

Council questions mistake locating main water line

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Due to an error in pinpointing the location of a water main that transports water from the city's desalination plant under Cape Island Creek to Lafayette Street, City Council had to authorize an additional \$6,800 in spending for the project to reline the water main.

At a Feb. 16 virtual council meeting, Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan said the city was paying for work performed by the engineering firm of Mott MacDonald that

was not of the caliber she expected.

"Even though we paid \$72,000 for them to locate the pipe, there seems that there was an issue locating this pipe and they want another \$6,800 for paperwork to go to the state to make up for the fact that they made a mistake," she said.

According to the enabling resolution, the city awarded Mott MacDonald a \$219,000 phased contract for the rehabilitation of the Cape Island Creek Water Transmission Main in 2019. The firm "approximated" the location of the water main using an

acoustic device inserted in the pipeline. The approximate location served as the basis for permit plans submitted to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a Coastal Wetlands Waterfront Development permit.

Based on the approximated location of the water main, the permit plans showed the proposed location of mats for cranes to use. According to the resolution, after identifying the location of the water main through excavation, the placement of the crane mats had to differ from those on the permit plans.

As a result, Mott MacDonald contacted DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if permit modifications were needed due to a change in location of the crane mats. Mott MacDonald received a verification letter from the Army Corps and proposed a minor modification to the permit at a cost to the city of \$6,800.

"At some point, companies have to step up and realize their mistakes and eat the cost associated with that mistake," Sheehan said.

She questioned why Mott MacDonald could not find the location of the pipe after

the city spent \$72,000 for that task.

Councilman Shaine Meier said the location was in remote marshland. He said the cost increase was minimal.

Sheehan said she expected a further cost would be incurred moving the cranes to the correct location.

Mayor Zack Mullock said the transmission line was the main water line coming from the desalination plant.

"This seems like a mistake that they made that they should rectify," he said.

Councilman Chris Bezaire said it was yet another bill from Mott MacDonald with

escalating costs.

He questioned if Mott MacDonald had errors and omissions insurance.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said the city can be more careful in future contracts in covering scope of work and errors.

Sheehan called the \$6,800 "the tip of the iceberg" for spending for the mistake. She cast the lone "no" vote against paying the change order.

Mullock said while he voted "yes" for the change order, he would hesitate to approve any future change orders for the project.

Benefits to blow across region

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which it is providing funds to small, minority-owned and women-owned businesses to facilitate entry into the offshore wind industry.

Goals include supporting the development of an offshore wind energy supply chain and workforce, advancing port development for offshore wind energy-related uses and supporting the development of coastal resiliency, coastal transportation and grid reliability.

The trust will also provide funding for infrastructure resiliency improvements critical to the coastal communities in Atlantic, Ocean and Cape May counties.

The seminar was presented by the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Ocean Chamber of Commerce.

Those in attendance included Vicki Clark, president of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce; Michael Chait, president of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce; and Lori Pepenella, CEO of the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce and one of the three trustees.

Others taking part in the presentation were Vince Maione, director of New Jersey market affairs for Ørsted, and Julia Kortrey, offshore wind project officer at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA).

Oversight of the trust is provided by three trustees representing Cape May, Atlantic and Ocean counties: attorney Beverly McCall, retired organizational development professional Belinda Manning and Pepenella.

Pepenella discussed the trust's origin, goals and steps to apply.

She said the trust offers grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to businesses seeking to enter the offshore wind supply chain during the first phase of offshore wind development, allowing them to make early investments and benefit from the emerging industry, as well as projects developed elsewhere along the East Coast. The trust also will support the development of offshore wind infrastructure for those businesses.

The trust fund was established following the selection of Ocean Wind, the Ørsted and PSEG offshore wind farm project, by the BPU in 2019 with the goal of ensuring that the industry is developed in a sustainable and inclusive way.

The following list represents some of the fields the trust will fund:

- Onshore and offshore light logistics and services
 - Marine vessel supply and maintenance
 - Aviation supply and maintenance
 - Buildings — construction and repair
 - Professional services (communications, environmental/permitting, engineering)
 - Turbine blade inspection and service
 - Fuel service and supply
 - Network/wireless communications supply, service and repair
 - Workforce training, trade/safety
 - Cleaning and janitorial
 - Food service and catering
 - Onshore and offshore surveys
 - Project and risk management
 - Health and safety equipment and clothing
 - Marine clothing/equipment supply
- Pepenella called the

seminar "an exciting opportunity to find out how businesses can take advantage of grant opportunities to expand in the new industry in Cape May, Atlantic and Southern Ocean counties."

Maione explained that Ørsted is the global leader in offshore wind production.

"We are honored to be bestowed upon us the honor and burden of building the first offshore renewable wind turbine project in New Jersey," he said.

Maione said the company has built turbines currently generating 6.8 GW of energy with 3.1 GW under construction. That includes 1,500 turbines spinning at 26 offshore wind farms.

He said the industry started in Europe, slowly migrated to Asia and now is coming to North America.

"We have a tremendous history of building — the first to build a wind farm, the first to build the largest farm and the first to build a utility-scale project," Maione said.

The company acquired a lease area from the federal Department of the Interior where the turbines will be constructed. It stretches from 8 miles to 25 miles into the Atlantic, but the project will be built 15 miles from shore with the turbines being about 1 mile apart.

"We are very excited about benefits that are going to come to New Jersey residents in Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May counties," Maione said, noting Ørsted would work in collaboration with North American building trades unions.

Beyond the trust, the project will have economic

benefits around the region.

Gov. Phil Murphy announced Dec. 21, 2020, that Ørsted, in conjunction with Germany-based EEW, would make a \$250 million investment in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility to build steel components, known as monopiles, for offshore wind turbines that will serve the entire United States offshore wind industry.

The facility, which will be located at the Paulsboro Marine Terminal in Gloucester County, is the largest industrial offshore wind investment in the United States to date and will create more than 500 high-paying jobs at full build out. Construction was expected to begin in January, with production beginning in 2023.

In June 2020, Murphy announced plans to develop the New Jersey Wind Port in Lower Alloways Creek, a first-in-the-nation infrastructure investment that will provide a location for essential staging, assembly and manufacturing activities related to offshore wind projects on the East Coast. The development of the New Jersey Wind Port, together with the construction of the new manufacturing facility at the Paulsboro Marine Terminal, is a monumental step forward in solidifying New Jersey as the country's leader in offshore wind and clean energy procurement, according to the news release.

"Developing New Jersey's offshore wind capabilities has been a key priority of my administration since taking office in 2018," Murphy said. "Offshore wind is a once-in-a-generation opportunity

that allows us to protect our environment while significantly expanding and securing the state's economy for the immediate and long term."

Pepenella said the trust has created a registry for those interested in participating in the program to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), with a deadline of March 5. Interested parties should visit pronjtrust.org and download the Request for Expressions of Interest to learn more on how to apply. Once completed, the EOI must be submitted to info@pronjtrust.org.

Clark said the webinar was the first time she had seen any details on the program.

"I thought that seeing the types of businesses that are available for the grant program was very encouraging, because I think there are a number of businesses in Cape May County that can benefit from this grant opportunity," she said, providing an example of a business that may benefit.

"If you are a food service provider and you provide service to any business that's in the supply chain for the wind energy, then you would qualify for the grant program," Clark said. "Just that kind of information really was very valuable as to who might qualify for the program."

She said the program was recorded and would be available on the chamber's YouTube channel.

"We try to be an avenue of information for what's happening because if there's an opportunity for businesses or individuals to get some of these jobs and these contracts that they are talking about with

the industry in our area, then we would like to help

provide that information," Clark said.

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DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
24	5:37	6:06	11:55	11:39
25	6:23	6:50		12:37
26	7:06	7:33	12:27	1:18
27	7:48	8:15	1:14	1:58
28	8:31	8:58	2:02	2:39
1	9:14	9:44	2:50	3:21
2	10:00	10:32	3:41	4:05
3	10:49	11:24	4:35	4:53

MOON PHASES

Full moon, Feb. 27 • last quarter, March 6

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