the board,  
20 and then we'll move it into action within the next  
21 week or so.

22                   I can't hear you, Gary.

23                   THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Hill, you're  
24 on mute.

25                   MR. ARMSTRONG: There you go.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Sorry. I  
2 didn't want to say something.

3 Obviously, we'll let the employees  
4 and staff know these policy changes.

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right.

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: We discussed it at  
8 length amongst ourselves yesterday --

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right.

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- at the upper  
11 management.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Very good.  
13 Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: We're going to move  
16 into our financial report, accounting, and finance.  
17 Anita, this is you.

18 MS. THAPA: Okay. So the financial  
19 report is for the month of July 2022. As of July,  
20 just for the brief comment, as of July, we have  
21 recorded a revenue of 9 point -- million for -- from  
22 water user charges. And as of July also, the  
23 operating expenses is we spent about 5.4 million.

24 Keep in mind that our -- most of the  
25 expenses comes at the third -- I mean, the fourth,

1 the last quarter of the year, and so far on the  
2 capital expenditure, we spent about 900,000.

3 And as for the cash management, it's  
4 not -- not much changes there. The interest has  
5 been improving on our money market. We were not  
6 averaging this in any CDs or any other interest --  
7 high interest bearing I guess investment there. But  
8 like I said, the investment -- interest rate in our  
9 money market is improving slowly.

10 As you see, it might be more than  
11 0.50 percent, like that. I think August is much  
12 better as far as the interest goes.

13 Balance adjustments, I'll -- just for  
14 the review for the board members, it's just  
15 adjustments like I always mention. It's on the  
16 accounts that's been already adjusted on the  
17 customers' accounts.

18 Shutoffs, we are not able to do as  
19 much shutoffs as we would like to do, but the  
20 shutoffs are still going on, and it will be going on  
21 until probably mid-November. And also, this is a  
22 lien time. We will be sending the lien notices  
23 this -- this -- actually today -- in fact, today.

24 And then the liens they'll date, we  
25 were notified by the city that it will happen on

1 December 17th, I believe, of this year. But  
2 obviously, we would, you know, make as much contact  
3 with the customer to let them, you know --

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

5 MS. THAPA: -- to pay your balances  
6 before we send the final notices to the city.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

8 MS. THAPA: So I think, like I always  
9 mention, if the board -- any board member has any  
10 questions on the financial reports or cash  
11 management, always feel free to reach out to me.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: There's two things  
13 that I just wanted to say to the report, if I may.  
14 Number one, unfortunately, we're not going to get a  
15 connection fee with the water park that's being  
16 built. We had a report from Mr. Smith. They're  
17 using what they had at Show Boat, but we will  
18 eventually get -- when they fill everything up with  
19 water and then they continue to operate, so just so  
20 we know, because I was hoping we'd get a nice fee,  
21 but sorry, Anita. Cross that off your list.

22 MS. THAPA: That's what I figured,  
23 because I think they already had some connection  
24 already there; right?

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. That's



1 right. Exactly. Right.

2 And I guess we -- oh, the shutoffs,  
3 as I mentioned in this new law, they're going to be  
4 looking for our shutoff list, so you can just pull  
5 it over to that report according to what I read,  
6 so...

7 Okay. Anybody have a question on the  
8 finances?

9 Okay. Moving on to 10, old business.  
10 We have the miscellaneous electrical repair, which  
11 is resolution 10 a. (1), not to be confused with  
12 more electrical contracts that will be coming in  
13 after we finalize that at the -- at the project that  
14 Mr. Smith talked about.

15 So, Ms. Johnson, could you read 10 a.  
16 (1), please?

17 MS. JOHNSON: Be it resolved, by the  
18 board of directors of the Atlantic City Municipal  
19 Utilities Authority that the bid of Calvi Electric  
20 Company for furnishing, delivering, and installing  
21 miscellaneous electrical repairs at authority  
22 facilities was received and publicly opened and read  
23 at a meeting of the purchasing board held on  
24 September 8th. It is hereby accepted in the amount  
25 of \$137,500.

1                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. And this is  
2 miscellaneous work with Calvi, a great company.  
3 We've been using them for many, many years.

4                   Discussion? Questions? I'm looking  
5 for a motion to accept.

6                   MR. DEDAR: Motion.

7                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

8                   And a second?

9                   MR. KAUSAR: Second.

10                  CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
11 call.

12                  MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

13                  CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

14                  MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

15                  MR. DEDAR: Yes.

16                  MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

17                  MS. DAVIES: Yes.

18                  MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

19                  MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

20                  CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Moving on to  
21 10 b. (1). This is the professional auditing  
22 services. I believe we had a new updated resolution  
23 just for some verbiage.

24                  Did you want to speak about that  
25 verbiage change if the people didn't get to review,

1 Ms. Anita, or Ms. Johnson?

2 MS. THAPA: Okay. I'll do that. So  
3 initially it was -- we said we were awarding as a  
4 non-fair and open contract, but we did go out, and  
5 two companies applied for -- I mean, submitted RFPs,  
6 and Mercadien, which is our current auditor, came in  
7 at 43,000. And the other new -- the other auditor,  
8 BerryDunn, the company's name, they came in at  
9 45,500.

10 And plus, they were also kind of  
11 saying there will be additional charges, just in  
12 case if something is additional work required.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

14 MS. THAPA: So -- and also we have to  
15 keep in mind that our 2022 audit is not completed.  
16 We are still waiting for GASB 75, which is related  
17 to the health of -- health report from the state.  
18 It looks like it has not come out as of now, so I'm  
19 guessing -- last year it came out January of this  
20 year for '21, so I -- if it goes that route, then it  
21 may not be completed until next year, too, for 2021  
22 (sic).

23 So based on that, I mean, we did went  
24 out, so based on the price and then also the status  
25 of our current auditor, we picked our current

1 Mercadien company.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

3 MS. THAPA: The price is 43,000.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And, again, I  
5 ask this every year.

6 MS. THAPA: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: And you're pleased  
8 with Mercadien's work?

9 MS. THAPA: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: There we go. That's  
11 the answer.

12 MS. THAPA: And I have to kind of  
13 mention this, too, like in future, in case if we get  
14 any grant money, obviously the RFP will be more  
15 based on, you know, the grant fees.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Absolutely. Exactly.

17 MS. THAPA: If the grant fees -- if  
18 we -- more grant fees we receive, then they have to  
19 do extra work on the audit on their side, so...

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly.

21 MS. THAPA: But -- but I think I have  
22 talked to Mr. Armstrong, and he mentioned that it's  
23 not likely we will be receiving any grant in 2022.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: No.

25 MS. THAPA: So there -- so I'm not

1 expecting additional fees, I hope, you know, so...

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. So this is  
3 just our standard renewal.

4 MS. THAPA: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Mr. Rutala, who's  
6 working on our grants, we asked to appear today. He  
7 had some conflicts -- a conflict running against his  
8 will, but -- so he will give us a report on the  
9 status on our next board meeting for everybody to  
10 know.

11 So, Ms. Johnson, can you read 5 b. --  
12 10 b. (1), please -- (2) rather -- (1). (1). Go  
13 ahead.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, there exists  
15 the need for specialized accounting services for the  
16 Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority to  
17 perform the professional auditing services of 2022.

18 Whereas, Mercadien, P.C. is so  
19 recognized by the accounting community and is so  
20 licensed by the State of New Jersey.

21 Whereas, the total amount of work to  
22 be included in this contract shall not exceed the  
23 flat -- flat fee sum of \$43,000.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Thank you so  
25 much. Questions, discussion?

1                   Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to  
2    accept.

3                   MR. DEDAR:    Motion.

4                   CHAIRMAN HILL:  Thank you.

5                   And a second?

6                   MS. DAVIES:    Second.

7                   CHAIRMAN HILL:  Thank you.  Roll  
8    call.

9                   MS. JOHNSON:   Mr. Hill?

10                  CHAIRMAN HILL:  Yes.

11                  MS. JOHNSON:   Mr. Dedar?

12                  MR. DEDAR:    Yes.

13                  MS. JOHNSON:   Ms. Davies?

14                  MS. DAVIES:    Yes.

15                  MS. JOHNSON:   Mr. Kausar?

16                  MR. KAUSAR:   Yes.

17                  CHAIRMAN HILL:  Okay.  Moving on.

18    This is the new business.  We're going out for  
19    some -- some quotes, some RFPs and so forth.  You  
20    can see on your addenda we're soliciting bids.  The  
21    first one is removal of underground storage tanks at  
22    the yard and water treatment plant.  It's resolution  
23    11 a.

24                   We'll read the resolution first.

25                   MS. JOHNSON:   Be it resolved, by the

1 board of directors of the Atlantic City Municipal  
2 Utilities Authority that the advertisement, proposal  
3 form, and the specifications and -- and instructions  
4 to bidders for the removal of the underground  
5 storage tanks at the MUA's distribution yard and  
6 water treatment plant are hereby approved and  
7 adopted to be received and publicly open and read at  
8 a meeting of the purchasing board to be announced at  
9 a later date.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Questions or  
11 discussion? This is just going to bid.

12 Okay. I'll entertain a motion to  
13 accept.

14 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

16 A second?

17 MR. KAUSAR: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
19 call.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

23 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

25 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

2 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. 11 2 --

4 a. (2) is on water main repair service, which is  
5 vital to our existence here. That's 11 a. (2).

6 Can we read the resolution first?

7 This is a bid.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Be it resolved, by the  
9 board of directors of the Atlantic City Municipal  
10 Utilities Authority that the advertisement, proposal  
11 form, and the specifications and instructions to  
12 bidders for on-call emergency water main repair  
13 services are hereby approved and adopted and to be  
14 received and publicly open and read at a meeting of  
15 the purchasing board to be announced at a later  
16 date.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. I do have  
18 a question on this. Maybe I'm -- I forget. Who  
19 calls the emergency people if something breaks? Who  
20 is the person that calls?

21 MR. SMITH: You're asking the  
22 question in regards to who calls -- when you say --

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Okay. We have  
24 a break, and now it's an emergency. Who makes that  
25 call, you?



1 MR. SMITH: Well -- well, it would be  
2 us, yes. I mean, whether or not we have a  
3 designated person from the authority, which is  
4 actually in the distribution -- distribution yard,  
5 the assistant manager more than likely probably  
6 would be the one --

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

8 MR. SMITH: -- to call them. It  
9 could be myself. It could be Mike depending on  
10 pretty much who's available at that particular time  
11 when we discover that break or that leak  
12 that actually -- actually has occurred.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Okay.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: The process is  
15 normally that it depends on when the call comes in.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Ah.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: If it comes in during  
18 normal business hours, it would be normally handled  
19 here in the distribution center, but if it comes in  
20 at night, the call will bounce to the plant, which  
21 is 24 hours. They're supposed to reach -- they have  
22 a list of individuals they're supposed to call in  
23 order, and Claude and I are on that list.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: So if they don't

1 reach a particular person -- by the time I get the  
2 call, usually it's because they've gone through the  
3 list and --

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

5 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- they have to get  
6 certain people.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Because we did  
8 have an issue last year if you remember. I'm  
9 just --

10 MR. ARMSTRONG: Correct.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. I just want to  
12 make sure --

13 MR. ARMSTRONG: It's been resolved.  
14 Yeah. I think it's been pretty much resolved.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: I think so, with some  
16 changes, yes.

17 Okay. Okay. We're looking for a --  
18 some -- a resolution -- an adoption of this  
19 resolution. Do I have -- to move it, please.

20 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

22 And a second?

23 MR. KAUSAR: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
25 call.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

4 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

6 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. -- Mr. Kausar?

8 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Kausar. I'm sorry.

10 Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Do we have the next  
12 one, warehouse?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Gary, yours is  
14 out of order. It's near the end.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Hold on a  
16 minute, guys. This has been an ongoing project.

17 MS. JOHNSON: 11 a. (3).

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Oh, I see it. Right.

19 MS. JOHNSON: 11 a. (3).

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: There it is. Okay.  
21 Yeah. This has been a problem and a concern of  
22 ours. We've been working hard on it. So let's --  
23 hopefully we can move this.

24 Ms. Johnson, would you read the  
25 resolution?

1 MS. JOHNSON: Be it resolved, by the  
2 board of directors of the Atlantic City Municipal  
3 Utilities Authority that the advertisement, proposal  
4 form, and the specifications and instruction to  
5 bidders for the warehouse ceiling repair at  
6 authority water treatment plant facility are hereby  
7 approved and adopted to be read -- to be received  
8 and opened by authority personnel of the MUA on a  
9 date to be later announced.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. And this  
11 will hopefully take care of one of our safety  
12 issues. Questions or discussions?

13 Hearing none, I'll look for a motion  
14 to accept.

15 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

17 And a second?

18 MS. DAVIES: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
20 call.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

24 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

1 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

3 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. Thank  
5 you. I believe Remington & Vernick was on top of  
6 that, as well, just so we know that.

7 The next is a leave of absence for  
8 two individuals. This is 11 b. (1).

9 Could we read the resolution?

10 MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, it has been  
11 deemed to be in the best interest of the employees  
12 of the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority  
13 that periodically the board of directors grant  
14 unpaid leave of absence for need for certain  
15 employees.

16 Whereas, a request has been made by  
17 Crystal Daniels and Elias Thomas to -- who formally  
18 asked for to be granted an unpaid leave of absence  
19 from September 2nd, 2022 until December 21st, 2022.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Any  
21 discussion, questions?

22 Hearing none, I'll look for a motion  
23 to accept.

24 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

25 MR. KAUSAR: Motion.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

2 And a second?

3 MR. DEDAR: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
5 call.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

9 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

11 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

13 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. We go to our  
15 abatements, which we handle every month. There are  
16 two of them this time. If there's anybody on the  
17 board that needs to recuse themselves because of a  
18 conflict, just let Ms. Johnson know that. We'll  
19 read the resolution for both of them. We can  
20 combine (1) and -- a. and b. or (1) and (2). Go  
21 ahead.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, Resolution 395  
23 of 1994 provides for rules, rates, and regulations  
24 governing the assessment and collection of water  
25 rates and charges for the water department of the

1 Atlantic City Municipal Utilities Authority.

2                   Whereas, the property owned by Son  
3 Nguyen, located at 108 North Georgia Avenue,  
4 experienced miscellaneous water leaks causing the  
5 additional consumption of 12,280 cubic feet.

6                   Be it further resolved, that \$235.59  
7 are hereby abated from the accounts receivable  
8 ledger of the authority.

9                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. You might as  
10 well do the second one, too. We'll put them  
11 together.

12                   MS. JOHNSON: And the property owned  
13 by Trinh Lam located at 155 North Iowa Avenue  
14 experienced miscellaneous additional consumption of  
15 6,680 feet -- 85 feet of cubic -- I'm sorry -- 6,685  
16 cubic feet.

17                   Be it further resolved, that the  
18 charges totaling \$128.25 are hereby abated from the  
19 accounts receivable ledger of the authority.

20                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And that  
21 follows standard procedure of 50 percent. Questions  
22 or discussions?

23                   Hearing none, I'll move this.

24                   Do we have a second?

25                   MR. DEDAR: Second.

1                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
2 call.

3                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

4                   CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

5                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

6                   MR. DEDAR: Yes.

7                   MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

8                   MS. DAVIES: Yes.

9                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

10                  MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

11                  CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. An  
12 important part, we've got to pay our bills. You see  
13 the list attached, everybody, on your resolutions.  
14 It's -- it's very big, but that's what it is.

15                  So let's read the resolution first.

16                  MS. JOHNSON: Whereas, the Atlantic  
17 City Municipal Utilities Authority has indebtedness  
18 to the following companies for services rendered in  
19 the amount of \$938,962.99.

20                  CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. If you notice  
21 on the bills, obviously, our wonderful New Jersey  
22 health benefits is a high cost and the electric,  
23 Atlantic City Electric, almost 120.

24                  Hopefully when the solar things come  
25 in, that will reduce a little bit. Also, just so



1 everybody knows, I know the name Mount Construction,  
2 there's two big payments there. That's because  
3 they're completing or have completed certain  
4 projects for us, just as they -- I always look at  
5 the big numbers. So anybody else have a question  
6 or -- on the bills?

7 All right. Hearing none, I'll  
8 entertain a motion to accept.

9 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

11 And a second?

12 MS. DAVIES: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
14 call.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

18 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

20 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

22 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so much.

24 Great job, guys. We're going to be moving into  
25 executive session. I know we're going to have Mr.

1 Riley give us an update on labor negotiations. I  
2 know Mr. Armstrong has a security issue.

3 We'll move a motion to enter  
4 executive session.

5 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

7 And a second?

8 MS. THAPA: Okay. Thank you,  
9 everyone. Have a good day.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Take care, Anita.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Second. And a roll  
13 call. First --

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

17 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

19 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Kausar?

21 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Point of -- point of  
23 order -- point of question. I'm assuming -- I would  
24 like Ms. Still to be part of the executive, correct,  
25 Mr. --

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes, she would.

2 Yeah. She would.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Good. Very good.  
4 We'll see you all in the breakout room. We'll be  
5 back in a minute. Thank you.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. It has been  
7 opened.

8 - - -  
9 (Whereupon, the closed session was  
10 excerpted.)

11 - - -  
12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. We just left  
13 executive session, so I guess we need a motion to go  
14 open up -- to open session.

15 Motion?

16 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Second?

18 MR. KAUSAR: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Roll  
20 call.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

24 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. -- oh, I'm sorry.

1 Ms. Davies?

2 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

4 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. In the  
6 closed session, we discussed labor negotiations,  
7 security concerns, confidentiality concerns, and  
8 shared services with the -- in closed session. I  
9 believe that's it.

10 MR. WARD: And auction properties.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And  
12 auction -- progress of auction properties and what  
13 we're going to be doing about that, right, in the  
14 future. Very good. Those are the issues we  
15 discussed. Anybody else have something?

16 Okay. At this point, I'll entertain  
17 a motion for closure.

18 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Second?

20 MS. DAVIES: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Roll call.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

25 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

2 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

3 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

4 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

6 Everybody have a wonderful week.

7 Ms. Johnson, I'll be here until next  
8 Thursday if you want me to do anything in between  
9 that. Okay?

10 MS. JOHNSON: Next Thursday? Got it.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right.

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

13 MR. DEDAR: Thank you. Have a good  
14 day.

15 MR. ARMSTRONG: Have a good day,  
16 everybody.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. I told you  
18 I've got to run.

19 - - -

20 (Whereupon, the regular monthly  
21 meeting concluded at approximately 11:40 a.m.)

22 - - -

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CERTIFICATE

I, WENDY L. WALINSKI, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a verbatim transcript of the proceedings as taken stenographically by and before me at the time, place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my ability.

I DO FURTHER 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.

*Wendy L. Walinski*  
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WENDY L. WALINSKI, CCR

Notary Number: 2203614

Notary Expiration: 8/3/27

CCR Number: XI02025

Dated: September 23, 2022

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