

ATLANTIC CITY
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

TRANSCRIPT OF REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

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

March 22, 2024

COMMENCING AT 10:01 a.m.

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY L. HILL, Chairman

MOHAMMED DEDAR, Vice Chairman/Deputy

INDIA STILL, Executive Director

BRUCE WARD, Solicitor

CLIFFORD KEEN, Deputy Executive Director of
Operations

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

WES SWAIN, City Administrator

REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS

EDWARD DENNIS, JR.

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:

WENDY L. WALINSKI, RPR, NJ CCR

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MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES

(866) 624-6221

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Good morning,
2 everybody, to the March 22nd meeting.

3 Adequate notice of this meeting has
4 been provided as required by law by mailing to The
5 Press a list of the regularly scheduled meeting,
6 March 22nd, 2024, at 401 North Virginia Avenue,
7 Conference Room, Atlantic City, New Jersey. A copy
8 of said notice was sent to the City Clerk to be
9 posted. All of the aforesaid complies with Chapter
10 231 of the Laws of 1975 known as the Open Public
11 Meeting Law.

12 Roll call, please.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Present.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

16 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Banfield is
18 presently absent.

19 Ms. Langford?

20 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles? Mr.
22 Eccles?

23 MR. ECCLES: Oh, I'm sorry. Can you
24 hear me?

25 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Now.

2 Are you here?

3 MR. ECCLES: Yes. Sorry about that.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

5 MS. DAVIES: Yes. I'm here.

6 MS. JOHNSON: And Mr. Kausar?

7 MR. KAUSAR: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Can we do
9 a flag salute?

10 Mr. Dedar, could you lead us?

11 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

12 (The Pledge of Allegiance is
13 recited.)

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. So we will
15 do -- looking for any public participation that has
16 called in or appeared at our hybrid board meeting
17 today?

18 MS. JOHNSON: No public
19 participation.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you,
21 Stella, for coming in today.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: We'll look for the
24 approval of minutes. This is the open session that
25 we just finished in February. That is for

1 resolution 5 a (1).

2 Could we read the resolution, please?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Approving open session
4 minutes of February the 21st, 2024.

5 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
6 Utilities Authority held their board meeting on
7 February 21st, 2024.

8 Now therefore be it resolved, on this
9 22nd day of March 2024, that the board of directors
10 of the MUA hereby approves the transcript of open
11 session meeting minutes held on February 21st, 2024.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Hopefully all our
13 board members got time to review and discuss among
14 yourself.

15 Any changes, concerns, or edits?

16 Hearing none, I'll accept a motion.

17 MS. DAVIES: Motion.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

19 And a second?

20 MR. DEDAR: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

22 Roll call.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

1 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

3 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

5 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

7 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving
9 on, our closed session minutes for that said board
10 meeting on February 21st. That's resolution
11 5 b (1). Hopefully everybody got to review those.

12 And we'll read the resolution,
13 please, Ms. Johnson.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Approving closed
15 session minutes of February 21st, 2024.

16 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
17 Utilities Authority held their board meeting on
18 February 21st, 2024.

19 Now therefore be it resolved, on this
20 22nd day of March 2024, that the board of directors
21 of the MUA hereby approves the transcription of
22 closed session meeting minutes held February 21st,
23 2024.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. We will not
25 do any edits now.

1 So I'll look for a motion to accept.

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

3 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second?

5 Somebody did that.

6 I forget who did first and second.

7 Just so Wendy has it.

8 Who did second, Wendy?

9 MR. DEDAR: I did second. John did
10 first.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
12 Dedar. Very good. Thank you.

13 And a roll call.

14 MR. ECCLES: Thanks, Mohammed.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

18 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

20 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

22 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

24 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving on

1 to the chairman's report. Just two things I wanted
2 to bring up.

3 Number one, we're going to be looking
4 at a lot of money today, and some things are
5 emergency, but we've been working on these -- these
6 issues for quite a long time. It will be good to
7 get them moving forward, so just so everybody's
8 aware of that. We're get into those details later.

9 Also, I wanted to wish board members
10 and our community Happy Ramadan month. I believe it
11 starts or started, so I hope it's a good celebration
12 month for all.

13 Okay.

14 MR. DEDAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. KAUSAR: Thank you. Yes. Thank
16 you, Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Of course. Of
18 course.

19 And now we're going to go to Mr.
20 Ward, and I know, Mr. Ward, you have things to
21 always give us an uplifting moment in executive
22 session.

23 But is there anything you'd like to
24 put in public at this moment?

25 MR. WARD: Other than the fact that

1 there are at least one, maybe two requests for
2 relief of connection fees, and I have approved them
3 to go into closed session.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. Amazing
5 what the front page of The Press will do. We'll
6 move on for that later. Okay.

7 MR. WARD: Uh-huh.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Engineering
9 committee, we did meet again. We had a full -- full
10 house there, and we had one of our -- one of the
11 leading partners of Remington & Vernick part of that
12 for half of the agenda. Lots and lots of projects
13 happening.

14 We're going to get into most of those
15 specifics, in particular the emergency things, later
16 on in the agenda, so we might -- why review them
17 now? But we did have a good meeting, lots of good
18 things happening there. We have a great
19 partnership, and I always am very grateful when they
20 send out our operations and our engineering reports,
21 because again, it gives the board opportunities to
22 see where we are tentatively and -- money-wise and
23 project-wise and contract-wise. So please make sure
24 you review them.

25 Does anybody from engineering, Mr.

1 Eccles, Remington, Mr. Keen, do you want to say
2 anything now, or do you want to wait until we get to
3 the issues?

4 MR. KEEN: We should probably wait
5 until we're at that part of the agenda.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: I would assume.
7 Mr. Eccles, do you agree?

8 MR. ECCLES: Oh, yes. Yes. I agree
9 with that. We'll deal with each issue as it comes
10 up.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. Lots of
12 information.

13 Okay. We'll move on to personnel.
14 Mr. Dedar? I don't know -- I believe you met. I'm
15 not sure. I always think you're --

16 MR. DEDAR: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We
17 don't -- we don't have anything for personnel yet.
18 We don't have any meetings, so...

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. And I know
20 we're going to be talking --

21 MR. DEDAR: Yeah. We don't have
22 any --

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. We'll be
24 talking about the deputy executive position a little
25 bit later.

1 MR. DEDAR: Correct. Yes. Yes.
2 Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: And we did have some
4 good movement on that since our last meeting, so
5 we'll get to that a little bit later.

6 MR. DEDAR: Awesome.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Our executive
8 director, Ms. Still, has been busy, busy. I had a
9 sit-down meeting with her about three weeks ago.
10 She and I and Cliff, I think, we had a meeting with
11 the state, as well, with some issues, and she's not
12 going to go into all of that now, but publically,
13 India, would you like to speak a little bit about
14 some of the things?

15 MS. STILL: Yes. Good morning,
16 everyone. It's been an interesting first month here
17 as the executive director. I've supplied you with
18 just a little synopsis of -- of some of the things
19 that I've been looking at.

20 And yeah. We have done quite a bit
21 of trainings this past month just beefing up the
22 areas on the harassment and discrimination and also
23 purchasing, so I'm just looking forward to
24 continuing doing more of that, as well as thinking
25 about ways that we can improve technology here and

1 just address some of the future-oriented challenges
2 that we have, even with labor.

3 So if you have any questions, you
4 know, I just gave you a brief synopsis there. I'm
5 not sure how that will play out in the future,
6 whether it will change, but I'm just giving you an
7 idea of what it's been like so far.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: And, India, I believe
9 you sent that to Mr. Swain, too, right, that list?

10 MS. STILL: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. You did?

12 MS. STILL: I'm sorry. You said
13 Swan? Mr. Swain?

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Wes. Wes.

15 MS. STILL: Oh, Swain?

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Swain. Swain.

17 MS. STILL: Okay. Because I'm
18 thinking --

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Wes Swain, Swan.
20 You knew who I mean. Right, Wes?

21 MS. STILL: Right. Yeah. He should
22 have gotten that, as well.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. This is the
24 first time we've gotten something like this
25 comprehensively written down to our board, which is

1 something new for this director, and I think that's
2 kind of good.

3 I particularly -- we had a long
4 discussion about her training session with
5 management, and I know she's going to work on the
6 next one with staff, too, but that was very
7 interesting to see. A lot of the things not
8 surprising on there. A lot of things interesting to
9 us to look at, and I'm sure Mr. Riley's glad that
10 we've covered or are starting to work on some of the
11 labor issues, and I know we're working with the
12 state on that, so...

13 MS. STILL: Yeah. We have a
14 managers' lunch today, so we're -- that's going to
15 continue to happen on a -- on a monthly basis
16 where --

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Oh, okay.

18 MS. STILL: To follow up --

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

20 MS. STILL: -- on the retreat.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's great. Super.
22 Well, good job, India, for that. Thank you.

23 And if any board member has a
24 question on what she sent on that, you can reach out
25 to her personally. We don't need to do that now.

1 Okay. Anything else, India, for now?

2 I know you have other things in closed.

3 MS. STILL: No. That's -- that's it.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's what I

6 thought.

7 Okay. Our very busy man Cliff Keen
8 has a lot of things going on as the deputy executive
9 director of operations.

10 Again, I mentioned the engineering
11 and operator's report, that he works along with our
12 consultants. Please, please review that. I keep
13 saying that every month.

14 Would you like, Cliff, to speak now
15 on any of that, or do you want to wait -- there
16 might be one or two items we're not going to get to,
17 but...

18 MR. KEEN: Yeah. I mean, I think the
19 reports kind of speak for themselves, and I think
20 I'll reserve most of my time to speaking on the
21 issues that we have in front of us today, if that's
22 okay.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right, because I have
24 your name on a couple of those sheets, those
25 resolutions.

1 MR. KEEN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Just a few questions.
3 So great. They also -- India and Cliff did attend a
4 conference this week.

5 Can you just tell us what that was
6 just so the rest of the board is aware?

7 MR. KEEN: Sure. We -- this week was
8 the American Waterworks Association conference.
9 That's where a lot of industry leaders, consultants,
10 engineers, the -- all the vendors that are out
11 there, and especially the larger systems, get
12 together and collaborate and discuss some of the big
13 issues facing water and wastewater for the next, you
14 know, year.

15 And we also attended the AEA, really
16 a day at the AEA and then a little bit of the
17 morning session. A lot of it has to do with PFAS,
18 things that we're already working on. We're looking
19 at the future that includes microplastics and
20 lithium and all of these other short-chain PFAS that
21 are -- that are going to definitely change the
22 industry a little bit, and there's been recent
23 attention on operator licensing and training and
24 trying to get younger people into the industry sort
25 of nationwide. That's important. But especially

1 here in New Jersey, there are just not enough
2 people, and it's increasing the rates which, you
3 know, in some ways is good and in some ways is very
4 hard, you know, to work with.

5 So that's -- that's, you know,
6 another thing that we've been kind of trying to make
7 sure that we're -- we're on the cutting edge of and
8 can adequately staff the positions that we need.

9 MS. STILL: I'd like to add that one
10 of my chief concerns is the cybersecurity, and so --
11 and that's taking front and center now. So I will
12 be working closely with Patrick Quinlan on
13 cybersecurity issues, so you're --

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. He's --

15 MS. STILL: -- going to be hearing a
16 lot about that just in the national papers.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. He's good.

18 MS. STILL: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: He's great. Pat's a
20 good guy to work with.

21 MR. KEEN: As well as our SCADA
22 operators, too. I mean, that's -- that's the
23 other sort of side --

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: We're all done with
25 SCADA now? We did all of that; right?

1 MR. KEEN: Yeah. Well...

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: I get -- it's so
3 complicated with SCADA. Are we done with them? Not
4 done with them, but I mean, we're all up to date now
5 with it?

6 MR. KEEN: We're working on it.
7 There's always going to be issues.

8 MS. STILL: Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: The answer was yes.
10 No.

11 MS. STILL: Yes. We're good.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. I'm kidding.
13 I'm kidding. I'm sorry.

14 Okay. Very good. C on our agenda,
15 of course, we don't have an executive director of
16 administration, but just for everybody to be aware
17 of, after some consultation with our state partner
18 and India, we are ready -- and our chairman Mr.
19 Dedar, I believe we're going to be ready to go out
20 pretty soon. Ms. Still has worked on a
21 comprehensive job description adding some things.

22 Do you want to say something about
23 that now, India? Because it does affect us all.

24 MS. STILL: Yeah. I still have to
25 chat with Wes, so I -- it's not final. If anybody

1 has --

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: No. No.

3 MS. STILL: -- the last draft, it's
4 not final yet, but it should be soon.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: And we're trying to
6 get somebody comprehensively that will be able to
7 assist because there's so many tasks that hopefully
8 our director, we'll be able to give them, he or she
9 or whoever it is.

10 We again will advertise. We again
11 will have a time frame. We again will have a search
12 committee, which I already announced, so we'll move
13 forward as soon as it's ready to go.

14 And I know the state will do a final
15 review of that job description, as per requested.
16 Right? Okay? Good.

17 Okay. Money. So we're at Ms. Tharp,
18 accounting and finance. As always, your reports are
19 great. Thank you for the follow-up to the bills.
20 And we'll go from there.

21 Anita?

22 MS. THAPA: Okay. So the financial
23 reports are for the month of January, which is
24 included in the packets obviously. And as of
25 January, we recorded the revenue from the user

1 charges, about 1.5 million, which is about 3 percent
2 than -- less than what we anticipated in our 2024
3 budget.

4 Expenses were in January -- in
5 January we spent about 932,000 -- 932,000.

6 And as for the cash management, we
7 are earning -- interest is a little bit down on our
8 trustee account, which is about 4.9 -- 99, almost 5
9 percent. But, however, in the cash management, with
10 the New Jersey Cash Management, we are earning 5.32
11 percent.

12 So I'm kind of thinking maybe in a
13 couple months I'm trying to -- probably going to
14 move some of the money from our trustee to our --
15 the New Jersey Cash Management Fund.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Uh-huh.

17 MS. THAPA: Okay? As for the balance
18 adjustment, that's just for the review, and the
19 shutoff, which will be -- we are going to start
20 probably the first week of April. It also
21 depends -- I know the weather is crazy. Some days
22 it's very cold. Some days it's not. So we would
23 like to start shutoffs starting the first week of --
24 in April, which is coming.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: I always thought it

1 was like the middle of April or the first week.

2 Yeah. Uh-huh.

3 MS. THAPA: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

5 MS. THAPA: Uh-huh. Yep. That's
6 about it on my report.

7 If you have any question, as usual,
8 please feel free to reach out to me.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Anybody right now
10 have a question?

11 Again, please review those documents.
12 They're very helpful.

13 We're moving on to new business, and
14 we start off with our unnecessary to appear. Again,
15 I believe there's four -- yeah. There's four people
16 that are requesting abatements. And we can do all
17 of them together.

18 If -- again, just a reminder to a
19 board member, if there's a conflict you want to
20 recuse yourself from one of them, when we vote, just
21 point that one out, please.

22 So let's read them together, and
23 we'll vote. We'll -- we'll move from there.

24 Ms. Johnson, can we do 11 a?

25 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Abatements.

1 Six-month interest free payment plan for H. Camper
2 located at 638 Green Street. The dollar amount is
3 \$311.38. They're asking for a six-month interest
4 plan of paying \$62.32 a month for the next six
5 months.

6 The next one is a regular abatement
7 for 37 North Trenton Avenue for Ricky Hoan in the
8 amount of \$284.14.

9 The next abatement is for One Ten
10 Squire, LLC located at 37 North Massachusetts Avenue
11 in the amount of \$1,181.64.

12 Lastly, abatement for a 12-month
13 interest free payment plan for Verna Peak located at
14 712 Robinson Avenue in the amount of \$3,467.06 with
15 a 12-month interest plan of \$298.66 for 12 months.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: The interest plan or
17 the -- the help with an interest plan has been done
18 in the past many times for people who do not know
19 that.

20 But, Anita, could you just comment on
21 what -- what that means for us?

22 MS. THAPA: The interest free plan,
23 obviously, there's a leak; right? The amount is a
24 little bit high, and the customer requests for
25 monthly interest payment plan because obviously,

1 they couldn't afford it. That's what their request
2 is for, and always -- we don't put any penalty on
3 the balance for whatever the amount -- I mean,
4 whatever the month we offer them.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

6 MS. THAPA: Which is six month in
7 that case in one account and another one is --

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: A year.

9 MS. THAPA: -- a year.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: A year, right.

11 But I just wanted people to know we
12 do -- we have done this in the past. If you have a
13 problem with that, then you -- you have to vote
14 separately on that one. Okay?

15 Any questions on that?

16 Hearing none, we'll accept a motion.

17 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

18 MS. DAVIES: Motion.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

20 And a second? I guess Stephanie's
21 second. Thank you.

22 Okay. Roll call.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

1 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

3 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

5 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Davies?

7 MS. DAVIES: 11 a (1) I abstain, and
8 the rest of them, yes.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Thank you,
10 Stephanie. Yep. That's what you're supposed to do.

11 The next thing is another job for
12 Cliff, hopefully maybe not forever, but we do need
13 to do this and put this position there because we do
14 spend so much money. We have contracts. We need
15 people to look at those things.

16 We're lucky enough to have Cliff as a
17 QPA, so let's read the resolution first, and then
18 we'll discuss.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Appointing Clifford
20 Keen as the authority's qualified purchasing agent.

21 Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9 and
22 N.J.A.C 5:32-4.4 sets forth and establishes the
23 criteria for a qualified purchasing agent;

24 Whereas, the N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9
25 authorizes the public body of the authority to

1 appoint a qualified purchasing agent;

2 Whereas, Cliff Keen, QPA, possesses
3 the experience, training, and designation of a
4 qualified purchasing agent as issued by the director
5 of the Division of Local Government Services.

6 Now therefore be it resolved, by the
7 ACMUA board in open public session on this day,
8 March 22nd, hereby appoints Cliff Keen QPA as the
9 MUA's qualified purchasing agent.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. India, do you
11 want to speak about what you and I spoke about?

12 MS. STILL: Yes. Sure. So we have
13 the ability to appoint someone for the position in a
14 temporary -- on a temporary basis. It could
15 actually be any member of the staff. And when --
16 this is -- in the administrative code, when you lose
17 your QPA, you can continue for an additional year
18 with a temporarily appointed individual.

19 Now, we're lucky that Cliff actually
20 has the QPA license. You know, we didn't really
21 want to do this to Cliff because he has --

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

23 MS. STILL: -- so many things
24 already, but I'll tell you two things. One, finding
25 a qualified purchasing agent is really difficult.

1 We did reach out to the ACUA, and they're -- they
2 can't handle the additional capacity.

3 This, for us, is also needed because
4 we have two staff -- two staff persons who are
5 training to be QPAs, but they won't be able to sit
6 for the license unless we can show that they've had
7 practical on-the-job training.

8 So we have put in place already some
9 mechanisms so that they can begin to get that
10 training. And they are doing it under -- they'll be
11 doing it under the auspices of Cliff's license.

12 In addition, I've also asked all of
13 the staff who are involved in any purchasing
14 function to attend a course with the New Jersey
15 Start. It's actually a vendor that runs the -- the
16 state's state purchasing system.

17 And there was a -- there was a mass
18 training. About a week ago 10 of our employees
19 participated in that, and then we're going to follow
20 up with two specialized trainings, one, again,
21 virtual and then one in person with that
22 organization just to make sure that anybody that's
23 involved in the purchasing function understands the
24 state contract system.

25 Now, most of our purchases are either

1 through the state contract system and -- or they're
2 below our threshold. So, you know, this is a -- a
3 good temporary solution. You know, we're just going
4 to -- and we'll keep looking for somebody, you know,
5 with a QPA license. And hopefully something will
6 come -- come about or one of our staff members will
7 be able to move into that spot.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And I -- I
9 want to thank Cliff for stepping up here at this
10 time for this, and I'm really excited to see the two
11 staff members at least interested in trying it.
12 That's great. Internally is always better than
13 externally.

14 However, we are going to be including
15 that in the deputy director's outreach, not that
16 they need it, but it would be preferred. And I
17 think that came from the state or India. I forget.
18 But anyway, so we are trying to deal with the
19 situation, but we do need to move forward on that.

20 So anybody else have a question? If
21 not, I'll move this resolution.

22 Can we have a second?

23 MR. ECCLES: I'll second.

24 CHAIRMAN HILL: Roll call.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

3 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

5 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

7 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

9 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Moving on.

11 Janitorial services. I believe this is a renewal.

12 I mean, it usually is. We do this. I see this all

13 the time. Or I'm just --

14 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, it is.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah, for both

16 administration and operations. If I'm not wrong,

17 maybe Ms. Langford or Mr. Ward remembers, we used to

18 do them separately.

19 Now we combined them, correct, guys?

20 I think at --

21 MR. WARD: Well, we've -- well,

22 separate or combined, I think that the bid process

23 allows for a company to bid at either location,

24 and --

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

1 MR. WARD: -- you might win one and
2 you might lose the other depending on your pricing,
3 so...

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Right. Yeah.
5 Okay. Well, let's read that first.

6 MR. WARD: Or you might be able to
7 have both, yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. Right. I
9 remember there was -- yeah. We've dealt with that.
10 Okay. Let's read the resolution
11 first for services.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Authorization to bid
13 janitorial services at the authority's
14 administration and operations facility.

15 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA owns
16 and operates its own water department;

17 Whereas, there is a need to have
18 janitorial services at the authority's
19 administration and operations facility.

20 Therefore be it resolved, by the
21 board of directors of the MUA that the
22 advertisement, proposal form, and the
23 specifications, and instructions to bidders for
24 providing janitorial services at the authority's
25 administration and operations facility at a bid

1 opening of the MUA to be held on Tuesday, May 7th,
2 2024 at 11 a.m.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. This is just
4 to go out to bid. And we used to do -- of course
5 look for local people.

6 So anybody have a question about the
7 bid?

8 Hearing none, we'll move for a -- if
9 we can have somebody to move that, please.

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

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

13 And a second?

14 MR. DEDAR: I second.

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

16 Roll call.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

20 MR. DEDAR: Yes. I'm sorry.

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
3 on, the rest of -- most of this -- rest of the
4 agenda is -- is very vital to our organization,
5 spending some money. A lot of hard work has gone
6 into these proposals, these --

7 Bless you. Bless you.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Sorry.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: A lot of hard work
10 from Remington & Vernick, from Cliff, from Anita,
11 India. So it's vital that we look ahead and move
12 forward.

13 One of our biggest projects is our
14 lead service line replacement system where we're
15 going to be working with the City, of course, as
16 well, because we don't want to do the work and then
17 tear up everything and redo it and then we have all
18 kinds of problems, as well as the I-Bank and looking
19 for some funding.

20 So let's do -- because the one is
21 almost the same, only it's two separate ones, let's
22 just first read Remington & Vernick -- well, the --
23 not them. But resolution 11 d (1), and then we'll
24 get some explanations.

25 Go ahead.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Engineering services
2 for lead service line replacement Phase 1
3 construction management services.

4 Whereas, the Atlantic City MUA has
5 applied to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank for
6 financing the project costs related to the lead
7 service line replacement project;

8 Whereas, the NJIB loan application
9 process requires the authority to enter into a
10 construction management agreement with the
11 engineering design firm to evaluate and coordinate
12 the work on Phase 1 for the engineering services for
13 lead service line replacement;

14 Whereas, the authority received from
15 Remington & Vernick Engineers a proposal to provide
16 services for the engineering services for lead
17 service line replacement Phase 1 construction
18 management services, and that proposal received from
19 Remington & Vernick is hereby accepted in the amount
20 of \$390,000.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. But before we
22 do that, we really need for the rest of the board --
23 specifically, if you're not on engineering, you
24 should know a little bit more about this I think
25 before you vote.

1 So, Bob, do you want to speak about
2 this, why the number is there, the time frame, and
3 how I-Bank plays a role in this, if you could, or
4 Cliff?

5 MR. DENNIS: Well, so I can, Mr.
6 Chairman. Bob is in Disney World. I don't know how
7 much he'll be able to weigh in on this proposal,
8 but...

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. But, Ed -- oh,
10 there you are. Ed, okay. Great. Yeah. Disney
11 World, yeah. All I know is the tickets are
12 expensive there.

13 MR. DENNIS: Exactly. So --

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay, Ed. Yeah.
15 Because you were part of this initial discussion in
16 the -- in our meeting, too. I think it's vital that
17 our board knows.

18 Go ahead. I'm sorry.

19 MR. DENNIS: I agree. This is
20 actually very exciting. So we are -- we are very
21 close to going out to bid and actually getting
22 shovels in the ground for our first phase of the
23 lead -- lead service line replacement program.

24 The -- as -- as the resolution
25 states, the I-Bank, who we are getting our funding

1 through for this project, requires full-time
2 construction management for their projects. So what
3 this proposal provides is really two -- two separate
4 things.

5 Number one -- and the big portion of
6 the cost for this is to have a full-time
7 construction observer on the project. They're --
8 you know, I would say unlike our typical capital say
9 water main projects and things like that, which do
10 require oversight, this is going to be a -- very
11 much a hand-holding exercise for this project.

12 And just to kind of zoom out -- and I
13 know everyone's aware of this, but this project will
14 entail not just replacing service lines in the
15 street, which we are accustomed to doing, but the
16 contractor will be replacing those service lines to
17 the houses and to the buildings, and so they will be
18 digging in people's yards, tearing up their
19 sidewalks and driveways. There's going to be a lot
20 of coordination required.

21 The initial part of this work is
22 going to be to verify whether or not we actually
23 even need to replace the line, whether or not the
24 line -- because most of these lines are in the
25 unknown category. So there will need to be someone

1 there to verify and confirm whether or not a line is
2 or isn't lead or galvanized. If it's not lead or
3 galvanized, that needs to be verified and then taken
4 off the inventory list, and we obviously need to
5 keep very tight records for the purposes of that
6 part of this. So that's the big piece of this --
7 this cost, is having that person on site. And the
8 project is about a nine-month construction duration.
9 So we're going to have someone full time on site for
10 that entire duration while work is taking place.

11 The other part of this is the
12 administrative part of managing the construction
13 contract. It's an I-Bank project, so there's a good
14 amount of documentation that is required just to
15 comply with their program requirements. On top of
16 that, what we expect is as we go through this
17 project, you know, we have a certain number of
18 service lines on the -- shown on the plans, but the
19 expectation is that as the contractor goes out there
20 and digs some of these up, a lot of them are not
21 going to need to be replaced.

22 What will happen then is we will then
23 be providing the contractor with alternate
24 locations. The idea is that if -- just for round
25 numbers, if this project ends up being a \$7 million

1 construction project, we want to make sure that we
2 spend that entire 7 million as part of this job so
3 that we can go as far as we can on Phase 1 and
4 replace as many service lines as we can and to take
5 advantage of the funding that's out there from
6 I-Bank while we have it.

7 So we will in the office, while the
8 work is taking place, be preparing plans for
9 alternate locations so that as the contractor moves
10 through the project, we will be supplying them with
11 additional engineering documents so they can move on
12 to the next location. So that, you know, we may end
13 up going through, you know, many more service lines
14 than are in the original project, but there's some
15 engineering involved with getting that done.

16 So it's -- there's a lot to --
17 there's a lot to be done in the construction phase.
18 But the good news is, and I'll just end on this, is
19 I believe that we are one of the first, if not the
20 first municipal utility authority in Atlantic and
21 Cape May County that will be putting shovels in the
22 ground for lead service line replacement, so we're
23 leading the way. And I think that's something to be
24 proud of and excited about to get this where --

25 It's a daunting task, but we've got

1 to get it done.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And I know
3 Cliff's going to be monitoring, as well, but I loved
4 the attachment to the resolution. It really was
5 very specific on what we're asking Remington &
6 Vernick to do, and I hope some of you got to read
7 that. If not, when you have nothing to do, look
8 over that. You'll see how detailed that they
9 proposed that versus very vague, which I've seen
10 before.

11 So just quickly, one question, and
12 then I'll be quiet. There's other people. I-Bank,
13 so what kind of money funding are we getting for
14 this? I have those notes somewhere else.

15 MR. DENNIS: Phase 1 -- Phase 1,
16 which we are targeting fiscal year 2024 funding --
17 and that's why this is time sensitive, because we
18 really need to get out to bid as soon as possible,
19 and they won't let us go out to bid without a
20 construction management agreement.

21 So if we -- if we make the fiscal
22 year 2024 deadline, we're looking at 50 percent
23 principal forgiveness, so -- and then the other 50
24 percent are very attractive low interest loans.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

1 MR. DENNIS: So that is the general
2 funding breakdown.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: And that's why this
4 is on the agenda now that we need to move forward to
5 get going.

6 Okay. Great. Thank you, Ed.

7 So, board members, or Mr. Eccles, in
8 particular, since you are on that committee, would
9 you like to share anything or add to this,
10 questions?

11 MR. ECCLES: No. I mean, I -- I
12 don't have any questions. You know, a lot of -- you
13 know, it had been discussed previously at the -- at
14 the committee meeting, and Ed has done an excellent
15 job at summarizing what the -- what the project is,
16 what we're -- what we're facing, and I am -- quite
17 frankly, I'm sharing in his enthusiasm. Let's --
18 let's get this moving. Let's get this done.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. Yeah. And
20 that's a great -- that's a great feather in our cap,
21 as he mentioned, for us being so proactive and
22 assertive with this, so that's great, and I -- I
23 know that the state will appreciate that, as well.

24 So hearing no other --

25 MR. KEEN: Can I say one other thing?

1 I apologize.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: No problem.

3 MR. KEEN: I just want to let you
4 know, too, that this -- this project itself provides
5 a unique opportunity for us to see the condition of
6 some of our distribution main that's been buried
7 for, you know, in some cases a hundred years, maybe
8 longer.

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

10 MR. KEEN: And as we do this project,
11 we're also keeping an eye on the future, and we're
12 going to take samples of the mains as we pull them
13 out to install new service lines so that we can
14 actually identify which mains are in the worst
15 existing, you know, condition so that as we move
16 forward, we can group mains together and come up
17 with a distribution system replacement plan that
18 will hopefully serve us for the next 75 years or so.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And as Ed
20 mentioned and Cliff mentioned, us moving today for
21 the bid means we can then approve, which means then
22 we can get started for the summer season, so that's
23 kind of the time frame for anybody.

24 Anybody else have a question?

25 Hearing none -- I think we read it.

1 Yeah, we did.

2 I'll accept a motion.

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

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

5 And a second?

6 MR. DEDAR: Second.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

8 Roll call.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

12 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

14 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

16 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

17 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

18 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

20 Moving on to the next one. This is

21 another service agreement, which we need to get in

22 place for I-Bank -- excuse me -- I-Bank funding.

23 Can we read the resolution first?

24 MS. JOHNSON: Engineering services

25 for lead service line replacement Phase 1 additional

1 engineering services.

2 Whereas, there was a need to evaluate
3 and coordinate the work on the Atlantic City MUA's
4 engineering services for lead service line
5 replacement Phase 1;

6 Whereas, the board of directors of
7 the MUA approved resolution 23-12 on January 18th,
8 2023 from Remington & Vernick to provide services
9 for engineering services for lead service line
10 replacement Phase 1. The total cost, 300 and --
11 315,000;

12 Whereas, the scope of lead service
13 line replacement Phase 1 was increased from 5
14 million to 10 million to include 223 system side
15 service lines and 961 property owner service side
16 from 237 system side and 237 property owner side
17 service lines to attempt to maximize the principal
18 forgiveness associated with the authority's funding
19 source;

20 Whereas, the board of directors
21 received from Remington & Vernick phase -- I'm
22 sorry -- engineering services for lead service line
23 replacement Phase 1 additional engineering services
24 in the total cost of \$130,000 as per the proposal.
25 Should it be necessary to move certain project work

1 from Phase 1 to a later project phase, the authority
2 will not incur additional engineering costs for
3 those services for which plans already exist.

4 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. A little bit
5 of an explanation. Again, what's that word
6 additional mean?

7 So could we have an explanation on
8 that?

9 MR. DENNIS: Sure. Yeah. Yeah.
10 Absolutely.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Ed.

12 MR. DENNIS: No. Really --

13 Sure, of course. This proposal
14 really has three components to it. So the first,
15 just in plain English, is when we started this job
16 and putting the plans together for this first phase,
17 the original application we had with I-Bank was for
18 a \$5 million project. And once the principle
19 forgiveness kind of came into focus, we increased
20 the scope of this project to a \$10 million project.
21 So basically, the scope of it doubled, so there was
22 a little bit of additional engineering costs
23 involved there, but the other part of this is two
24 other components that I think are interesting and
25 will be beneficial to the City and to the authority.

1 One is that we will be developing a
2 website for our customers to access and potentially
3 self-report what their service line material is. If
4 we have a good response to the outreach for that
5 website, what that will allow -- it will benefit the
6 property owner because they won't need to have a
7 contractor knocking on their door and potentially
8 digging up their property to determine if a pipe is
9 or isn't lead.

10 And then for us, of course, we don't
11 have to incur that cost to have our contractor go
12 out and do that verification work if we're able to
13 confirm it through self-reporting through this web
14 portal. So we've done this in other municipalities,
15 and you know, it will all come down to an outreach
16 effort, which we will help with as much as we can,
17 and we will also maintain that website, track the
18 responses, review what comes in, and make
19 recommendations on whether or not the information
20 that is provided to us -- us is I guess accurate
21 enough or reliable enough to -- to take that item on
22 or off our inventory.

23 So that is part of this, and then the
24 other part of this is without going into too much
25 detail, sort of the state of the art on these types

1 of projects as far as inventorying is as artificial
2 intelligence software kind of comes -- is emerging,
3 there is a software platform -- there's a number of
4 them out there that are generically referred to as
5 predicted modeling. And basically what that means
6 is as we go through these projects, we'll be able to
7 utilize this software to help us predict for future
8 phases what service lines are likely to be lead or
9 galvanized and what service lines are likely to not
10 be lead or galvanized.

11 That will allow us to prioritize, and
12 when we prioritize and focus on the service lines
13 that are likely to be lead in the future phases, we
14 will save on the cost of unnecessary test pits and
15 verification costs if we are focusing and targeting
16 those services that are very likely to be lead.

17 The other part of this is the DEP may
18 eventually come around to a point where they will
19 accept predicted modeling as an acceptable means to
20 confirm that a line is not lead or galvanized, and
21 then we would be able to take those services off our
22 inventory without incurring any additional cost. So
23 this is an investment. Like I said, it's kind of
24 state of the art on where the industry is going with
25 these types of projects, so we want to get that in

1 place so we can take advantage of it going forward.

2 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Two
3 things, though, I wanted to -- and I know the
4 website thing and that will work, but as India knows
5 and a lot of us know, a lot of our residents are
6 not -- do not have Internet access, blah, blah,
7 blah. So what is our step? What's our next way of
8 moving notices through our -- to our residents and
9 our customers, working with the City?

10 How do we want to do -- how are we
11 going to do that, India, or Cliff? How are we going
12 to notice other than the website?

13 MS. STILL: I can speak a little bit
14 to that, so --

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

16 MS. STILL: -- we had a -- well,
17 actually, the DEP reached out to us I guess over a
18 year ago wanting to assist with --

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

20 MS. STILL: -- the whole program, but
21 in particular, there's a whole community outreach
22 piece, and I just got word back from CDM Smith,
23 which is a vendor that the -- that has partnered
24 with the DEP, that their proposal to help us with
25 the community outreach portion has been approved.

1 I have a meeting set up on Monday. I
2 have to talk to Cliff to get him involved with this,
3 but you know, we've -- we're already thinking about
4 how we can get boots on the ground. I talked to the
5 workforce development board. Maybe --

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: I was going to ask
7 you that.

8 MS. STILL: Yeah. Because they
9 have -- they get funding every year for summer
10 employment. For us, it's going to be really
11 important to move through the community
12 organizations, so going to the neighborhood
13 association meetings every month.

14 There's also a very active community
15 development group, neighborhood -- it's the NRDC,
16 Neighborhood Redevelopment Companies, they're
17 extremely active. The community organizations, like
18 the Bangladesh Community Organization, is extremely
19 active. They're going to be our main inroads, so
20 you know, this still has to be fleshed out, but the
21 community education piece is pretty big.

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: So will they help
23 fund that or they're just giving the support?

24 MS. STILL: So that's a good
25 question. I'll find out more, but --

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

2 MS. STILL: You know, I'll find out
3 more on Monday if there's funding available, but at
4 least the -- with respect to the summer employment
5 program, that's going to be fully funded youth,
6 and --

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

8 MS. STILL: -- I think we can get a
9 lot -- we can get a lot of mileage out of that
10 program if it's -- if it's structured the right way,
11 and we're also probably going to add in an education
12 component or have to for the students, which will be
13 just introducing them to the -- as a pipeline into
14 water careers, so I think that will be --

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. Somebody else
16 had a question?

17 Don't forget the CDC groups when we
18 do that. There's four or five of them
19 well-established now all over the area, all over the
20 city. I mean, I know we're going to be doing work
21 in those areas, Midtown, Ducktown, you know, so...

22 MS. STILL: Right. And I just wanted
23 to point out I sat in on a webinar early in the
24 month on AI technology. And just to confirm what Ed
25 said with the AI technology, it's -- it's supposedly

1 less costly and also quicker to establish your
2 inventory this way. So it's -- it's good.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Very good. We're
4 moving on up. Very good.

5 Okay. So anybody else have a
6 question or discussion? It's a little heady, I know
7 that, but that's what Mr. Dennis is there for.

8 So are we done? Everybody good?
9 Okay. Because we want to move this forward again
10 for our timeline for I-Bank funding, as well as a
11 summer kickoff, so to speak.

12 So we already read it. We discussed
13 it. So I'll look for a motion, please.

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

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second?

16 MS. DAVIES: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

18 Roll call.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

22 MR. DEDAR: 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. Moving
5 forward. Our fleet, our vehicles get beat up all
6 the time. You see them around the city. They do a
7 lot of work, so we need to look at getting an
8 upgrade or at least our aging fleet replaced, so
9 that's what this resolution is about, obviously, so
10 let's read that first.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Purchasing program for
12 enterprise fleet management services in an amount
13 not to exceed \$200,000 per year for 11 vehicles.

14 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
15 Utilities Authority is allowed to participate in
16 national purchasing cooperatives, which was enacted
17 into law permitting agencies to utilize national
18 purchasing cooperatives;

19 Whereas, the MUA has aging vehicle
20 fleets, which is becoming increasingly costly to
21 maintain;

22 Whereas, this program will allow a
23 cost savings for purchasing, ongoing repair, and
24 maintenance of at least \$400,000 over a 10-year
25 period;

1 Whereas, it is recommended that the
2 board of directors of the MUA approve the use of the
3 enterprise fleet management services for the use of
4 the MUA to upgrade the authority's aging fleet in
5 the amount not to exceed the sum of \$200,000.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. I guess I
7 have one question. Who determines the need?

8 MR. KEEN: So --

9 CHAIRMAN HILL: I knew that was going
10 to be you.

11 MR. KEEN: If you'll -- if you'll --
12 if you'll let me just expound on this. The --
13 currently what our -- I apologize. Currently what
14 our policy has been, and most municipalities and
15 utilities authorities do the same thing, we purchase
16 a vehicle and we run it into the ground, and over a
17 15 to 20-year life of a truck, we -- we do
18 everything we can to keep it maintained, keep it
19 going, and during that time period, the value of the
20 truck decreases to a point where it's worth a couple
21 hundred dollars when we get rid of it and it's cost
22 us thousands and thousands of dollars to keep
23 running.

24 There is a program, this enterprise
25 fleet management program, that looks at your trucks

1 in a different way than we're used to, looks at your
2 fleet in a different way than you're used to. The
3 idea here is that the trucks are constantly replaced
4 after a five-year period, and we sell them at a time
5 where we maximize the profit from selling the
6 vehicle.

7 So by doing that, we reduce not just
8 our -- our expenses on maintenance and -- and the --
9 you know, the time and materials it takes to -- to
10 do that maintenance, but we also reduce the gas
11 cost, as every year gas -- you know, every year in a
12 vehicle the gas gets worse, the gas mileage gets
13 worse on a vehicle, as well as every year that a new
14 vehicle comes out, it usually improves on the other
15 side. The technology improves to fix it a little.

16 We also have then a fleet that's
17 under five years old that looks great in the
18 community, that works well for our staff. We don't
19 have to worry about all the outages that are
20 associated with it. And also, the safety features
21 are currently upgraded as new vehicles and safety
22 features are -- come out in the industry.

23 So by doing a quick analysis of, you
24 know, what we need to spend, it looks like over the
25 next 10-year period very -- using a very

1 conservative number, we're at \$450,000 of savings
2 over a 10-year period with the idea that we sell our
3 vehicles as their value is at its peak after a
4 five-year period.

5 This is not a new program. This is
6 something that 200-plus authorities and
7 municipalities have been part of. It's a program
8 that Atlantic City has been using for the last
9 several years, and that is why their fleet looks so
10 nice as you drive around town and you see their
11 public works vehicles in pretty good condition.

12 We have 11 vehicles now that are
13 quite old, over 10 years old, and that would be the
14 first part of this. So that \$200,000 would be to
15 change out those first 11 vehicles, and as we move
16 forward, it's a lease/purchase option. We've
17 checked it -- we've checked with other people that
18 use it. It -- it almost sounds too good to be true,
19 but everybody that's using it is having a good
20 experience with it, and I just wanted to make sure
21 that we are looking for every way that we can to
22 save money now and in the future. And this is one
23 of those options for us it seems to make a lot of
24 sense.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. It certainly

1 does. Thank you.

2 I did want to give a -- a shout out
3 to -- and forgive me. I don't remember his name.
4 Our mechanic who is amazing, I understand, at the
5 plant, and we're looking at trying to help him out a
6 little bit more. We talked about that in another
7 meeting.

8 What's his name, Cliff, that does
9 such an amazing job for us?

10 MR. KEEN: Fred.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: What's his name?

12 MR. KEEN: Fred --

13 CHAIRMAN HILL: Fred. That's it.

14 MR. KEEN: -- Harper (phon). Yeah.

15 And I want everyone to understand
16 that even though this program would get rid of the
17 need for a mechanic to work on vehicles, we have
18 more than enough equipment and generators and things
19 to keep a mechanic busy full time. So this is not
20 the removal of a staff member. This will not --

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: No.

22 MR. KEEN: -- amount to any removal.
23 It will free up his time to work on some of the
24 things that we really haven't done as much
25 maintenance as we need to be, which puts us into

1 those emergency contracts that are coming in in a
2 little bit. And -- and this will be --

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

4 MR. KEEN: -- a positive thing for
5 everybody involved. And just so you know, he's been
6 part of this conversation, as well, so this is not
7 something he's blindsided by or anything.

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right.

9 MR. KEEN: He agrees this is a good
10 option.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. And that's why
12 I wanted to bring it up because I know that, you
13 know, yeah, we're going to get -- why do we need a
14 mechanic? Well, because of other things and a
15 lot -- and a lot of other things, and he's very
16 good, so...

17 All right. That's another topic. So
18 let's move forward. Anybody have a question?

19 Hearing none, let's -- I'll move
20 this.

21 Could we have a second?

22 MR. ECCLES: I'll second.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

24 And roll call.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

1 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

3 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

5 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

7 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

9 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

11 The next resolutions for f (1) and
12 (2) concern two of our wells, number 20 and 25. A
13 lot of background on this and a lot of research on
14 this.

15 This does fall under an emergency
16 repair. We'll find out why if you didn't read all
17 of that or weren't part of engineering, but let's
18 do -- well, they're really the same, but that's
19 okay. Let's do well number 20 first, resolution 11
20 f.

21 MS. JOHNSON: A.C. Schultes emergency
22 repair and redevelopment of well 20.

23 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
24 Utilities Authority owns and operates its own water
25 department including its own water production wells;

1 Whereas, well number 20 no longer
2 operates because it has lost a significant amount of
3 pumping head;

4 Whereas, the deputy executive
5 director of operations has provided a letter
6 outlining the emergent need for the authority to
7 proceed with emergency repair and redevelopment of
8 well 20;

9 Whereas, the MUA solicited quotes
10 from A.C. Schultes for emergency repairs and
11 redevelopment of well 20 in the amount of \$56,559.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: We have worked with
13 Schultes before. They're a very good, qualified
14 company. But, obviously, we need our wells to work.
15 This one isn't even working.

16 So, Cliff, want to speak on this one?

17 MR. KEEN: Sure. Absolutely. And
18 this is kind of both wells I think, the discussion.
19 It almost is the same problem for both wells. We
20 need to be in a position where these kind of things
21 aren't emergencies because we've planned to do the
22 maintenance for them.

23 Unfortunately, we haven't taken the
24 small steps that we need to take that we've recently
25 taken to -- to understand where our wells are and --

1 and how well they're -- they're being used. The
2 pumping head, the -- for these wells -- what this
3 means is that as you pump water, the aquifer that
4 the well is pulling from actually goes below the
5 pump and it can no longer pull water.

6 I showed you all a video a few months
7 ago of another well we had redeveloped -- that was
8 well 17, I believe -- that had the same exact
9 problem, that the screens were clogged with 30 years
10 of debris, and they needed to be treated in order to
11 run efficiently. That's where these come in.

12 One cost is a little bit higher
13 because there's also some changes that need to be
14 made to the existing structure of the -- of the pump
15 and the way that it -- it works in the building
16 because --

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's 25? Because
18 that was a question for me on 25.

19 MR. KEEN: Yeah, that's 25. I think
20 that was --

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

22 MR. KEEN: -- \$30,000 more.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: Exactly. That was a
24 question. Okay.

25 MR. KEEN: That one had a different

1 configuration, and there needs to be actual physical
2 changes to the way that sits in order to make this
3 happen the right way and have it -- have it pump
4 efficiently. So that's where we are.

5 In the future, the plan will be to
6 redevelop, you know, a well a year for several
7 years, and we should have a period where we don't
8 have to do it, and then we'll start that process
9 again, so these things don't come as an emergency.

10 The truth is with these two wells not
11 producing, a well out because of an electrical
12 problem, our surface water sluice gate not being
13 completed yet -- we're working on all of these
14 projects. If we had another well go down, we are in
15 trouble, especially as the seasons get busy.

16 So we need to move on these as soon
17 as possible so that as May and June come, it's not
18 an issue for us to being able to provide the water
19 for our residents.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. These are --
21 these are vital repairs, so emergencies.

22 MR. KEEN: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: That's why they're on
24 here, guys, today in March so -- so we can get it
25 done.

1 Anita, I know you've signed off on
2 all of this basically, but we're good with the
3 emergency budget; right?

4 MS. THAPA: So far. This is just
5 March, though.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Okay. I
7 know. You're right. This is only March, but...

8 MR. KEEN: And just to let you know,
9 we had planned on doing two wells this year as part
10 of our budget, but --

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah.

12 MR. KEEN: -- when the testing report
13 came back and we're only talking a few weeks ago,
14 when the reports came back from A.C. Schultes, they
15 indicated that these are emergent, and you know,
16 this is -- this needs to be done now, these two
17 wells.

18 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. All right.

19 Questions? People can ask. I'm not
20 trying to run the meeting. Well, I am trying to run
21 the meeting, but I mean, just if there's anybody
22 that has a question?

23 Okay. Hearing none, we'll look for a
24 motion.

25 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

1 MS. DAVIES: Motion.

2 Second.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second? Thank
4 you.

5 And this is for the emergency
6 resolution. Can we have a roll call?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

8 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

10 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

12 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

14 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

16 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. Moving on
18 to resolution 1 -- excuse me -- 11 f (2). It's
19 basically the same thing, an emergency well repair
20 and update.

21 So we'll just read the resolution
22 first.

23 MS. JOHNSON: A.C. Schultes emergency
24 repair and redevelopment of well 25.

25 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal

1 Utilities Authority owns and operates its own water
2 department including its own water production wells;

3 Whereas, well number 25 no longer
4 operates because it has lost a significant amount of
5 pumping head;

6 Whereas, the deputy executive
7 director of operations has provided a letter
8 outlining the emergent need for the authority to
9 proceed with the emergency repair and redevelopment
10 of well 25;

11 Whereas, the ACMUA solicited a quote
12 from A.C. Schultes for emergency repair and
13 redevelopment of well 25 in the amount of \$86,926.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. And,
15 obviously, it's the same company. They're working
16 on the other one. It makes sense to have them
17 there. They know what the deal is. That we all
18 figured out.

19 And I think Cliff answered my
20 question was why was this more, but does -- Cliff,
21 do you want to mention anything else on this one?

22 MR. KEEN: If -- if you're familiar
23 with the water treatment plant, this is the well you
24 can see from California Avenue. So that's -- you
25 can actually see it. And when you look at it, you

1 would know that it needs help. So I think that
2 might be the only extra.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: All right. Okay.
4 Questions?

5 Same idea. Just a little bit more
6 money for other reasons he mentioned. The letter
7 was great, though, a nice -- it gives you a better
8 idea.

9 Okay. Hearing none, I'll move this.
10 Can we have a second?

11 MR. ECCLES: I'll second it.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay.

13 Roll call.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

17 MR. DEDAR: 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 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

25 Number 12 is our monthly bills we do

1 every year. We thank Anita for the report. She
2 just updated the last monthly report yesterday for
3 the bills.

4 Let's read the resolution.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. Okay. I
6 have bad internet.

7 CHAIRMAN HILL: Can we read that?

8 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Yes. I just had
9 bad Internet. It's going in and out.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: I know. I saw.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Approving -- approving
12 monthly bills.

13 Whereas, the Atlantic City Municipal
14 Utilities Authority has indebtedness to the
15 following companies for services rendered in the
16 amount of \$927,247.08.

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Right. And there's a
18 list there. You can see most of the general -- what
19 we do every -- every month.

20 Any questions?

21 Hearing none, I'll accept a motion.

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

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second?

24 MS. DAVIES: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

1 Roll call.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

5 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

7 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

9 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

10 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

11 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

13 So before we go to executive session,
14 you can see the new business cost us a lot of money
15 today, so -- but that's okay because these are all
16 things we need to get done, emergencies and
17 proactive measures, so -- for the future, so that's
18 fine. That's okay.

19 But now we'll discuss about
20 abatement -- or not abatement. Excuse me -- the
21 Lighthouse Row development project request and PFS
22 update from our lawyer Mr. Riley in executive.

23 So we need to move into that. So can
24 I have a motion?

25 Do you want to read the resolution

1 for --

2 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Well, we need to read
4 it first --

5 MS. JOHNSON: Approving --

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: -- Mohammed. Just a
7 minute. Then we'll do that.

8 Go ahead, Stella.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Approving to enter into
10 closed session.

11 CHAIRMAN HILL: There we go.

12 Now, Mohammed, go ahead. You're on.

13 MR. DEDAR: Motion, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN HILL: Second.

15 And we'll roll call.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

19 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. -- Ms. Langford?

21 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

23 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

24 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

25 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you. We'll

1 move into executive.

2 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

3 MR. DENNIS: Have a good weekend,
4 everyone.

5 CHAIRMAN HILL: No. No.

6 Oh, yeah. Bye. Bye, Ed. You're
7 busy. You have a lot of work to do, Ed.

8 MR. DENNIS: Thank you. Got to get
9 to work. See you, guys.

10 MS. THAPA: Okay. Have a good one,
11 everyone, as well. Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Anita, thank you.

13 MS. STILL: Anita, you might want to
14 stay.

15 MS. THAPA: Oh, okay.

16 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yeah. I think she
17 should for the one issue.

18 MS. THAPA: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN HILL: Or two issues really.

20 MS. STILL: Yeah. Uh-huh.

21 CHAIRMAN HILL: Uh-huh.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Create.

23 CHAIRMAN HILL: And join.

24 - - -

25 (Whereupon, the closed session was

1 excerpted.)

2 - - -

3 CHAIRMAN HILL: Okay. Okay. So
4 we're ready to start.

5 Okay. We just had a motion to exit
6 executive session. We're going to now need a motion
7 to go into open session.

8 Could I have that, please?

9 MR. DEDAR: Motion.

10 CHAIRMAN HILL: And a second?

11 MR. ECCLES: I'll second.

12 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

13 Roll call.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

15 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

17 MR. DEDAR: 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 CHAIRMAN HILL: In executive session,
25 we discussed an update by Mr. Riley, our special

1 counsel, for the PFAS issues that we're -- we're
2 working or continue to work with.

3 We also had a discussion for a
4 develop -- a developer request for the Lighthouse --
5 Lighthouse Row development project, which we're
6 going to be doing some further investigation and
7 review on.

8 And we talked about some personnel
9 issues and salary studies that deal with the
10 personnel issues. There is no movement or
11 resolutions that need to be passed today, so that
12 was our update for executive session.

13 If there's no other new business,
14 we're going to move into adjournment.

15 Can I have a motion?

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

17 CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you.

18 And a second?

19 MS. DAVIES: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN HILL: Roll call.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Hill?

22 CHAIRMAN HILL: Yes.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Dedar?

24 MR. DEDAR: Yes.

25 MS. JOHNSON: Ms. Langford?

1 MS. LANGFORD: Yes.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Eccles?

3 MR. ECCLES: Yes.

4 MS. JOHNSON: And Ms. Davies?

5 MS. DAVIES: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN HILL: And, again, thank
7 you, everybody, for your time and your -- and your
8 professionalism for the MUA and the residents we
9 serve.

10 Have a great weekend. Thank you for
11 your time.

12 MS. THAPA: Thank you. Have a good
13 weekend.

14 MR. WARD: Thank you. Take care.

15 - - -

16 (Whereupon, the regular monthly
17 meeting concluded at approximately 11:57 a.m.)

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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.

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