

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 5, 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, 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 Tara Kronski

Absent: Executive Director Varro; Commissioner Meyer

Also in Attendance: Eric Wilson of Wilson Septic

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. Mr. Eric Wilson, President of Wilson Enterprises addressed the Board and reviewed the history of his company and relationship with the Authority. He discussed the surcharge invoice he received due to a heavy grease load recently dumped at the Upper Wallkill Water Pollution Treatment Plant (UW). Mr. Wilson's issue is with the procedure to classify a heavy grease load (surcharged) vs. acceptable load at the UW. He presented pictures of loads with varying grease contamination, noting most loads contain grease. Commissioners reviewed septage receiving policy and reasons for surcharges, which were put in place due to heavy grease loads that cause operating issues and extra manpower at the UW Plant. Questions and answer session ensued, and the Commissioners noted they shall discuss further in Executive Session and have Mr. Sesto report back to Mr. Wilson. Mr. Sesto noted other haulers have been fined, and have either paid or changed their procedures before disposal at the UW Facility. Mr. Wilson left the room at 3:27 p.m.

Mr. Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo asked if there were any changes to the Final Agenda, Comptroller Day noted to remove the Personnel Matter from Closed Session. Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Finkeldie moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the March 15, 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 Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Madsen moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes from the February 1, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Cocula moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes from the February 15, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion passed.

No minutes were distributed to the Commissioners for their review at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8), 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, Upper Walkkill Septage Receiving Policy and Upper Walkkill Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage Rates.

#23-095 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8), 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, Upper Walkkill Septage Receiving Policy and Upper Walkkill Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage Rates.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the Sussex Borough Force Main Replacement Project and indicated that the project final grading and hydroseeding completed. Final restoration meeting scheduled for next month.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto noted Mr. Wilson discussed septage receiving issue regarding grease/surcharge during the public comment portion earlier in the meeting.

Watershed Director’s Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on the Rain Garden Workshop and indicated that there were 40 lake communities residents participated in a virtual workshop from 6 different lakes in Paulinskill Watershed Area. They are learning how to create a rain garden on their property. 18 of those homeowners signed up with a one-on-one lesson with Rutgers to create their own design plant for a rain garden. WRWVG will help to refund the cost to construction depending on the design plans through grant funding.

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reported on wastewater data through end of March 2023. Sludge is at 26% of projected budget and Septage is at 19%, both are under projections, but is it early in the year. Hauled Sewage is at 38% of above budget projections, 20% for overall categories. He reported that there have been only one connection fee this year, however an \$82,000 connection fee is pending for a development in Franklin Borough.

c. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent

Mr. Morris reminded the Commissioners that the first E-Waste Event of 2023 shall be held on April 15, 2023 and staff has been preparing and coordinating with vendor ERI.

Chief Engineer’s Report

Mr. Sesto gave a status report on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, and indicated that the contractor has completed hydroseeding, and driveway striping and has started the foundation of the phase 4 pump station. They will also begin to lining for Phase 4 cell.

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reported that tonnage is down 1.0% compared to the same time period last year (Dec 1 – Mar 31). Revenues are down \$29,000.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reported that all Commissioners and Attorneys and Departmental Staff need to submit their Financial Disclosure Statements by the end of April 2023 to the Division of Local Government Services.

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 #23-096 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	x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

#23-096 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public in attendance.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners thanked staff for their efforts with Landfill Expansion Project which is coming along nicely.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Meyer and excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioners wished all a very Happy Easter.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:10 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary