

THE OCEAN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

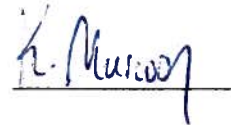
MEETING: Minutes of Caucus Meeting of The Ocean County Utilities Authority

DATE: February 25, 2025

TIME: 4:01 p.m.

PLACE: 501 Hickory Lane, Bayville, New Jersey

PRESENT: Alan W. Avery, Jr., Chairman
Carol A. Scull, Board Secretary (electronically)
Reverend Oscar L. Cradle, Sr.
James A. Daly
Joanne Gilmore
Steven C. Kennis
Robert A. Sabosik
Keith B. Marcoon, Executive Director
Lisa A. Contessa, Assistant Secretary
Lynne A. Dunn, Esq., Counsel
William Demand, Director, Finance
Avril Limage, Manager/Director, Human Resources
Robert Shertenlieb, Sr. Director, Operations and Maintenance
Neil O'Regan, Manager/Director, Engineering and Construction
Randy Martin, Manager/Director, Information Services
Christine Cairns, Purchasing Agent



Opening Statement

Chairman Avery welcomed everyone to the regular caucus meeting of The Ocean County Utilities Authority, stating that in accordance with the requirements set forth in the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, notice of the meeting had been given by mailing of a Special Meeting Notice on February 10, 2025, to the Asbury Park Press, The Press of Atlantic City, the Clerks of Ocean County and Monmouth County, to the Clerks of all Ocean County Municipalities and to the Clerks of Freehold and Farmingdale Boroughs and Howell, Wall, and Freehold Townships.

CM-3698 Lakewood Township MUA Consent to Use Agreement

Mr. O'Regan presented a draft resolution stating there are certain easements for the Authority's interceptors in the Township of Lakewood for the collection and transmission of wastewater. Lakewood Township MUA (LTMUA) is proposing to construct a water main extension known as the "Chambersbridge Road Water Main Extension" with portions to be constructed within the Authority's South Branch Metedeconk Interceptor (NI-18) Section 4, Parcel 1.1. The Authority is willing to consent under the terms and conditions stated in the Consent to Use Agreement for LTMUA to use a portion of said easement, Mr. O'Regan said. Engineering has reviewed this encroachment into that easement and determined it will not upset the Authority's process nor obstruct operations and maintenance or even construction or repair if needed. It is recommended that this Consent to Use Agreement be prepared and issued allowing the Chairman to sign once it is finalized.

CM-3699 On-Call Professional Environmental Permitting – RFQ Award.

Mr. O'Regan stated that RFQs for on-call professional environmental permitting services were advertised, and three qualification statements were received. Based on that review by the Engineering and Construction staff, Mr. O'Regan is recommending that EcolSciences, Inc. be selected to perform these services on an on-call basis. EcolSciences, Inc. was the highest ranked firm in accordance with criteria published within the RFQ. If approved this will allow the Authority to enter into Agreement No. EC-ES-25-594.00 with EcolSciences, Inc., which will set forth the terms and conditions under which the services will be provided. The on-call environmental permitting services will be reimbursed on an incurred basis with a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.00.

Chairman Avery stated that all of the above-mentioned projects were discussed at length in the Engineering Committee and all members present approved.

CM-3700 Designation of Public Agency Compliance Officer – (P.A.C.O.)

Mrs. Limage presented a draft resolution stating that the Authority must comply with the provisions of P.L. 1975, c. 127, (NJAC 17:27-3.5) and to carry out the functions necessary to comply with this Act, it is necessary to appoint a Public Agency Compliance Officer. The recommendation is that Mr. William J. Demand be named Public Agency Compliance Officer to carry out the duties as outlined in the Act for the year 2025. Mr. Demand has been the designated P.A.C.O. in the past, Mrs. Limage said.

CM-3701 Cooperative Purchasing Agreement – NJ State Department of Treasury.

Mrs. Cairns stated that the OCUA has the need, on a timely basis, to purchase goods or services with State Contract Vendors listed on the New Jersey State Contract website for 2025 using properly executed contracts. The draft resolution being presented would authorize the Purchasing Agent of the Authority to purchase certain goods or services from those approved New Jersey State contract vendors for 2025 on the NJ State contract website.

CM-3702 General Contracts to be Discussed

LS-24-5 – Laboratory Supplies

Mrs. Cairns stated this is a new contract to furnish and deliver laboratory supplies used at the Central Division. Five (5) specification packages were mailed and three (3) were received ranging in price from \$70,673.75 to \$81,169.90. Core and Main LP is the lowest bidder and a new vendor for the Authority. The Authority's Laboratory Manager has reviewed the bid from Core and Main and has approved the bid for an amount not to exceed \$70,673.75.

SH-25-20 – Sodium Hypochlorite 15% and 20%

Mrs. Cairns stated this is a two-year draw contract to furnish and deliver Sodium Hypochlorite used Authority-wide. The Authority will use either 15% or 20% hypochlorite depending on the location. 20% hypochlorite is new to this contract, however, 20% was tested last year with a unit price of \$2.39.

Three (3) bid specification packages were mailed and one (1) was received from Kuehne Chemical Company for a total amount not to exceed \$11,186,000.00. The award for the 15% Hypochlorite is for the contract amount of \$5,000,066.00 and the award for the 20% Hypochlorite is for the amount of

\$6,120,000.00. With this contract the unit price for the 15% is \$1.49/gallon, which is a 29.88% decrease from last year's price of \$2.12/gallon. Last year the 20% was \$2.39/gallon versus this year, \$1.80/gallon which is a 24.69% decrease, Mrs. Cairns said.

Mr. Demand stated that this is a draw contract where the entire contract is awarded but the Authority actually only uses a portion throughout the contract. This year he anticipates spending approximately \$2,200,000.00 for this line item.

OBS-25-7 – OCEANGRO Bagging Services

Mrs. Cairns presented a contract for the purchase of OCEANGRO Bagging Services. There were three (3) specification packages mailed and two (2) received. The recommendation is to award this contract to the lowest bidder, The Andersons Reed and Perrine Lawn for an amount not to exceed \$57,860.00. The Andersons held the last bagging service contract and a price comparison to last year of like items, reflects a weighted average increase of 0.42%.

CM-3703 EMEX Reverse Auction – Electricity Supply Service

Mr. Demand explained that since the deregulation of energy in New Jersey, the Ocean County Utilities Authority has sought third-party suppliers for natural gas and electricity. The Authority's current two-year, third-party electric contract will end in June. The draft resolution authorizes the Authority to bid electric energy through an online reverse auction by utilizing the services of EMEX, LLC. EMEX is an approved vendor to conduct energy auctions in the State of New Jersey under the Local Government Electronic Procurement Act. The Ocean County Utilities Authority utilized this platform for the past five contracts with great success and competition. The draft resolution also authorizes the Chairman or Executive Director to execute electric energy contracts with the winning bidder at the conclusion of the online reverse auctions. The online auctions will be conducted on March 14, 2025 before the current contract expires.

Mr. Demand projected a 20-25% increase in this budgeted line item. As of this date, there is a 14% increase built into the budget and electricity is expected to increase significantly. With the Reverse Auction platform all electric companies in the state of New Jersey bid against each other. This is a great way to procure energy at the lowest possible cost, Mr. Demand said. Mr. Marcoon and Mr. Demand set a trigger price 48 hours in advance of the auction, which is the lowest possible price the OCUA is willing to pay.

Mr. Marcoon noted this procedure was used numerous times and he agrees with the proposed stages that would occur with EMEX rendering a recommendation. Mr. Demand would review and consider the trigger levels along with providing a recommendation to Mr. Marcoon for his review allowing the Authority to enter the auction with triggers previously established. Three auctions will be conducted at the same time for each of these accounts, Mr. Demand noted. There will be a 12-month price, an 18-month price, and a 24-month price. If the pricing is above the Authority's triggers, the option of declining all bids and returning to Jersey Central Power and Light and Atlantic Electric will again be an alternative.

Action Taken:

The Commissioners approved the draft resolutions and directed they be placed on the agenda for the Public Meeting.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Kennis, seconded by Commissioner Daly, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.