MUA OKs transfer of $205,000 to Lower Twp.

By BETTY WUND Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

VILLAS — The Lower Township Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) approved a resolution to pay a $205,000 deposit to the Township for the transfer of funds to the Lower Township government. Commissioner Bill Murphy cast the only dissenting vote. He said he was opposed to the transfer because he was concerned there would not be enough money for emergencies.

There was little comment from the public. The only comment from the public that was heard was from a Lower Township resident who requested that he be allowed to hear the motion and learn more about the benefit of the rate payers. The resolution came after talks between the MUA and Lower Township.

The shared services agreement with the Lower Township Fire Department was presented at the MUA’s March 23 meeting. The MUA is seeking to use the funds to pay the salaries of four new police officers for 2016. The township had agreed to those salaries. The resolution was agreed to and then asked to be put on the agenda for the next MUA meeting.

On April 2, the Lower Township Board of Commissioners approved the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The shared services agreement includes the following:

1. A joint police department.
2. Hiring four new police officers.
3. A $205,000 deposit to the Lower Township government.
4. The agreement would be for a one-year term.

The shared services agreement agreed upon go beyond acquiring the services for Avalon and Stone Harbor. The agreement would be for a one-year term and immediately after the election, the public would have the opportunity to vote and fill the seat.

The resolution passed in a 4-1 vote to ask the commissioners to vote on the resolution in a special meeting April 10 at the Municipal Building.

Wichterman sworn in to seat vacated by Inderwies

By JACK FICHTER Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council voted unanimously as a special meeting April 2 to appoint new Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman to fill a vacant seat created by the resignation of Jerry Inderwies Jr. last month.

Wichterman was chosen as a resident at a special meeting April 2 at City Hall. He will take the oath of office on April 6 and serve the remainder of the 2016 term.

At the start of the meeting, City Solicitor Tim Moso said according to state statutes, a governing body in a municipality chooses to fill a vacant council seat by special election if there is 10 days or less remaining in the term or by a special meeting in special elections.

No council members wanted to argue the case for a special election. He said council members were also given the option of removing the term from the ballot by removing 30 days from the date the seat becomes vacant.

If the seat was not filled within the 30-day period, the seat would remain vacant until the next general election. He said council members felt for the remainder of the 2016 term, the council needed to fill the seat.

“Whatever happens today, somebody will still have to run in the election to fill that seat,” he said. “That seat will not be filled by the voters for the remainder of the 2016 term. If this council chooses to remove the term from the ballot, then that person would take office.”

Councilwoman Brie Teveshag said she had a short list of possible candidates including Tom Carroll and Bill Heuser but they said they were not interested in serv-