

LONG BRANCH SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Connection Fee Hearing

August 15, 2018

I & II. Opening and Attendance at Meeting

The Connection Fee Hearing conducted by the Long Branch Sewerage Authority on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 began at 2:55 p.m. pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:18A-8(c).

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. George, in the Meeting Room of the Authority Administrative Building, 150 Joline Avenue, Long Branch, New Jersey, attended by Mr. Booth and Mr. Mazza. Mr. Brown was absent. Mr. Blaisdell attended via telephonic communication.

In addition to the Members of the Authority hereinabove stated there were present the following attaches: Thomas Roguski, Executive Director; David Kaplan, CPA Accountant of Authority; John Bonello, Esq., Authority Counsel; John Van Dorpe and Susan Brasefield, Authority Engineers; Elisabete Vieira, Secretary; and Certified Court Reporter, Stephanie Lyn Rahn.

III. Announcement Pursuant to New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act

Adequate Notice pursuant to the Statutes of the Open Public Meetings Act and other applicable Statutes has been given and this meeting has been properly advertised in the *Link* as a “legal” advertisement on July 26, 2018, and in the *Asbury Park Press* as a “legal” advertisement on July 25, 2018, and duplicates have been forwarded to the Clerks of the City of Long Branch, the Borough of West Long Branch and the Borough of Monmouth Beach on July 23, 2018, for filing in their respective offices and for posting in a public place in each such Municipality.

IV. Connection Fee Report.

Mr. Bonello entered into evidence Exhibit A1, letter from Auditor, Mr. David Kaplan, setting connection fee at \$4,388.00 per unit; Exhibit A2, copy of a Notice of Public Hearing; Exhibit A3, Affidavit of Publication of Notice of this Hearing in the *Asbury Park Press*; Exhibit A4, Affidavit of Publication of Notice of this Hearing in the *Link*; Exhibit A5, Copies of letters sent to the Clerks of the municipalities serviced by the Long Branch Sewerage Authority.

The Authority Counsel would introduce the only witness, Mr. David Kaplan, Authority Accountant, and would conduct the direct examination of said witness following which there could be cross-examination by the Authority Members and members of the Public.

Said rules were adopted whereupon David Kaplan was sworn in by Ms. Rahn. Mr. Bonello questioned Mr. Kaplan as to his qualifications and licensing. Mr. Kaplan then proceeded to testify that he had prepared a report in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8. The witness testified that based upon certain computations, he was of the opinion that there should be an increase in the connection fee from the amount of \$4,205.00 to \$4,388.00 for all residential connections and from \$21.52 to \$21.82 per gallon per day for all non-residential connections. Detailed testimony was given by the witness and recorded by Ms. Norman. The witness specifically testified that the computation was made in accordance with the statutory prescription.

Mr. Blaisdell question if the charge of \$21.82 per gallon per day was accurate. Mr. Kaplan replied affirmatively, he explained that this is the estimated flow of the non residential connector that the engineer computes for non residential applications.

V. Public Participation.

Mr. Lepore from 38 Ocean Terrace addressed the board.

Mr. Lepore questioned Mr. Kaplan if this will increase the service fees in the future. Mr. Bonello stated that this hearing is for the connection fee increase not the service fee, the connection fee only affects any new developer that is making a new application for sewer. This fee is recalculated every year and actually went down the last couple of years.

Mr. Lepore questioned with all the new units being built does that mean the connection fee will go up again next year. Mr. Kaplan explained that the sewer connection fee is required to be calculated annually and it's based on the debt services and given that the capital basis increases there is a good change that the connection fee also increases.

Mr. Avery Grant from 405 Atlantic Ave also addressed the board.

He questioned how the authority calculates the pier village flow. Mr. Roguski explained that the connection fee is based on the amount of units on the application. It's stipulated on the rules and regulations how to calculate any new commercial accounts. The rate is the same for everyone.

Mr. Kaplan stated that the governor of New Jersey recently signed an amendment to the connection fee statutes. He explained that the authority is required to have a hearing and amend their rules and regulations to conform to the amendments that the governor signed.

Mr. Roguski stated that he and Mr. Kaplan along with Mr. Bonello will be working on the revisions and will present it to the board for review; once everything is reviewed it will be advertised for a public hearing probably in October.

On Motion by Mr. George, seconded by Mr. Mazza, and passed by the affirmative vote of all members present, no nays, one absent, no abstain; this item of the agenda was closed.

VI. Action on Connection Fee

In regard to the final approval of the connection fee, the following Resolution was presented by Mr. Bonello.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Mazza offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption; seconded by Mr. Booth.

WHEREAS, the Long Branch Sewerage Authority has authorized the introduction of a Revised Rate Resolution, and

WHEREAS, Notice of Public Hearing of the Revised Rate Resolution has been duly advertised and existing customers of the Authority, as well as the City of Long Branch and other municipalities, with customers using the Long Branch Sewerage Authority, have been notified as to the Revised Rate Resolution and have received a copy of same, and

WHEREAS, the Long Branch Sewerage Authority has determined that the Revised Rate Resolution must be adopted to meet its financial needs, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Long Branch Sewerage Authority that the Revised Rate Resolution be approved, which will increase the initial connection fee from \$4,205.00 to \$4,388.00 per unit for all residential connectors and from \$21.52 to \$21.82 per gallon, per day of estimated flow for all non-residential connections, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the
Reactivation Fee will be set at \$123.00 per unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a fifty
percent discount be granted on the prevailing connection
fees to all City of Long Branch Public Housing Authority
connection fees and to all the connection fees due from all
non-profit organizations building affordable housing
projects within the City of Long Branch and the same is
hereby adopted effective immediately.

ROLL CALL:

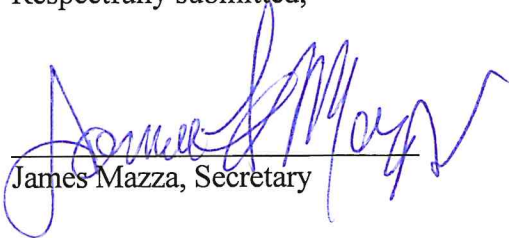
Mr. George	- AYE
Mr. Booth	- AYE
Mr. Brown	- ABSENT
Mr. Mazza	- AYE
Mr. Blaisdell	- AYE

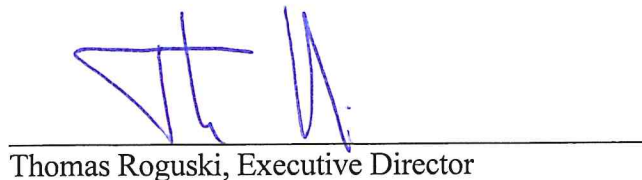
Date: August 15, 2018
Exhibits: A1-A5

VII. Adjournment.

On Motion by Mr. George, seconded by Mr. Booth, and passed by the affirmative
vote of all members present, no nays, one absent, no abstain; the Public Hearing on the
Connection Fee was closed at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


James Mazza, Secretary


Thomas Roguski, Executive Director