

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2021 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 1:30 p.m.

The following were present: Chairman Meyer, Vice Chairman Drake, Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Wesley, Dabinett, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Finkeldie

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Meyer 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 Meyer opened the meeting to public comment. No public in attendance. Chairman Meyer closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Executive Director Varro requested to remove the Resolution under Chief Engineer's Wastewater Report for stormwater/septage receiving area contract award. Commissioner Drake moved the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cocula moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the July 21, 2021 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioners Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Drake motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the June 2, 2021 and the June 16, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

There were no meeting minutes distributed at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 1:32 p.m. Commissioner Cocula 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 Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/VTMUA Litigation, Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project #551 and Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project #446, Rails to trails, and Personnel Matters.

#21-155 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:52 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Vernon Township/VTMUA Litigation, Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project #551 and Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project #446, Rails to trails, and Personnel Matters. When the need for confidentiality of these matters no longer exists, they will be opened to the public.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Phillips reported that the Homestead Plant had an issue with an inner clarified ring, it was clamped and repaired. He noted this was the eleventh ring/clamp installed at the plant. It was reported that correspondence will be sent to the County to get confirmation to move forward with the drainage of the plant to further inspect, which was previously scheduled. Mr. Sesto noted 6 weeks ago the SCMUA requested an overall project schedule from the County's Consulting Engineers for the plan for the plant, and we have not received the detailed timeline with milestones for this plant project.

Mr. Phillips reported on a lightning strike at the Upper Walkkill Facility on a JCP&L Line. Mr. Phillips was soliciting quotes from local contractors for the repairs and replacement of aging poles. Discussion re: reviewing program to replace a few at a time. He will report back with quote information at the next meeting.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the improvements to the Hamburg Pump Station, previous authorization was given for the contract/project for \$30,000 with Rapid Pumping Systems. During the work, it was discovered that 2 of the existing pumps are beyond repair and need to be replaced. As part of the current contract with Rapid Pump, the additional pumps will total \$111,687.42. Mr. Sesto asked for a motion to amend the contract to include the 2 pump replacements for \$111,687.42, with funds confirmed available to proceed. Commissioner Drake moved amendment to the contract, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Dabinett. The motion passed.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the Electronic Waste Event held on July 24, 2021, contractor was ERI and handled the customer flow, 688 vehicles. 22 tons of E-Waste was collected. An additional 9 tons collected over the past three months were also taken off site by the Vendor. Also, Mr. Morris reported that 68 lbs. worth of cell phones were collected for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program.

Mr. Morris reported that the Mason Dump was received after being ordered in December, he will provide photos at the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported on the Bond Funding Sale for the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, which included the \$6 million portion of ineligible I-Bank portion of the funding. The percentage rate was 2.32%, and is considered a small amount for the 30 year period. An update was given for the Construction/Expeditor position candidate, of whom is currently out of the office due to medical reasons. Mr. Varro will report back to the Board with further information when it becomes available.

Chief Engineer's Report

Chief Engineer Sesto reported, as discussed in Executive Session, a resolution to authorize change orders for Contract #446 due to unanticipated/differing site conditions. All have been reviewed/approved by SCMUA staff and Construction Review Committee as necessary and reasonable for project completion for an overall increase of \$410,978.79. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

#21-156 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDERS TO SCMUA CONTRACT NO. 446, TOMCO CONSTRUCTION INC.

Mr. Sesto reviewed the resolution to approve Change Orders to Contract #551 for the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, which have been reviewed/approved by SCMUA staff and Construction Review Committee as necessary and reasonable for project completion for an overall increase of \$1,163,584.24. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#21-157 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDERS TO SCMUA CONTRACT NO. 551, TOMCO CONSTRUCTION INC.

Mr. Sesto gave a update on the project status for the Leachate Pump Station/ Force Main Project (#446) and noted 2200 linear feet of pipe has been installed, to date and the Route 94 portion is almost complete. Completion date is anticipated to be early November.

Mr. Sesto indicated that the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project (#551) is moving along with the installation of the retainage wall, and the continuation of processing fill. Tomco presented a project schedule that was until March 2022, however constructor/inspector from ARM is keeping track of critical path items and adjustments made in work schedule for 12 hour days.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on Tonnages for December 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021, and compared to the same time period for FY2020, tonnages up 2.6%. Revenues are up \$46,000.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Varro reported that the County Commissioners have indicated that they have a Proclamation for the Authority's 50th Anniversary. County Commissioner Fasano will present the proclamation to the Authority at the celebration event at 3:00 today.

Mr. Varro presented a memento to Commissioner Petillo from Staff of a portion of "Ron's Rock". The plaque read, "There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. They will be stumbling blocks or stepping stones; it all depends on how you use them."

Commissioner Cocula noted that the Senator's Office will be attending the 50th Anniversary Celebration, which will be recognized in the NJ General Assembly.

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips presented a resolution for a 60 day leave of absence for medical reasons for a wastewater employee, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#21-158 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION GRANT A 60 DAY "OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A PERSONAL ILLNESS" FOR MC7435

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris presented a resolution related to discussions in Executive Session regarding a request for an extension of a Leave of Absence for personal illness. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#21-159 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND "OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR PERSONAL ILLNESS, FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90-DAY PERIOD" FOR EMPLOYEE RF7982

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

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

Res #21-160 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN		x	x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
MEYER			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE						x
DABINETT			x			

#21-160 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Finkeldie an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

11. ADJOURN

At 2:20 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary