

## READINGTON-LEBANON SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

August 28, 2019

**OPENING:** Dr. Schaible, Chairman opened this regular meeting and announced that the Sunshine laws have been satisfied for the convening of this meeting.

**PRESENT:** Dr. Schaible, Messrs. Burton and Monaco, and Ms. Rohrbach members, Mrs. Plesnarski, Administrator. Dr. Westfield and Mr. Cichone did not attend.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 24, 2019 as written, was carried with roll call of ayes all, nays none.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:** Motion to approve the invoices for the month of August in the amount of \$ **93,301.33** along with the authorization for the Administrator to transfer this amount into the Operating Checking account on September 3, 2019 was made by Mr. Burton, seconded by Ms. Rohrbach, and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT:** Motion to acknowledge the review and approve the August Budget Statement without any exceptions noted as written was made by Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. Monaco and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** *Opposition to S3870/A5391* – Mrs. Plesnarski stated that AEA has requested that membership consider opposition to S3870/A5391 that permit privatization of wastewater utilities without a public referendum. The purchase price under fair market value can be recouped in subsequent rates charged. Inflated market value will only be to the advantage of the shareholders and not the ratepayers who will also not be entitled to a public referendum. The bill will accelerate sale of sewer systems and undermine public ownership and operation. Motion to approve the opposition of S3870/A5391 was made

by Mr. Monaco, seconded by Mr. Burton and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

*CH 48, PL 1999* – Mrs. Plesnarski noted that in looking after the future of the Authority, she wanted to tighten up some of the benefits offered to future employees. In an attempt to reduce the Authority's future potential liability for retiree benefits and under the recommendation of the auditors, she has suggested clarifying some of the eligibility language for certain retiree benefits. The change will only apply to future employees. Current employees will remain status quo, retaining the benefits afforded by CH88 and CH436 under the CH48 addendum. The suggested changes for future employees would be: 1) require (15) of (25+) years of service with RLSA to receive paid retiree health benefits 2) no paid health benefits for surviving spouse 3) no dependent nor surviving spouse paid health benefits under a disability pension. Mrs. Plesnarski noted that most entities have already adopted CH48 and the changes would not put us at a hiring disadvantage. Mr. Monaco agreed that the changes were prudent and Mr. Burton felt that this would encourage longevity and employee productivity. Motion to adopt the CH48 and the CH48 resolution addendum was made by Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. Monaco and carried with roll call of ayes all, nays none.

***OLD BUSINESS:***

***ADJOURNMENT:*** As there was no further business to come before the Board, meeting was adjourned by motion made by Dr. Schaible seconded by Mr. Monaco and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

Respectfully submitted:

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Richard Burton  
Vice Chairman

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Virginia Weierich  
Recording Secretary

Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority  
Resolution 19-13  
Opposition to S3870/A5391

WHEREAS, the mission of Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority is to provide safe, reliable and cost effective sewer service to our community; and

WHEREAS, the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority believes that the public has a right to vote on important community concerns such as the ownership of its sanitary sewerage system; and

WHEREAS, the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority believes that ratepayers of a sewer system should not be burdened with costs unrelated to the operation and maintenance of that system; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 and Assembly Bill 5391 eliminate the public referendum currently required for the sale of a sewer system and so deprive the public of the opportunity to decide about the ownership and operation of one of the most basic and important of local services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 permit approaches to valuation of a sewer system that will unfairly inflate the sales price and burden ratepayers in the selling community and elsewhere in the State with paying for inflated cost; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 tilt the playing field in favor of an investor-owned utility purchaser; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 3870 AND Assembly Bill 5391 discourage municipalities from fully exploring the viability of other approaches to owning and maintaining a sewer system which may be less burdensome to ratepayers, such as continuing to own and operate the sewer system, regionalizing with other public units, entering into shared services agreements, or entering into a sales agreement with other public agencies such as authorities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority that calls upon all Members of the New Jersey Senate and Assembly to protect the best interests of ratepayers and preserve, for the public good, public ownership and operation of sewer systems to vote "no" on S3870/A5391.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Readington-Lebanon Sewerage Authority at its meeting on August 28, 2019.

Date: August 28, 2019

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Recording Secretary

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

PO BOX 299 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0299  
19-14

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION to adopt the provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A. 52:14.17.38) under which a public employer may agree to pay for the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and/or School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) coverage of certain retirees.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- The READINGTON-LEBANON SEWERAGE AUTHORITY - HUNTERDON ID# 169400  
CORPORATE NAME OF EMPLOYER - COUNTY SHBP/SEHBP ID NUMBER  
hereby elects to adopt the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38 and adhere to the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Health Benefits Commission and School Employees' Health Benefits Commission to implement the provisions of that law.
- This resolution affects employees as shown on the attached Chapter 48 *Resolution Addendum*. It is effective on the 1st day of OCTOBER, 2019.  
MONTH YEAR
- We are aware that adoption of this resolution does not free us of the obligation to pay for post-retirement medical benefits of retirees or employees who qualified for those payments under any *Chapter 88 Resolution* or *Chapter 48 Resolution* adopted previously by this governing body.
- We agree that this *Resolution* will remain in effect until properly amended or revoked with the SHBP and/or SEHBP. We recognize that, while we remain in the SHBP and/or SEHBP, we are responsible for providing the payment for post-retirement medical coverage as listed in the attached *Chapter 48 Resolution Addendum* for all employees who qualify for this coverage while this *Resolution* is in force.
- We understand that we are required to provide the Division of Pensions and Benefits complete copies of all contracts, ordinances, and resolutions that detail post-retirement medical payment obligations we undertake. We also recognize that we may be required to provide the Division with information needed to carry out the terms of this *Resolution*.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the

READINGTON-LEBANON SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
CORPORATE NAME OF EMPLOYER

PO BOX 136  
ADDRESS

on the 28 day of AUGUST, 2019

1A OLD HIGHWAY 28

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SIGNATURE

WHITEHOUSE NJ 08888-0136  
CITY STATE ZIP CODE

CHAIRMAN  
OFFICIAL TITLE

908 534-6171  
AREA CODE TELEPHONE NUMBER