

**OLD BRIDGE MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 19, 2024**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of June 19, 2024, was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement: Acting Chairman Blair announced that this meeting is in conformance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice has been published in the Asbury Park Press on December 31, 2023, and in the Home News Tribune on December 31, 2023. Notice of the meeting has been posted at 15 Throckmorton Lane, Old Bridge; at 71 Boulevard West, Cliffwood Beach; and on the OBMUA Website at www.obmua.com.

This Public Meeting is being recorded.

Roll Call:

Present:

James Blair, Vice Chairman
Anita Greenberg, Treasurer (Via Phone)
Edward Casserly, Secretary
Bruce Walker, Commissioner
Frank Weber, Commissioner (Via Phone)
Perry Simone, Second Alt. Commissioner

Absent:

Mark Razzoli, Chairman

Also Present:

Michael Roy, P.E., Executive Director
Michelle Smith, Comptroller
Mitchell B. Jacobs, Esq.

Previous Minutes: **Regular Meeting – January 17, 2024**

A motion to approve the January 17, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Executive Session – January 17, 2024

A motion to approve the Executive Session of January 17, 2024, was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Reorganization Meeting – February 7, 2024

A motion to approve the Reorganization Meeting of February 7, 2024, was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2024

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Budget Workshop – March 18, 2024

A motion to approve the Budget Workshop Minutes of March 18, 2024 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners opposed.

Chairman's Report: James Blair, Acting Chairman

Mr. Blair said there is no Chairman's Report.

Executive Director's
Report:

Michael Roy, P.E./Executive Director

Mr. Roy said that he wants to give a status report of some various construction projects that do not need resolutions, but he wants to keep the Commissioners up to date.

Mr. Roy said that the design of the Slope Stabilization Project in Lakeridge that was authorized a few months ago is complete now. He said that we are going to have that issue under my Engineer's Report to go out to public bid. Construction access will be necessary through the side yard of 27 Greenbrook Drive. Mr. Roy said that Wayne Simpson, Alaimo Associates, was at the site today, and has discussed the need for construction access with the homeowner and gave them a set of plans to show them what must be done. He said that we will proceed with that project, and we have moved quickly on it.

Mr. Roy said that the foundation construction has begun for Disbrow Road Elevated Water Storage Tank. He said that the steel erection is expected to begin this Fall. He said that the Contractor, CB&I, has 80% of the necessary steel in their yard. He said that it looks like we will be staying on schedule with this project probably by next spring we should be finishing up and painting that tank.

Mr. Roy said the Laurence Harbor Water Service Replacement Project that Kiely Construction is doing is nearing completion. Keily is now over 50% complete and should be done within a couple of weeks with that project. He said that will eradicate the undersized water mains that have been maintenance problems in this old section of Laurence Harbor that are probably close to 100 years old. He said that we are getting rid of them. Mr. Roy said this is a good project to be finished with.

Mr. Roy said that the next topic that he has does need a resolution. He said that this item is listed on the Executive Session of tonight's meeting to be first discussed in Executive Session. He said there is a need to move forward with the condemnation of 143 Ticetown Road property, now that negotiations for that property have failed. Mr. Roy said that the previously approved value of the property has been updated. He said Attorney Jacobs will further report on this matter, and how to proceed after the Executive Session.

Attorney Jacobs said with respect to the condemnation proceedings for 143 Ticetown Road property, if you recall last month, the Board approved going forward with the condemnation. He said we had a prior evaluation, but we felt it was proper to obtain a new evaluation. Attorney Jacobs said that he can tell the Commissioner's in public what the new property value is, or we can wait to discuss it in Executive Session, and then come out after Executive Session to approve it.

Attorney Jacobs asked Mr. Roy if he had a preference. Mr. Roy said no.

Attorney Jacobs said that he had it listed on the agenda under Executive Session in case the Board wanted to have more discussion on it. He said that the new property evaluation pursuant to the Fair Market Appraisal that was conducted by Gagliano & Company is \$1,480,000, which you can see from the correspondence attached to Mr. Roy's report. He said that the old estimate which was done in 2022 had the Fair Market value of somewhere between \$1,070,000 and \$1,070,000.00. He said that the value of the property has gone up by \$250,000 as the present market value. Attorney Jacobs said that if everyone is comfortable with that price, we can have a motion for resolution reapproving the condemnation with the Fair Market Value price of \$1,480,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

Attorney Jacobs said that this motion is to approve the condemnation purchase price of \$1,480,000 which we believe is the price we should be paying for the property. He said that the whole condemnation process really is arguing over what ultimately is going to be paid to the property owner. He said essentially the condemnation process is that we submit to the Court our number of \$1,480,000. They might accept it, but it is doubtful. The property owners are going to go out and get another appraisal which presumably will come in for more. The condemnation process is just determining what the final price will be. Presumably, everyone should understand that \$1,480,000 is the price that we are submitting for condemnation. He asked if there was any discussion?

There was none.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mr. Roy said that his third item is the Annual Contract for Water Supply Materials, Contract No. W23-232. He said that we awarded this contract last year, and it will expire at the end of July. Mr. Roy said that the index rate to extend it for another year is only 1.5%. He said that Brent, Ferguson Water Works Supply and Core & Main are not willing to extend their Contract for another year due to increases in their wholesale pricing, so they do not want to extend it by 1.5%. He said that we need authorization to go out to public bid again and prepare the Contract Documents in-house and send them to Attorney Jacob's office for his review, and then we will put it out to public bid and receive the bids and recommend awarding the sections of this Contract at a future Board Meeting.

Attorney Jacobs said that a motion is needed for resolution authorizing the advertisement for public bids of Water & Sewer Supplies Contract in accordance with Mr. Roy's Executive Director's Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mr. Roy said that concludes his Executive Director's Report.

A motion to accept Mr. Roy's Executive Director's Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Engineering Report: Michael Roy, P.E./Executive Director

Mr. Roy said that there are no Developer's Applications for Approval this month but he does have some OTHER ENGINEERING REPORTS for approval.

1. Annual Contract Extensions

A: Sewer Chemical Supplies, Contract No. S22-224 1 Year Contract Extension

Mr. Roy said that on July 20, 2022, the Authority awarded the referenced contract to Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC. This contract extension will expire on July 31, 2024.

Mr. Roy said that Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC provides the chemical commonly referred to as "Bioxide" that the Sewer Division uses in many of their pump stations for odor control. This chemical minimizes the generation of hydrogen sulfide gas within the sewer collection system. The previous contract unit price from last year's one year extension of \$3.26 per gallon will increase to \$3.31 per gallon (a \$4,080 annual increase based on our contract quantities).

Mr. Roy said that the Contract Documents allow for up to two additional one-year contract extensions upon mutual agreement of both parties using the NJDCA "Index Rate" for any price adjustments in accordance with the Public Contracts Law. Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC has agreed to the second one-year contract extension of this contract.

Mr. Roy said that Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC has performed their work in an effective and efficient manner. Therefore, he recommends a one-year contract extension, with a price adjustment based on the recently published State “Index Rate” of one-point-five percent (1.5%), to Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC. of Sarasota, FL.

Mr. Roy said that all other contract provisions shall be in accordance with the same terms and conditions of the original contract. This one-year contract extension will expire on July 31, 2025, at which time this contract will have to go back out to public bid.

A motion Sewer Chemical Supplies, Contract No. S22-224 – 1 Year Contract Extension to Evoqua Water Technologies was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

**B. Sewer Laboratory Testing of Industrial Sewage,
Contract No. S23-231
2 Year Contract Extension**

Mr. Roy said that on July 19, 2023, the Authority awarded the referenced contract to Pace Analytical Services, LLC which will expire on July 31, 2024. This contract has never been extended.

Mr. Roy said that the laboratory services under this contract are for the testing of the sewage strength of the Authority’s three industrial customers for the purpose of billing. The cost for this laboratory testing is added to each industry’s bill. The laboratory also independently tests the Authority’s sewage strength for us at various wastewater meter locations to verify our billings from MCUA.

Mr. Roy said that the Contract Documents allow for up to two additional one-year contract extensions or a single two-year contract extension upon

mutual agreement of both parties using the NJDCA “Index Rate” for any price adjustments in accordance with the Public Contracts Law. Pace Analytical Services, LLC has agreed to a two-year contract extension of this contract.

Mr. Roy said that their total price for all seven contract items will increase a total of approximately \$780 over two years or approximately \$390 per year.

Mr. Roy said that Pace Analytical Services, LLC has performed their work in an effective and efficient manner. Therefore, he recommends a two-year contract extension, with a price adjustment based on the recently published State “Index Rate” of 1.5%, to Pace Analytical Services, LLC. of Ewing, NJ.

Mr. Roy said that all other contract provisions shall be in accordance with the same terms and conditions of the original contract. This two-year contract extension will expire on July 31, 2026, at which time this contract will have to go back out to public bid.

A motion for the Sewer Laboratory Testing of Industrial Sewage, Contract No. S23-231 – 2 Year Contract Extension to Pace Analytical Services was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

2. Millburn Court Water Main Replacement – Authorization to Advertise for Public bids and Construction Services to CME Associates

Mr. Roy said that as he previously reported, the 8” water main on Millburn Court has broken several times recently and over the years has been broken multiple times. The soil on this street is very corrosive and has deteriorated the iron water main pipe to such an extent that it has

become a maintenance problem and an unreliable source of water for the residents of Millburn Court.

Mr. Roy said that the scope of this project consists of the replacement of the existing eight-inch ductile iron water main on Millburn Court with a PVC plastic C-900 eight-inch water main. All the homeowner's water services will be switched over to the new water main and the old water main will be abandoned in place. The road will be repaved curb to curb to restore the road pavement. He said we are moving on this at lightning speed.

Mr. Roy said that at the May 15, 2024, Board of Commissioners Meeting, CME Associates was authorized to perform Engineering Services to prepare a design that includes Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents for public bidding for this water main replacement on Millburn Court.

Mr. Roy said now that the design has been completed and has been reviewed by Staff, he requests that the Commissioners authorize the advertisement of a construction contract of the Millburn Court Water Main Replacement project for public bids and request authorization of the CME Associates proposal dated June 6, 2024, in the amount of \$74,329 for Engineering Services during Construction.

Mr. Roy said that the dollar amount of these estimated engineering fees appears to be reasonable, based on the estimated construction cost of \$825,000. The financing for this project will be from the General Funds. The engineering fees are based upon an estimate of the number of hours required for the level of effort anticipated for each of the engineering tasks shown in their "Man Hours" table, all in accordance with their Consulting Engineering Agreement dated February 7, 2024.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends that a construction contract entitled "Millburn Court Water Main Improvements and Water Services Replacement" be advertised for public bids. He also recommends that CME Associates be authorized to proceed with the engineering services during construction for the referenced project in accordance with their June 6, 2024, proposal and their February 7, 2024, Consulting Engineering Contract.

Mr. Roy said that after the bids have been received, a recommendation to award this construction contract will be made to the Commissioners at a future Board Meeting.

A motion to authorize the advertisement of public bids for the Millburn Court Water Main Improvements project and the CME engineering services during construction work was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

3. Lakeridge Development Slope Stabilization – Authorization to Advertise for Public Bids and Construction Services to Alaimo Associates

Mr. Roy said that as he previously reported, a soil embankment behind 27 Greenbrook Drive in the Lakeridge Development has failed and a large section of the slope has significantly slid due to the intense amount of rainfall in the month of January this year. He said that we are moving quickly on this. The Authority has a 10” sanitary sewer in an easement behind the homes on Greenbrook Drive that conveys sewage flow from an area south of Rt. 516, that includes a portion of the Lakeridge Development, and conveys the sewage to the Lakeridge Sewer Pump Station. This slope failure was reported to us by the Township Engineering Office that received a complaint from the homeowner at 27 Greenbrook Drive.

Mr. Roy said that Mr. Wayne Simpson, Alaimo Associates, went out there today and showed the property owners a set of plans, and explained exactly what we plan on doing.

Mr. Roy said that the scope of this project consists of stabilization of approximately 3,700 square feet of failed embankment adjacent to our easement and behind 27 Greenbrook Drive, to protect the integrity and to allow for the future maintenance of our ten-inch sanitary sewer.

Mr. Roy said that at the April 17, 2024, Board of Commissioners Meeting, Alaimo Associates was authorized to perform engineering services to

prepare a design that includes Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents for public bidding for this slope stabilization project.

Mr. Roy said that now that the design has been completed and has been reviewed by Staff, he requests that the Commissioners authorize the advertisement of a construction contract of the reference project for public bids and requests authorization of the Alaimo Associates proposal dated June 5, 2024, in the amount of \$25,000 for Engineering Services During Construction.

Mr. Roy said that the dollar amount of these estimated engineering fees appears to be reasonable, based on the estimated construction cost of \$139,000. The financing for this project will be from the General Funds. The engineering fees are based upon an estimate of the number of hours required for the level of effort anticipated for each of the engineering tasks shown in their "Man Hours" table, all in accordance with their Consulting Engineering Agreement dated February 7, 2024.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends that a construction contract entitled "Lake Lefferts Embankment Protection" be advertised for public bids. He also recommends that Alaimo Associates be authorized to proceed with the engineering services during construction for the referenced project in accordance with their June 5, 2024, proposal and their February 7, 2024, Consulting Engineering Contract.

Mr. Roy said that after the bids have been received, a recommendation to award this construction contract will be made to the Commissioners at a future Board Meeting.

A motion to authorize the advertisement of public bids for the Lake Lefferts Embankment Protection project and the Alaimo engineering services during construction work was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Walker.

Acting Chairman Blair asked if there was any discussion?

Mr. Walker asked if this could happen again after we repair this slope? Is there anything like a retaining wall that could be built?

Mr. Roy said that this is a band-aid to fix this one area. He said that there is an extensive amount of easement behind these homes. Mr. Roy said that building a retaining wall is going to be a multimillion-dollar project. He said that right now this situation is an emergency need to fix so that these trees don't hit the overhead wires, or the slope continues to slide.

Mr. Roy said that we must get this fixed, and then we can look at what the overall plan will be for the future. He said that this slope has been there for so long, and this is the first time that something like this has happened. Mr. Roy said the amount of rain that came down was a record too in January. He said that the ground got soaked. If we start to preemptively put up a retaining wall, it may not be the best in terms of spending of funds. Mr. Roy said that we can look at everything and see what that would cost the Authority. Possibly, we may try to redirect the sewage flow. He said that everything has a cost associated with it. Mr. Roy said that we will see what makes sense, and we will report back to the Commissioners. He said that right now this repair is an urgent matter.

There was no further discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

4. Oak Street Booster Station Roof Replacement, Contract No. W23-230, Final Quantities Change Order

Mr. Roy said that Change Order No. 1 to Arco Construction represents the final quantities change order for the referenced project that includes the decrease in cost and the reason for the changes to the Contract Documents.

Mr. Roy said that this change order consists of the reduction in costs because of the actual amount of plywood deck that needed to be replaced during the roof replacement project and the allowance for miscellaneous work was less than the amount provided for in the Contract Documents.

Mr. Roy said that the total cost of the change order is a minus \$2,413.94 which is five-point sixty eight percent decrease of the original contract amount of \$42,500.00 to a new contract amount of \$40,086.06.

Mr. Roy said that the change order is ready to be considered for approval by the Authority.

A motion to approve the Oak Street Booster Station Roof Replacement Final Quantities Change Order was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Blair.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

5. Manhole Rehabilitation through a National Cooperative – Vortex Services

Mr. Roy said that the Authority has a need to perform manhole rehabilitation services on five manholes on a 24” trunk sewer that are each approximately ten (10) feet deep and are located near Birch Street. This trunk sewer was originally installed in the 1960s and the manholes have deteriorated and need to be repaired and rehabilitated before they collapse. The internal deterioration of the manholes is visually evident, and one is leaking and allowing groundwater into the Authority’s Sewer Collection System and is causing a sink hole. The five manholes need to be rehabilitated to restore their structural integrity.

Mr. Roy said that this trunk sewer conveys sewage flow from a substantial drainage area of the Township that includes all of Woodhaven Village, Rock Creek, Winding Brook, Matchaponix Hills, Presidential Estates, Country Living, Claridge Court, Pinetree Apartments, Preferred Care at Old Bridge Nursing Facility and the commercial properties of Walmart, Wawa and Dunkin Donuts.

Mr. Roy said that we have received a quote to perform this service from a vendor that has a contract with a national cooperative organization called, Houston Galveston Area Cooperative (HGACBuy). The Department of Community Affairs issued guidelines in 2012 for the purchase of goods and services from national cooperative contracts. The State Legislature in 2011 has also passed laws that allow local contracting units, like the Authority, to utilize national cooperative contracts as a method of procurement.

Mr. Roy said that the Authority's Staff has received price quote No. 2427879 dated February 14, 2024, from the local representative of Vortex Services in the amount of \$143,880.00 (approximately \$29,000 per manhole) to perform the necessary sewer manhole rehabilitation work for these five trunk sewer manholes. Vortex has previously performed manhole rehabilitation several times before for the Authority and has performed their work in an acceptable manner.

Mr. Roy said that the Department of Community Affairs guidelines require that the contracting unit publicly advertise their intent to award a contract to a vendor under a national cooperative contract, to allow other vendors to offer alternatives. We have complied with the NJ Department of Community Affairs legal requirements which have been reviewed by Attorney Jacobs.

Mr. Roy said that the Authority has advertised its intent to award a contract to a vendor of a national cooperative organization to perform sewer manhole rehabilitation under Contract No. TP07-18. We have received no written response to the advertisement in the Home News & Tribune.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends awarding a contract to perform sewer manhole rehabilitation work on the five trunk sewer manholes near Birch Street to Vortex Services, Dover, DE contract vendor to HGACBuy National Purchasing Cooperative under Contract No. TP07-18 in the amount of \$143,880.00 and described in their price quote No. 2427879 dated February 14, 2024.

A motion was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly,

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

6. Matawan Road (Rt. 516) Gravity Sewer Crossing Replacement, Contract No. 2023-3 – Award Contract

Mr. Roy said that this is the sewer that crosses Rt. 516. He said that we changed the specifications to comply with the request from the Commissioners that this work be done during the summer, and we also added the requirement that it be done at night. He said that there will be a detour around the new golf course, but we are hoping this contractor can do it quickly. He said maybe a night or two, it is only 75 feet long.

Mr. Roy said Mr. Simpson of Alaimo Associates has a letter recommending Z Brothers Concrete Contractors as the low bidder.

Mr. Roy asked Mr. Simpson if he had any comments on his recommendation for awarding this contract.

Mr. Simpson said that we checked their references, and they have done work for other utility companies, and we find they are qualified.

Mr. Roy said that the price is in line with the Engineer's Estimate.

Mr. Roy said that he recommends awarding this contract to Z Brothers Concrete Contractors, and they are located on Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville, NJ.

Attorney Jacobs said that the contract award is for \$88,888.00 with Z Brothers Concrete Contractors being the low bidder.

A motion was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

Mr. Walker asked where exactly this work is located on Route 516

Mr. Roy said that the existing sewer crosses near the Historical Society, near the school, and that is why Frank Weber previously requested that this work be done during the summer. He said that is why the specifications require that the work be done at night to minimize the disruption of traffic.

Mr. Walker asked if that section of Rt. 516 will have to be closed to traffic during this work.

Mr. Roy said yes, we are going to detour traffic around the new golf course for maybe one or two nights. He said that we are awarding it today, and we need to get the contract signed, have a pre-construction

meeting with them, and then they will give us a schedule at the pre-construction meeting. He said that they also must order their materials.

Mr. Roy said that we will be meeting with them next month, so the start of construction will probably be August.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mr. Roy said that concludes his Engineering report.

A motion to accept Mr. Roy's Engineering Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Wally Tier, Superintendent, Distribution – Water Division

Mr. Tier said that he submitted his report and will be glad to answer any questions.

There were none.

A motion to accept Mr. Tier's report was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Dr. Greenberg.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Ray Totten, Superintendent, Treatment – Water Division

Mr. Totten said that he submitted his report and asked if anyone had any questions.

There were none.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Superintendent's
Report:

Walter E. Gillins, Superintendent – Sewer Division

Mr. Gillins was not present. Mr. Omar Maldonado said that the report has been submitted, and asked if there were questions.

There were none.

A motion to accept Mr. Gillins' report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

Mr. Roy said that Mr. Gillins is not here, but he did want to give him some kudos for a project that he did that is not in his report. He said that it is the leaking of the roof at the main office. Mr. Roy said that we had contractors fix the roof several times to attempt to chase down a leak, but it just kept leaking during heavy rains. He said that there is nothing more frustrating than trying to fix a leak on a roof. Mr. Roy said that Ernie had a contractor that was able to get it fixed under the bid threshold. He said that it went through one big heavy rain without leaking. Mr. Roy said that Michelle and Ronnie can say that it is working well. The leak was in their offices. He said that we have not gone through a winter with it yet, but so far it is working.

There was no other discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Financial Report: Michelle Smith, CPA, Comptroller

Mrs. Smith said that Cheesequake State Park has a past due balance from years back and they will not pay. The story behind this is that starting in the 1990's they were being billed on historical usage, not actual usage since there was no water meter there. She said that there used to be a water meter there, but when the Laurence Harbor Plant shut down, the water was wheeled through the park to service Laurence Harbor, and the meter was removed. She said that we began billing them on historic usage. Mrs. Smith said that in 2018 the new Park Superintendent wanted actual reads because he believed the usage we were billing them was excessive.

Mrs. Smith said that once a new water main was constructed under the Garden State Parkway in connection with the Atrium Building, we stopped wheeling water through the park to Laurence Harbor and were then able to install a water meter at the park. That water meter was only installed five years ago, which the State paid for, and we began getting actual reads.

Now that we have been getting actual reads, their usage is drastically lower than what we historically billed them. She said that we used to bill them for 2.7 million gallons a year, and they have only been averaging about 0.8 million gallons a year. Mrs. Smith said that they feel that if we put the water meter in sooner, their bill would have been a lot lower, and they are refusing to pay the balance. She said that she feels that they have a valid point and would like permission to write off their past-due balance.

Attorney Jacobs said that we need a motion for resolution to write off the balance in the amount of \$84,059.73 from the State of New Jersey Cheesequake State Park account.

A motion was made by Dr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli

5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Mrs. Smith discussed the Revenue and Expense Schedules for the Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2024, before year-end accruals and adjusting journal entries. She said that the Revenue Schedule shows that we are only projecting to use approximately \$300,000 in Retained Earnings in the Water Division and none in the Sewer Division for the year. The reason we are not using that much of the net assets that were appropriated in the budget is because many of the Capital Projects that were budgeted for this year have been moved into Fiscal Year Ending 2025.

Mrs. Smith said that is all that she has.

A motion to approve Mrs. Smith's Financial Report was made by Dr. Greenberg and seconded by Mr. Casserly.

There was no discussion.

The voice vote was as follows:

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

Bills & Claims: Dr. Greenberg said the Bills and Claims are for a total of \$2,492,084.30.

A motion to approve the Bills and Claims in the amount of \$2,492,084.30 was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Weber.

There was no discussion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Greenberg, Blair, Weber, Walker, Casserly

Nays: None

Absent: Razzoli
5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

Legal Report: Mitchell B. Jacobs, Esq.

Attorney Jacobs said that we have two potential matters to discuss in the Executive Session. He said that one matter was already covered in public session, which was to approve the condemnation of 143 Ticetown Road. He said that the other matter was as status report on a Brunetti Matter. He said that it is up to the Commissioners whether to go into Executive Session, but he didn't think that we really had much to report on about Brunetti until we got some decision from the Court.

Mr. Roy said that he had nothing to discuss.

Attorney Jacobs said that he does not have a legal report, and we are not going to hold an Executive Session.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Walker said that on Sunday he received a call from Ernie Gillins notifying me of a water break on Morganville Road. He said that some elected officials got their noses out of joint because the road was being closed. Mr. Walker said that they wanted it open. He said that he happened to be sitting with the mayor, and she made a phone call. He said that Ernie said that the road closure is a safety issue.

Mr. Walker said that some of the Police Department wanted the road open, and with all the equipment there, including the Vactor truck, it wasn't a good situation. He said that he could care less for those who got their nose out of joint because they had to take a backroad. Mr. Walker said that the safety of our people is paramount. Thank God a phone call was made, the road was closed, and everyone was safe.

Mr. Roy said that Work Zone Safety is a very important part of the construction that we are doing. He said that is why we have the Police there to make sure that nobody gets near an area that is under construction because of an emergency. He said that this break was something that we did not plan on happening.

Mr. Casserly said that is near my neighborhood, and it is very dark there.

There was no more discussion.

Open to the Public: Mr. Blair said that the public comment period is limited to a maximum of three minutes per person.

There was no public wishing to speak.

Mr. Blair said that seeing no public wishing to speak, he closed the public portion.

Executive Session: There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Casserly and seconded by Mr. Walker.

All Commissioners were in favor.

No Commissioners were opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Casserly, Secretary