

ATLANTIC CITY
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

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

OPEN SESSION

March 15, 2023
COMMENCING AT 10:03 a.m.
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY L. HILL, Chairman
GLENN BANFIELD, Treasurer
MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, Executive Director
INDIA STILL, Deputy Executive Director
BRUCE WARD, Solicitor
CLAUDE SMITH, Deputy Executive Director of
Engineering
JOHN ECCLES, JR.
NYNELL LANGFORD
STEPHANIE DAVIES, Alternate #1
SAYED KAUSAR, Alternate #2

ALSO PRESENT:

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

REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS
BY: EDWARD DENNIS, JR.
BY: RYAN HAYES
BY: ROBERT SMITH

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

WENDY L. WALINSKI, RPR, NJ CCR

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1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Adequate
2 notice of this meeting has been provided as required
3 by law by mailing to The Press the list -- the list
4 of the regularly scheduled meeting of March 15th,
5 2023, at 401 North Virginia Avenue, Conference Room,
6 Atlantic City, New Jersey. A copy of said notice
7 was sent to the City Clerk to be posted. All of the
8 aforesaid complies with Chapter 231 of the Laws of
9 1975, known as the Open Meeting -- Open Public
10 Meetings Law. Thank you.

11 Roll call.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Present.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar is absent.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: No.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield's not
17 present at the moment.

18 Ms. Langford?

19 MS. LANGFORD: Here.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

21 MR. ECCLES: Here.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

23 MS. DAVIES: Here.

24 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

25 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. I'm going
2 to ask Mr. Eccles if he could lead us in the flag
3 salute.

4 MR. ECCLES: Certainly. Thank you.
5 (The Pledge of Allegiance is
6 recited.)

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Mr.
8 Eccles.

9 Before we get started, I just wanted
10 to make notice of, and I'd like them just to say
11 hello so we know who they are. We have Remington &
12 Vernick on this meeting. We had an engineering
13 meeting last week. I asked them to be part of the
14 board meeting because, as we know, we're going
15 through a transition with Mr. Smith leaving.
16 There's a lot going on with our -- with our special
17 engineering firm.

18 So, guys, could you just introduce
19 yourself and say hello? These are the board members
20 and some very vital people of our administration,
21 including the person who pays you.

22 MR. ECCLES: You better know them.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. You better
24 know her.

25 Ed, could you start?

1 MR. DENNIS: Absolutely. And thank
2 you, Gary. And I apologize my camera's not on.
3 It's not working this morning.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

5 MR. DENNIS: Just envision a very
6 handsome man. But I'm happy to be here, happy to
7 introduce myself. I've met some of you in person.
8 I'm happy to meet the board.

9 My name's Ed Dennis. I'm a principal
10 at Remington & Vernick Engineers, and I do have with
11 me here today Ryan Hayes from my office. He can
12 introduce himself real quick, and then Bob Smith
13 who's still trying to sign on, so I'm going to get
14 him the link.

15 But, Ryan, why don't you just go
16 ahead and introduce yourself?

17 MR. HAYES: Hello, and good morning,
18 everybody. Thank you for having me on the call. My
19 name's Ryan Hayes. I'm with Remington & Vernick, an
20 engineer, and happy to be here this morning.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Ryan. And
22 then as -- as Mr. Dennis said, Bob Smith will be
23 joining us, too, from Remington & Vernick, and we've
24 been working very closely with them a couple of
25 months now, and we'll continue so in the future.

1 Thanks, guys, for being here.

2 Okay. Ms. Johnson, do we have any
3 public participation as of this moment?

4 MS. JOHNSON: No, we do not.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Then we'll
6 move on to the approval of the minutes. We did not
7 have closed session last month, so we're just going
8 to be looking at and reviewing and voting on the
9 open minutes for February.

10 So, Ms. Johnson, could you read that
11 resolution, please?

12 MS. JOHNSON: Approving the open
13 session minutes of February the 15th, 2023.
14 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal Utilities
15 Authority held their board meeting on February 15th,
16 2023.

17 Now therefore be it resolved, that on
18 this day, the 15th of March 2023, the board of
19 directors of the MUA hereby approves the transcript
20 of the open session meeting minutes of February
21 15th, 2023.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Any
23 changes, editions, or edits?

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

1 MR. ECCLES: I'll make a motion.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

3 And a second?

4 MS. LANGFORD: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

6 Roll call.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

10 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

12 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

14 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

16 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you all.

18 Before we move on to Bruce's report, I just wanted
19 to again extend sympathies to Ms. Johnson, our board
20 secretary, who lost a family member right after our
21 last board member (sic), and on behalf of the board
22 and the staff of the MUA, Stella, we -- we're very
23 sorry for your loss.

24 MS. JOHNSON: And I thank you all for
25 your flowers and your cards and acknowledgment. I

1 appreciate it. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Of course. Thank
3 you.

4 Okay. Mr. Ward, our board solicitor,
5 you're on. Do you have anything that you'd like to
6 update the board and/or the committee here?

7 MR. WARD: Yes. Only to acknowledge
8 that Claude Smith is going to be retiring. I think
9 we all want to wish Claude a very successful
10 transition.

11 However, I think we need to recognize
12 that a very important institutional knowledge is
13 leaving the authority. Claude's been around --

14 How many years, Claude?

15 MR. SMITH: 31 years plus.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Wow.

17 MR. SMITH: 31 years plus.

18 MR. ECCLES: Whoa.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's why you lost
20 some of your hair.

21 MR. WARD: Yes.

22 MR. SMITH: No. That's why it's
23 becoming gray.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: There you go. There
25 you go.

1 MR. WARD: But we'll all hold our
2 arms together and try to fill this major gap in his
3 exit.

4 And, Claude, we wish you the best,
5 very best.

6 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much. I
7 appreciate that.

8 MR. WARD: Uh-huh.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Claude has been an
10 outstanding staff member and worked very hard. He
11 takes everything serious. He is working in close
12 contact with Remington & Vernick, just for the rest
13 of the board members.

14 Anything else, Bruce?

15 MR. WARD: That's it.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. We're
17 going to go on to, speaking of Mr. Smith, the
18 engineering committee. As I said, we had one -- we
19 had one recently. We are trying to put all of the
20 pieces together. Engineering reports are very
21 important. Again, I advise all board members to
22 look over that. It gives you an idea of our
23 projects, our monies, who's involved, and hopefully
24 deadlines and completion dates. That is the
25 engineering committee.

1 Before we do that, Mr. Banfield,
2 hello. Welcome.

3 MR. BANFIELD: Good morning. Sorry
4 I'm late.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's okay. We're
6 just a moving, you know. That's fine, Glenn.

7 Okay. Claude, you're up.

8 MR. SMITH: Yeah. As you said, Gary,
9 that we have been working -- working closely with
10 Remington & Vernick in the last couple weeks in
11 regards to some of the engineering projects that are
12 existent and have actually been ongoing and probably
13 will be in the future, as well, too, that's coming
14 up.

15 Of course the report is still a work
16 in progress, and I'm trying to add things to it as I
17 go along just so that at least the board will
18 actually have that information, as well as the
19 administrative office will actually have that
20 information available to them in regards to what's
21 actually ongoing.

22 We have a meeting that's going to be
23 coming up again with Remington & Vernick. As a
24 matter of fact, next week Friday we'll be definitely
25 meeting, and there's a possibility that we might be

1 meeting tomorrow.

2 Is that correct, Ryan?

3 MR. HAYES: Yes. That's -- that's
4 correct. I wanted to sit down and talk with the
5 ACMUA staff about the -- I think the recent email
6 you sent this week about forewarning (phon) projects
7 and GIS.

8 MR. SMITH: So -- so, again, as I
9 said, everything is actually still a work in
10 progress, and we are working closely with Remington
11 & Vernick just to transition some of the -- the
12 projects and so forth that's ongoing, so that's
13 pretty much it. If -- if --

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

15 MR. SMITH: -- the board members
16 actually review the reports and they have any
17 questions, by all means, if they can reach out or if
18 they can -- of course I won't be here for the next
19 board meeting, but if there's any questions that
20 they have, if they can direct them to the office,
21 and we can try to at least address them, or if they
22 can address them to you, Gary, and then you can
23 actually inquire, and then we can actually address
24 it as best as we can.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And we'll

1 probably call on somebody from Remington if in case
2 I don't know all of the engineering stuff, which I
3 don't. Even though I've done this for like 15
4 years, I'm still learning, but I'm not an engineer.

5 Also, Claude, just -- just for my own
6 clarification, when do you think we might get the
7 updated report?

8 MR. SMITH: Well, as -- as I go
9 along, I'm actually updating the report. As a
10 matter of fact, I just thought about some more stuff
11 that I would be putting on there. For instance, one
12 of the other items that I'll be definitely putting
13 on there is the cradle project --

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

15 MR. SMITH: -- cradle projects that
16 we have actually worked on and still actually are
17 working on it. We do have an outstanding contract,
18 as you -- as you can say, with an engineering
19 company, which is actually Van Cleef that we need to
20 at least address. So I'll be putting that on there
21 so at least you have that awareness of that
22 particular project. I just thought about that this
23 week, as well, too, in regards to that information.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Also -- also with

1 respect to the update, Anita gave us a -- I think it
2 was an Excel report when we first -- Claude first
3 did his engineering report last year, and it gave us
4 an indication of how much money was spent towards
5 each project so that we could see where we were in
6 relation to the -- you know, the project being
7 completed.

8 Anita, do you think you can take a
9 look at the remaining open projects and give us
10 another update?

11 MS. THAPA: Sure.

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Anybody else
14 have something for Mr. Smith? Okay. We might hear
15 from him again.

16 All right. Personnel committee. Mr.
17 Dedar is not here. He's chairman of that committee,
18 but I think there's one item here.

19 Mr. Armstrong, would you like to
20 address that?

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: We -- we can talk
22 about it in closed session.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. And I also
24 think we want to welcome somebody new, correct --

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: -- that finally came
2 onboard?

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Would you like to
5 introduce her? I mean, we all know her and we -- do
6 you want to --

7 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Karen Upshall
8 was brought on to work and assist with our personnel
9 department. So far she's been here for about a
10 week, and she's been very helpful to us in a lot of
11 the issues that we're facing. In fact, she's
12 meeting with Mike Riley now discussing some issues
13 that are pending in the conference room.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: I'm assuming, Ms.
15 Still, you've met with Karen, as well; right?

16 MS. STILL: Yes, I have. Regularly
17 we interact.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Very good.
19 Thanks. All right. We're going to --

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: And --

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: We're going to move
22 on to Mr. Armstrong's report.

23 MR. ARMSTRONG: Just one other thing,
24 and it was also personnel matters under me. So I'll
25 just mention one other thing is that Kevin Jennings

1 who retired as assistant manager --

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: -- he decided to come
4 back to the authority, and today is his first day
5 back at the authority.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Kevin's a great
7 asset.

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: I'm really glad to
10 see him back personally.

11 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Yeah. He's
12 back on a part-time basis, 24 hours a week.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Part time, right.

14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yep. Other than
15 that, I don't have anything under the executive
16 director's report.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. We might have
18 one or two items maybe in closed session. If not --

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Right.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: -- we'll move
21 forward.

22 The deputy executive director of
23 engineering, we talked about the engineering
24 operations report from the plant. I don't see Larry
25 here.

1 Claude, do you want to say anything
2 there that we should maybe be aware of?

3 MR. SMITH: One of the things I will
4 mention is that the EPA report that we received for
5 a response -- response to concerns, that he's
6 currently working on. As a matter of fact, it's --
7 it's a work in progress. That particular report is
8 due back to the EPA on the 22nd of this month. So I
9 know Larry's actually still working on it.

10 He did supply me with some -- some
11 portions of the report where he wanted some input on
12 those sections of the report. And I'll be talking
13 with him. We should be actually meeting with him
14 today, if possible, so that's --

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. I thought --
16 I thought you had a meeting this afternoon maybe?

17 MR. SMITH: Right. That's what I
18 said. Today -- today -- yes. Today -- today after
19 the -- probably around 3:00 or so we probably will
20 be meeting with Larry, but in regards to any
21 particular operations with the plant, of course
22 everything is still ongoing. There's -- as far as
23 I'm concerned, there's no issues.

24 There's one thing on here -- I'll
25 jump forward in regards to we just went out and got

1 bids for corrosion inhibitor chemicals. It's
2 actually on here. It's actually item number 10.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

4 MR. SMITH: So I'm just letting you
5 know that, you know, the chemical supplies is
6 something that's definitely still important to the
7 authority. Of course this is just one of the
8 chemical usage that the plant does need, and of
9 course, there will be more in the upcoming months or
10 year that definitely would have to be gone out
11 for -- for proposals and for bids. So just to keep
12 that in mind as we proceed through the operation
13 process of the treatment plant.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. I was
15 remiss. I apologize. All of you should have
16 received -- I should have done this in my report --
17 committee assignments and a schedule including with
18 the board from Ms. Johnson. Thank you, Stella.

19 Just so everybody's aware, that is of
20 course flexible because there are sometimes issues,
21 we need to add a meeting or we eliminate a meeting.
22 For instance, engineering's going to be having a few
23 meetings more than what's listed there because of
24 the transition with Mr. Smith. I hope everybody had
25 reviewed it.

1 I did speak in the beginning of the
2 year with most board members. We're kind of leaving
3 everything status quo for this year, so just to make
4 sure that you receive that. If you did not, Ms.
5 Johnson can send that to you. I'm sorry about it.
6 I should have told you that earlier.

7 Okay. We're going to be moving to
8 the deputy executive director of administration, Ms.
9 Still. I know you've been very busy doing a lot of
10 things.

11 Okay. Yeah.

12 MS. STILL: You have a fly on the
13 wall.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

15 MS. STILL: Yes. Good -- good
16 morning, everyone. So with Claude's transition,
17 I've just been trying to jump in and liaise a little
18 bit with the engineers and with WRM.

19 We've also, separate from that, have
20 started a comprehensive review of the rules and regs
21 document looking to see if we can just update some
22 of the language and go -- take a deeper dive into
23 some of the fees that have been charged over the
24 years. You know, they need to be updated with
25 respect to the costs that we're paying out for

1 certain work.

2 And today I forgot to talk to Edie
3 Armstrong about this, but we do have a meeting at
4 2:00 with Patrick -- Patrick Quinlan from the city.
5 That shared services agreement was executed and
6 returned to us about two weeks ago, and so Patrick's
7 going to come over and pick up where he left off to
8 talk with us about IT needs.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Right. That
10 took us a while to get that, but it seems like we're
11 in much closer relationship and better --
12 everything's clearer, correct, India, than it was
13 originally?

14 MS. STILL: I think so with respect
15 to how this will work.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: I'm laughing. Mr.
17 Armstrong's laughing, too, but you know...

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. That's --
19 that's a closed session discussion.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: That is. That is.

21 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: And I'll have to get
23 at Mr. Quinlan if he doesn't get his act together.
24 He and I --

25 MS. STILL: I work with Pat on a

1 regular basis on some other --

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: I've got it.

3 MS. STILL: -- on other things, too,
4 so we have a good relationship.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Yeah. He's
6 a -- he's a good guy.

7 MS. STILL: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: He has a lot of hats
9 on, too, so --

10 MS. STILL: He does.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: -- you know, I get
12 it.

13 Okay. Anything else, Ms. Still?

14 MS. STILL: No. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you so very
16 much.

17 We're going to go to D on our agenda,
18 accounting and finances. We don't need to vote on
19 any of this, but this is really for information and
20 review. It's on the agenda every -- every month,
21 and we'll start with Ms. Anita Thapa.

22 MS. THAPA: Okay. Good morning.

23 Good morning, everyone. Okay. The financial
24 reports are for the month of January. Okay. So
25 just for the reviews -- brief review, as we know --

1 we know that we have increased our rate -- flat
2 rates in 2023 by 8 percent. So with that increase,
3 for January revenue, as compared to last year, our
4 revenue's up by 9 percent. So total revenue in
5 January is 1.6 million. And our operating expenses
6 for January, it's about 886,000.

7 As for the cash collection, we
8 collected about 1.3 million including 10,038 --
9 about 10,000 in connection fees.

10 As for the cash management, the
11 interest rate is averaging about 4 percent. As we
12 all probably are aware of the -- the recent news
13 with the bank failure, hopefully the interest rates
14 will be, you know, going up as -- as usually it's
15 going up. So hopefully that -- that will be the
16 case.

17 Like I said, I had mentioned in
18 earlier, too, I've been looking into maybe invest in
19 the New Jersey Cash Management, which we have
20 invested about 3 million. Their rate is a little
21 bit higher than our Bank of New York Mellon, just
22 like a maybe point -- a quarter difference there, so
23 I'm still looking into whether to invest or not, but
24 those amounts -- I mean, those investments also will
25 be in the money market, so it is -- we can withdraw

1 as we -- you know, as we need for our capital
2 projects.

3 So hopefully -- I think -- I just
4 checked the interest rate, and it's about 4.5. So
5 if it keeps like this, then maybe this month or next
6 month -- month, Ms. Still and I will look over and
7 then we'll -- we will invest in that cash -- New
8 Jersey Cash Management Fund. I believe that the New
9 Jersey Cash Management Fund is -- it's pretty -- you
10 know, it's working pretty good. So --

11 And for the balance adjustment and
12 shutoffs, that's just for the information. As we
13 know, we will not be doing the shutoff in March, but
14 we'll be starting in April --

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: April. April.
16 Right.

17 MS. THAPA: -- depending on the
18 weather, so -- because the weather is so
19 unpredictable. So depending on the temperature,
20 we'll start shutoffs somewhere between mid-April or
21 May, starting May. Okay?

22 And that's it for the financials.
23 And if you have any questions, please do not
24 hesitate to call me.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Anita.

1 Once again, great job.

2 Okay. We're going to be moving into
3 10 on our agenda, which is old business. Mr. Smith
4 already spoke about -- a little bit about 10 a (1).
5 I'm going to ask Ms. Johnson to read that
6 resolution, please.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Corrosion inhibitor
8 chemical, Carus, LLC. Be it resolved, by the board
9 of directors of the Atlantic City MUA that the bid
10 of Carus, LLC for furnishing and delivering
11 corrosion inhibitor chemicals, which the bid was
12 received publicly and open and read at a meeting of
13 the purchasing board held on March 7th, 2023, is
14 hereby accepted from Carus in the amount of
15 \$262,560.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And, of
17 course, this is the chemicals we need to do our
18 work.

19 So anybody have a question, comment?

20 MR. WARD: Yes. Mr. Hill --

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

22 MR. WARD: -- the price for the
23 corrosion inhibitor is 125 percent more than
24 previous years.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

1 MR. WARD: And it's the result of a
2 supply chain issue that arose in August of 2022
3 where a facility in North Carolina had an accident
4 and had to be shut down. So we're limping along
5 with a company coming out of Illinois, which, you
6 know, was the successful bidder, but again, just so
7 people know, these are some supply chain issues --

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

9 MR. WARD: -- that we have to respond
10 to, yet this chemical is drastically needed by the
11 board.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Thank you. I
13 was going to mention the cost increase was quite a
14 bit. I mean, it's --

15 MR. WARD: Yes.

16 MR. SMITH: Just to add to that, at
17 this point the fact that there --

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: I'm sorry. There's a
19 little interference.

20 MR. ARMSTRONG: Could everybody mute
21 their mics?

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Can you mute?

23 Thanks.

24 Go ahead.

25 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Just -- just

1 making the comment then despite the fact they're
2 from out of Illinois, this is a company that we've
3 dealt with before in the past. Of course, they have
4 been able to successfully deliver this particular
5 chemical to us, and I did make Ed Jones and Larry
6 aware of this -- of the change of the chemical
7 company that we would be dealing with for this
8 particular chemical. So they know what to do in
9 advance in regards to getting the chemicals for the
10 operations of the treatment plant.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Good.

12 MR. SMITH: And just -- just to
13 inform the board, as well, too, this is
14 actually for -- the pricing that you're seeing there
15 is actually for a two-year agreement with the
16 company. It's not just one year.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Oh, okay. That's
18 good to know. All right.

19 MR. ECCLES: Oh. Thank -- thank you,
20 Claude, for letting us --

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

22 MR. ECCLES: -- be aware. You know,
23 that's -- that's good news.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

25 MR. SMITH: Sure.

1 MR. ECCLES: So the contract will be
2 for two years?

3 MR. SMITH: That's -- that's correct.

4 MR. ECCLES: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. It is in the
6 bottom of the resolution, but I -- I didn't see that
7 either, so okay. Thanks for the update.

8 Okay. Hearing -- hearing no other
9 questions, I'll look for a motion to accept.

10 MR. ECCLES: I'll -- I'll make the
11 motion.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

13 And a second?

14 MS. DAVIES: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

16 Roll call.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

20 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

22 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

24 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

1 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving on
3 to 10 b, licensed backup operators companies (pool).
4 We keep hearing that word recently, and I'm glad
5 we're looking at that. So let's read the resolution
6 first. Then we'll discuss.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Where -- water resource
8 management amendment, licensed backup operator
9 companies (pool).

10 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA and a
11 pool of licensed backup operators entered into an
12 agreement for emergency professional services for
13 operator services;

14 Whereas, it has become necessary to
15 increase the original contract amount. The cost of
16 this work shall increase the contract by \$50,000.

17 Now therefore be it resolved, by the
18 board of directors that the original resolution
19 number 72 of March 28th, 2022 is hereby amended to
20 include a sum not to exceed 440,000 for the licensed
21 backup operator services.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.
23 Obviously, this is an amendment to something we
24 passed before.

25 Mr. Armstrong, do you want to comment

1 on why we need to do that?

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Given some of
3 the -- you know, the volume of services that
4 we're -- we're in need of right now, it becomes
5 necessary for us to have to increase the -- the
6 contract, and Larry is going above and beyond what
7 is initially required under the contract that we had
8 working with Claude to respond to the EPA request.

9 So this is -- you know, we don't have
10 a choice at this time.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Exactly. I
12 totally agree.

13 Anybody else have a question or
14 comment?

15 Hearing none, I'll make a motion to
16 accept.

17 MR. ARMSTRONG: India was going to
18 say something.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Oh, I'm sorry, India.
20 Go ahead.

21 MS. STILL: I was just going to say
22 that Ed Jones passed a recent test for his -- it's
23 the --

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

25 MS. STILL: For his license, yes, so

1 this is --

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. Very good
3 news.

4 MS. STILL: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very, very good news.
6 I'm very happy about that.

7 Okay. I --

8 MR. BANFIELD: Wait.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: I made a motion to
10 accept.

11 Do we have --

12 MR. BANFIELD: I had a question.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Sure. Go ahead, Mr.
14 Banfield.

15 MR. BANFIELD: Okay. Now, based on
16 what the original contract was, I know -- I know
17 things have gone up, but what are -- are we getting
18 any -- any other benefit from that increase of -- of
19 performance?

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: There's more time
21 being put in. Is that what you're asking?

22 MR. BANFIELD: Yeah. But a little
23 bit -- are we getting any other like advantage of --
24 you know, because normally when things are, you
25 know, raised, other than the cost, are we -- are we

1 receiving any other benefits of that increase?

2 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. The -- the
3 initial contract is only for -- they're providing 35
4 hours of licensed operator services at the plant, 20
5 hours of licensed operator services at distribution.
6 They do what they can within those 55 hours per
7 week, but because we are under investigation by the
8 EPA, it required Larry to provide hours more than
9 the 35 hours that he spends at the plant, so what
10 you're seeing is -- as an increase is the hours
11 above and beyond.

12 Now, there has come a need to have
13 additional operator services because we're short
14 operators out at the plant. And I had spoke to WRM
15 about proposing to use additional operators to help
16 cover, you know, our shortage, and I asked them to
17 do that if they could at a discount, and they sent
18 over a proposal not too long ago. We haven't, you
19 know, exercised that proposal yet or decided to use
20 it, but they have proposed to give us a discount if
21 those additional services are needed for an
22 additional operator.

23 MR. BANFIELD: Thank you.

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Mr.

1 Banfield. And the EPA issue really took a lot of
2 time and work out of those hours that -- that we are
3 addressing, so that's one of the main reasons, Mr.
4 Banfield.

5 MR. BANFIELD: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Anybody else?

7 MS. THAPA: And just for the comment,
8 we will be going out again.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

10 MS. THAPA: Because the contract will
11 end in March. Technically it's March, so April
12 we'll be -- we will be going out and awarding.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Okay. I made
14 a motion.

15 Can I have a second?

16 MR. ECCLES: I'll -- I'll second.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

18 Roll call.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

22 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

24 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

1 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

3 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. It's kind
5 of the same situation for 10 c with special counsel.
6 As we know, the firm of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole
7 & Giblin has been the special counsel for us for a
8 while, two years I guess. This is an amendment,
9 too, basically or -- yeah, from the original
10 contract.

11 But let's read the resolution first.

12 MS. JOHNSON: DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick,
13 Cole & Giblin - amendment, special counsel.

14 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA and
15 DeCotiis entered into an agreement by resolution 58
16 on March 15th, 2022 as special counsel for a
17 contract not to exceed \$10,000;

18 Whereas, the original contract from
19 DeCotiis was amended by resolution 115 on May 18,
20 2022 not to exceed 30,000;

21 Whereas, it has become necessary for
22 DeCotiis to perform additional services which were
23 not contemplated. The cost of this work shall
24 increase the contract by \$20,000.

25 Be it further resolved, that the cost

1 of this additional work shall increase the contract
2 price from 30,000 to \$50,000.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Kind of the same
4 situation.

5 Mr. Armstrong, do you want to -- want
6 to speak about this in closed and we can bring it
7 back?

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: I can say generally
9 they're involved in litigation, which is out of
10 their control, out of our control.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

12 MR. ARMSTRONG: It involves what we
13 thought was going to be a quick and over -- easy
14 case, and over a matter of just a motion turned out
15 to be -- an appeal had to be -- interlocutory appeal
16 had to be filed, which was denied, and now it's
17 proceeding through the tribunal phase. So it's
18 really not something that's under anyone's control.
19 It's in the court's hands.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Would you like us to
21 go into more detail in executive or not?

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: If questions -- if
23 that's not sufficient, if someone wants to ask me
24 more details in closed, I can answer them.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. I think we'll

1 pull this and we'll come back to it. All right,
2 guys?

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. It's
5 nothing -- just so everybody's clear.

6 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. Moving on
8 to new business. This is our abatements. Again, we
9 have the "unnecessary to appear" is listed there.
10 And, again, I urge all board members to look at the
11 names and addresses. If you need to abstain from
12 one of them, just mention which one that is.

13 And we can put them all together as
14 we've been doing for the last couple of years, and
15 we'll make it a little bit easier for us to go
16 through this. So new business resolutions, this
17 would be A, I believe (1), (2), (3) -- (1), (2),
18 (3), and (4).

19 Ms. Johnson?

20 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Castle One, Inc.
21 abatement located at 521 North Ohio Avenue in the
22 amount of \$554.67.

23 Chuyen & Thuy Do abatement, property
24 located a 217 North Montpelier Avenue in the amount
25 of \$785.46.

1 Molena, Inc. abatement, property
2 address 809 North Indiana Avenue in the amount of
3 \$255.86.

4 Carol Moscony abatement, property
5 address 1025 North Ohio Avenue in the amount of
6 \$291.87.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

8 Any questions or comments?

9 Okay. Hearing none, I'll look for a
10 motion to accept the abatements.

11 MR. ECCLES: I'll -- I'll make a
12 motion.

13 MR. BANFIELD: I'll second.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: And thank you, sir.
15 Roll call.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

19 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

21 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

23 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

25 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. B is a
2 service agreement, which we'll look at resolution
3 11 b. This is the good part. We get some money.

4 Okay. Ms. Johnson, can you read it?

5 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Service agreement
6 for Qiaozhen Haung, also known as Chelsey Haung.

7 Be it resolved, by the board of
8 directors of the MUA that the chairman is hereby
9 authorized to execute and the vice chairman to
10 attest to the water service agreement by and between
11 the Atlantic City MUA and Qiaozhen Haung a/k/a
12 Chelsey Haung for the property located at 615 Sewell
13 Avenue.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. This is --

15 MS. JOHNSON: There is a connection
16 fee --

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Fee of --

18 MS. JOHNSON: -- in the amount of --
19 is it 5,000, Mr. Smith, \$28.28?

20 MR. SMITH: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's what I have.
22 Right.

23 Okay. Super. Questions, comments?

24 MR. SMITH: But the -- the total cost
25 of --

1 MS. JOHNSON: The total due at
2 signing of the service agreement is \$15,390.

3 Am I correct, Mr. Smith?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes. That's correct.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. This is just
6 an installation; correct?

7 MR. SMITH: That's a new -- new
8 installation for service to our distribution system
9 at this particular address, a new location.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: It must be a -- is it
11 a multidwelling or something?

12 MR. SMITH: No. It's a single family
13 home.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Is it really? Wow.

15 MR. SMITH: Yes. It's actually --
16 it's actually right on the bay.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Sewell. Okay.

18 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Good for -- for them.
20 Good for Atlantic City. That's great.

21 MR. SMITH: And there's more to come.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Good. Good. Good.
23 Okay.

24 MR. SMITH: It's just that we need
25 your signatures ASAP so we can actually --

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: I'm here. I'm
2 working all day. Send it over.

3 MR. SMITH: Will do.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. I'll look
5 for a motion to accept.

6 MR. ECCLES: I'll -- I'll make a
7 motion.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.
9 And a second?

10 MS. DAVIES: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Ms.
12 Davies.

13 Roll call.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

17 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

19 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

21 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

23 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Is Ms. Davies still
25 vote --

1 Oh, yeah. That's right. She's still
2 voting.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

4 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

6 Moving on to 12. This is our monthly
7 list of bills. You can all review that. You can
8 see where we're spending a lot of money, and it is
9 what it is. I just signed a ton of checks, so all
10 right. Let's look at the resolution, please.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Approving monthly
12 bills. Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA has
13 indebtedness to the following companies for services
14 rendered in the amount of \$733,008.92.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. So that's
16 attached to your reports. I thought there was one
17 that I had a question, but I might be wrong.

18 Anybody else have a question on them?
19 Obviously our health benefits are very expensive.
20 We know that. One day we'll get to review that,
21 right, Ms. Still? I know you're going to work with
22 Fairview.

23 MS. STILL: Actually, they called
24 today. We just got the data from the state a couple
25 of weeks ago.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Oh, good.

2 MS. STILL: And they're -- so they're
3 working on it. Sorry. I forgot to update you on
4 that.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: No. No. That's good
6 because every month that just glares out at us, but
7 that's great. And, you know, we'll --

8 MS. STILL: Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: -- see what we can
10 do. Right.

11 MS. STILL: And they're reviewing the
12 dental plan. We may have more luck with that than
13 doing anything with the health benefits, but we'll
14 see.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. I understand.
16 But thank you for being on top of that. That's --
17 that's great. As least we're looking -- we're being
18 proactive a little bit.

19 Okay. Those are the bills. I'll
20 move the bills.

21 Can I --

22 MR. BANFIELD: I'll second.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

24 Roll call.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

3 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

5 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

7 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

9 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving on
11 to our executive session, which we'll go into next.
12 It's general practice to discuss -- we're going to
13 be discussing labor contract negotiations with an
14 update and resolution March -- 10 c if need be and
15 anything else.

16 So can we read the resolution?

17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Approving to
18 enter into closed session. That's it.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's it. I'll
20 move it. We'll need --

21 MR. SMITH: Gary -- Gary, I just want
22 to -- I just want to acknowledge the fact that Mr.
23 Robert Smith actually did join us. Ed was going
24 through the introduction of all the Remington &
25 Vernick --

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

2 MR. SMITH: -- participants, but at
3 the same time, he was not actually acknowledged.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: We will be asking
5 Remington & Vernick to leave the meeting here. They
6 don't need to be part of the executive session.
7 Okay, guys?

8 MR. DENNIS: Will do. And yeah. Bob
9 joined, and we wanted to make it easy on you, so
10 you'll have another Mr. Smith when Claude leaves.
11 We'll streamline the transition.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Smart -- smart --
13 smart planning, Ed. Smart planning.

14 MR. DENNIS: You've got it. All
15 right, guys. Thank you all.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you all for
17 coming onboard, and you guys have things to do.

18 MS. THAPA: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

20 MR. DENNIS: Have a good day.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: We need to take a
22 vote first, please, on closed session.

23 So I moved it.

24 Can I have a second?

25 MR. BANFIELD: Second.

1 MR. ECCLES: I'll -- okay.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

3 Roll call.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

7 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

9 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

11 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

12 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

13 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

15 And, Anita, thank you. You can
16 leave, as well.

17 MS. THAPA: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: And we'll go into
19 closed.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Breakout room.
21 Okay.

22 - - -

23 (Whereupon, the closed session was
24 excerpted.

25 - - -

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: I think we're all
2 here. That was quick.

3 Okay. I'm looking for a motion.
4 We're going to be going -- we just left closed.
5 We're going to be moving into open again to complete
6 our business.

7 Could I have a motion?

8 MR. ECCLES: I'll make a motion we go
9 back into open session.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

11 And a second?

12 MR. BANFIELD: I second.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Mr.
14 Banfield.

15 Roll call.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

19 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

21 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

23

24 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

1 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. We're
3 back in open session for the March 15th board
4 meeting. Two things were discussed in closed
5 session, labor contract negotiations by our attorney
6 Mr. Riley, an update to the board, no action is
7 taken, and the second was a discussion or
8 clarification on resolution 10 c (1). We've had
9 time to review.

10 So we'll read that resolution,
11 please.

12 MS. JOHNSON: DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick,
13 Cole & Giblin - amendment for special counsel.
14 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA and DeCotiis entered
15 into an agreement by resolution number 58 on March
16 15th, 2022 as special counsel for a contract not to
17 exceed 10,000;

18 Whereas, the original contract for
19 DeCotiis was amended by resolution 115 on May 18th,
20 2022 not to exceed 30,000;

21 Where it has become necessary for
22 DeCotiis to perform additional services, which were
23 not contemplated. The cost of this work shall
24 increase the contract price by \$20,000.

25 Be it further resolved, that the cost

1 of this additional work shall increase the contract
2 price from 30,000 to \$50,000.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Thank you.

4 Comments, questions? We did discuss.
5 So I'll look for a -- a motion to accept.

6 MR. ECCLES: I'll make a motion.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second?

8 MS. DAVIES: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

10 Roll call.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield?

14 MR. BANFIELD: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

16 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

18
19 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

21 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you very much.

23 Before we leave, I want to say luck
24 of the Irish to you all. Happy Saint Patrick's Day
25 on -- I'm not sure there's any Irish people here,

1 but that's okay. We're all Irish on Saint Patrick's
2 Day. Maybe Mr. Eccles.

3 MR. ECCLES: No. I am -- I am
4 English, Irish, Italian, so I have -- I have all the
5 bases covered.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And all --
7 and all the problems that means.

8 MR. ECCLES: Well --

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. Well --

10 MR. ECCLES: Well, I will leave it at
11 this, Gary, family holiday dinners were never dull.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: No. I'm sure not.

13 Well, Happy Saint Patrick's Day to
14 all.

15 So hearing no other business, we'll
16 accept a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. BANFIELD: Motion.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

19 And a second?

20 MS. DAVIES: Second.

21 MR. ECCLES: I'll second.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Roll call.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

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

1 Mr. --

2 MR. BANFIELD: It's all right,
3 Stella. Go ahead.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield? Mr.
5 Banfield?

6 MR. BANFIELD: Yes. Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

8 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

10 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

12 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Good bye,
14 everybody.

15 Claude, good luck. We'll be in touch
16 though I know before you leave. Okay?

17 MR. SMITH: All right.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thanks, everybody.
19 Have a great day.

20 MR. ECCLES: Yes, Claude, all the
21 best.

22 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

23 - - -

24 (Whereupon, the regular monthly
25 meeting concluded at approximately 10:55 a.m.)

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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

WENDY L. WALINSKI, CCR
Notary Number: 2203614
Notary Expiration: 8/3/27
CCR Number: XI02025
Dated: March 18, 2023

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