

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 19, 2023 AT THE AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LAFAYETTE, NEW JERSEY

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following were present: Chairman Ronald Petillo, Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (remote), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Varro (remote), Comptroller Timothy Day, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Wallkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Mary Legg

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Petillo stated that the meeting has been duly advertised, and notice given thereof, as required by P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Petillo opened the meeting to public comment. No public present, Mr. Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo asked if there were any changes to the Final Agenda, there were none. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the April 5, 2023 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Cocula moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Meyer. The motion passed.

There are no minutes for approval or distribution for this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 10 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Matters, U.W. Nitrate Permit Project, Personnel Matters, Employee Accident.

**#23-097** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Matters, U.W. Nitrate Permit Project, Personnel Matters, Employee Accident.

b. Wastewater Program

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported that the Sussex Borough Force Main Replacement Project and noted that final meeting held and all punch list items are completed, and equipment has been removed off Authority property. One more section to complete for final project completion.

### **Chief Engineer's Report**

Mr. Sesto gave a update on septage receiving policy, since march 31<sup>st</sup> no heavy grease loads, and appreciated the continued support. He met with Septic Experts and they are trying to resolve their grease issues.

### **Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak reported on the Earth Day event, which will be held tomorrow on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Five different schools will be attending (220 students) rotating through 6 different stations. All participating organizations work well together on this event, and it will be the first time in the new format/area of the facility.

c. Solid Waste Program

### **Solid Waste Superintendent**

Mr. Morris report on the E-Waste Event held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, with 800 vehicles participating. No tonnage to report to date, 10 towns and schools participated on Friday. Three trailer loads taken off site.

### **Chief Engineer's Report**

Mr. Sesto gave a update on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, and Tomco continued with Phase 4 final grading and installation of liner, as well. The pump station foundation is almost complete and they are installing a generator at the Residents' Convenience Center.

d. General Authority Business

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reminded Commissioners and Attorneys and Departmental Staff to file their Financial Disclosure Statements by the end of April 2023 to the Division of Local Government Services.

e. Personnel Matters

**Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Morris requested a motion to accept the retirement notice from Russell Teague after 34 years of service to the Authority. Commissioner Cocula moved to accept Mr. Teague’s retirement, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen (stepped out of the room during vote), Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Mr. Morris and Counsel recommended to give Solid Waste Employee another week to respond to Mr. Morris’ request regarding intent of continuation of employment at the Authority, if no response, he shall be dismissed. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to give SW Employee an additional week to respond to Mr. Morris, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion passed.

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reported on a request for an intermittent Leave of Absence for 30 days for an Administrative Employee for a personal illness. A resolution was prepared for administrative employee MN7298. Commissioner Cocula moved the appointing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

**#23-098** RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR MEDICAL REASONS” FOR THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD FOR MN7298

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Petillo asked for a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA). On roll call:

Res #23-098 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN		x	x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT			x			

**#23-099** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Executive Director a speedy recovery.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary