



Berkeley Township

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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A Public Meeting of the Berkeley Township Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Thursday, **July 22, 2021** at 7:00 pm at the Berkeley Township Elementary School at 10 Emory Avenue, Bayville, NJ 08721. Presided by Chairman Hale-present, Jerome Bollettieri-present, Edward Cammarato-absent, Samuel Cammarato-present, Richard Elliott-present, William McGrath-present, Fred Bekirian-present.

Also present: Robert Budesca-Attorney, Michael McClelland-Engineer, Brian Blair-Chief of Operations and Michele Nugent-Executive Director.

After the salute to the flag, Ms. Del Conte read the Open Public Meeting Statement.

Mr. Hale stated Commissioner McGrath will be seated as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

Motion to approve the Public Meeting Minutes and the following reports from the meeting on June 24, 2021: Richard Elliott, second, Samuel Cammarato. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no "nay" votes. Motion Carried.

- Executive Director's Report
- Engineer's Report
- Auditor's Report
- Attorney's Report

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Samuel Cammarato stated for the four week period (06/26/21-07/23/21) the payroll expenses totaled \$43,144.33 and the operational expenses totaled \$44,849.17.

Edward Cammarato and Samuel Cammarato reviewed the first two weeks. Michael Hale and Samuel Cammarato reviewed the last two weeks.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Jerome Bollettieri, second, Richard Elliott. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no "nay" votes. Motion Carried.

Executive Director's Report:

Mrs. Nugent referred to the Progress Report and presented the highlights:

- Project Updates – All current projects are progressing.
- Northern Blvd. Water Tower Rehabilitation – A preliminary application was submitted to the NJIB and received a program rating of 108. The high rating indicates NJIB funding will be available if the Authority progresses the project.

For the record, Mr. Edward Cammarato joined the meeting via-telecommunications at 7:10 pm.

- NJDEP Water Advisory – The Authority issued a precautionary Boil Water Advisory to the community. With the support of the DEP, the requirements associated with the advisory were initiated. With the support of the Township, the Authority established a site for bottled water distribution for the residents in the service area.

For the record, Mayor Carmen Amato arrived at the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Chairman Hale announced the Board will go in to Executive Session for employee evaluations. Mr. Budesa stated it is anticipated Executive Session will be approximately 20 – 30 minutes at which point the Board will reconvene.

Executive Session:

Motion to open: Jerome Bollettieri, second, Richard Elliott. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no “nay” votes. Motion Carried.

Employee Evaluations

Motion to close: Richard Elliott, second, Jerome Bollettieri. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no “nay” votes. Motion Carried.

Motion to re-open: Richard Elliott, second, Jerome Bollettieri. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no “nay” votes. Motion Carried.

Engineer’s Report:

Phase VII Water System Improvements:

Mr. McClelland stated CME is preparing final design documents. The cultural resource consultant is preparing background information for site evaluations.

Northern Boulevard Tank Rehabilitation:

Mr. McClelland stated CME is preparing the preliminary plans for the Northern Blvd. Tank. CME submitted additional N J I Bank information for the funding of the project.

Solar Energy System Feasibility Study:

Mr. McClelland stated CME is evaluating the feasibility of whether solar panels should be installed based on the cost/benefit ratio for the Authority’s energy needs.

Accountant’s Report:

Will be presented at the August 2021 meeting.

Attorney’s Report:

No formal report.

Committee Report:

Old Business:

No Report.

New Business:

No Report.

Motion to open the public portion: Richard Elliott, second, Jerome Bollettieri. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no “nay” votes. Motion Carried.

Mr. Hale requested the Executive Director read the actual timeline of the event that occurred regarding the precautionary Boil Water Advisory into the minutes.

Mrs. Nugent read the following in to the minutes:

The NJDEP issued a precautionary Boil Water Advisory out of an abundance of caution for the BTMUA service area on Monday, July 19, 2021. This was due to results of routine water sampling collected on July 14, 2021, in accordance with NJDEP requirements and standard procedures.

A water sample collected from an inactive sink tested positive for E. coli. In compliance with the normal protocol of a positive E. coli or coliform result, this site and two others were re-tested. The inactive sink result, received on July 19, 2021, was negative, but one of the two others tested positive for a coliform. That collection point and four additional sites were tested again and confirmed negative for E. coli and coliform in results received on July 20, 2021. Because of the two separate positive results, the NJDEP issued a boil water alert advisory for the BTMUA service area on July 19, 2021.

The Authority immediately initiated advising the public of the advisory via the BTMUA website, Berkeley Township’s website and Nixle/Robo Call emergency notification systems. The BTMUA posted to the Township Facebook page as a way to spread the word quickly. We are thankful residents shared the information received from social media and the notification systems with their friends and family members. The advisory was announced on the radio and picked up by online and print news agencies. The NJDEP notice was posted on restaurants, convenience and retail stores, government service buildings and mailed to every home. A modification to the BTMUA computer system allowed text messages to be sent to cell phone numbers on file beginning July 21, 2021.

The BTMUA watermain system initiated watermain flushing. The water was tested multiple times throughout multiple sites within the service area. The result for every sample has continued to be negative for E. coli or coliform. The Authority continues to work with the NJDEP. An advisory lifting date is not known at this point.

Mr. Hale thanked Mayor Carmen Amato and the Township, Police Chief Kevin Santucci and the BTPD, OEM Officer Michael Tier, Robert Budesca, the Authority Attorney and Michael McClelland of CME Engineering for their cooperation and unwavering support to the Authority during this event. Lastly, Mr. Hale thanked all of the Authority Staff for their commitment during the Boil Water Advisory.

Motion to open the public portion: Richard Elliott, second, Jerome Bollettieri. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no “nay” votes. Motion Carried.

Mr. Hale opened the floor to the public.

Crisanne O'Melia – 521 Wheaton Avenue: Regarding the water distribution, are we able to go back as often as we need when we run out?

Mrs. Nugent replied yes, the Authority is providing six gallons of water per household each time for each household. The intention is to make sure the Authority has a daily allotment to give water to every family. Residents are encouraged to come back the next day if needed. Mrs. Nugent added Shoprite was instrumental for its support of the Authority to be able to provide water to the residents in its franchise area.

Lynn Shroyer – 412 Virginia Avenue: Why didn't the DEP issue a Boil Water Advisory on the first day of the positive test?

Mr. Hale replied that the DEP has its own set of protocols which he likened to when a doctor gathers information from a patient when trying to make a diagnosis. Mr. Hale stated when dealing with organics the procedure is to run multiple tests. The DEP is not going to shut down a water system and panic an entire community based on one test. Mr. Hale stated that the DEP requires multiple tests to be performed after a questionable result comes back.

Stephen Fitzgerald – 274 Elizabeth Avenue: Why would the public park mark this as a water supply issue instead of an E. coli outbreak? Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that the notice at the splash park stated it was closed because of a water supply issue, not E. coli contamination, after the community received notification that the water was contaminated.

Mr. Budesa replied the splash park is an Ocean County Park. The signs posted were provided by the County Parks Department which the Authority has no control over what they post.

Stephen Fitzgerald: I understand the gist of this and that the Authority did the best it could within the time frame given. Is there someone I can complain to regarding medical co-pays for his family and when notification was provided?

Mr. Budesa stated E. coli can be contracted from sources other than water, but he could contact the DEP.

Stephen Fitzgerald: Will there be any water bill leniencies?

Mrs. Nugent replied the Board has not reviewed this, but it is a topic that will be further explored.

Maryanne Leonard – 373 Western Boulevard: I unfortunately was very ill Sunday through Tuesday (7/18/21-7/20/21) and lost eight pounds in less than 24 hours. Do you have any other reason why this happened, other than the excess rain we had or any issues in the system?

Mr. McClelland of CME (Authority Engineer) introduced himself to the public and stated the Authority flushed its entire system and had not found a connection between the coliform bacteria in the system and any other outside source. CME and the Authority continues to investigate, but does not have an answer at this time.

Maryanne Leonard: Communication definitely was a big thing. I found out on Facebook and social media at six o'clock pm on Monday night. I understand there is a process. I understand the State. I understand the DEP. I think communication would have gone a long way. I am concerned with seniors in the area. I know of three different senior families that had no idea about boiling water. I don't know if its updating Nixel or phone numbers, but I think we can do a better job with that as well in the future. Thank you.

Thomas Di Michele – 213 Magnolia Drive: My concern is that I don't know if the Authority has preplans or a playbook for incidents like this. If that's not the case, going forward it could help the MUA if it encounters any type of hazards. A dry run or tabletop exercise could be performed which could include Shoprite and possible vendors that may need to be involved. This could prevent trying to catch up with what's occurring in an emergency which is possibly what took place during this event and may have led to panic in town. When an incident occurs, it may not be possible to cover everything, but if you plan ahead, it will make handling these situations much easier.

Edward Olsen – 49 Brittany Drive: I am wondering if there was any concern that Henderson Labs could not be contacted during the weekend when this event occurred? If they were required to take a test and then they go radio silent for two days well that's a significant delay for no reason. Part of the emergency planning the Authority could implement would be to have an emergency contact number for Henderson Labs for events such as this.

Motion to close the public portion: Jerome Bollettieri, second, Richard Elliott. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no "nay" votes. Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn: Jerome Bollettieri, second, Richard Elliott. The motion was approved by voice vote. There were no "nay" votes. Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra J Walker
Office Clerk

The next meeting of the Berkeley Township Municipal Utilities Authority will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Berkeley Township Municipal Utilities Authority located at 42 Station Road, Bayville, NJ 08721.