

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2020 AT THE AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LAFAYETTE, NEW JERSEY

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

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

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

*Attended the meeting remotely due to State Executive Orders regarding COVID-19.

Absent: Commissioner Finkeldie

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Drake stated that the meeting has been duly advertised, and notice given thereof, as required by P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. (Call-in information was noticed prior on website for public participation.)

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Drake opened the meeting to public comment. No public present. He closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Drake asked for a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Commissioner Madsen moved the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda prepared due to 2 business days between meetings.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the November 25, 2020 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Freeholder Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Perez motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

No minutes approved or distributed at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:03 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake noted the Closed Session should be approximately 15-20 minutes and discussions shall include: *SXLE Spill-Release at SW Facility, and Personnel Matters.*

#21-001 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: *SXLE Spill-Release at SW Facility, and Personnel Matters.*

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Superintendent reported on the Sussex Borough Pump Station, which was quickly overrun due to the rain event on Monday, November 30th, with 28 loads hauled to the Upper Wallkill. On Tuesday, a three inch crack was discovered in the force main on Route 23 by the Wantage Town Center, which resulted in another 48 loads, UW Staff was on site until 8pm, 11 hours of OT. Mr. Phillips reported Sussex Borough continues to have high I&I issues, flows were as follows: Sunday 186,800 gallons, Monday 768,500 gallons and Tuesday 647,100. Commissioners discuss history of Sussex Borough's Inflow and Infiltration and the effect on the UW Facility, including handling flows within permit limits, staff overtime and constant pipe breaks.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the total revenues for FY2020, which ended on November 30th. Sludge revenues received were 125% of anticipated projections, Septage was 123%. Hauled Sewage totaled 60% of projected totals, and Mr. Day noted he adjusted the FY2021 budget to reflect trend. Connection fees totaled \$388,900, which is a substantial increase over budget projections for the fiscal year.

c. Solid Waste Program

Executive Director/Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro gave a report on a status meeting held with the NJDEP and I-Bank, also with Authority Bond counsel and Staff regarding financing of the Landfill Life Extension/Infrastructure Relocation Project. The NJDEP and I-bank's interpretation is that the relocation portion of the project does not qualify for eligible program financing. Mr. Varro noted the relocation of certain infrastructure is required to construct this phase of landfill, and has been noted on the project's introduction in January and various submittals throughout 2020. Alternate sources of financing were discussed, including self-funding, Notes/Bonds. Mr. Varro indicated that after we know their final decision, the SCMUA can proceed with other options.

Comptroller’s Report

Comptroller Day reported on the Solid Waste Tonnages and Revenues for the complete FY2020, which ended on November 30, 2020. There is a 1.4% increase compared to last year’s FY2019 tonnage, however revenues have decreased. It was noted tonnage has been higher in recent years, compared to the last 11 years when there was no flow control in the County.

e. Personal Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent

Mr. Morris reported that he received another request for an extension of a leave of absence which was discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Dabinett moved authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0), Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#21-002 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND “OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY FOR PERSONAL ILLNESS, FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90 DAY PERIOD” FOR CW0228

Executive Director/Chief Engineer’s Report

Mr. Varro referred to Closed Executive Session discussions and presented and prepared a resolution for end of the year personnel actions including salary adjustments, and promotions for SCMUA employees. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Petillo. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Meyer, Dabinett; Abstain (1) Commissioner Perez. The resolution passed.

#21-003 RESOLUTION RE: FY2021 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR SCMUA EMPLOYEES

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

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

Res #21-004 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ		x	x			
DRAKE			x			
MEYER			x			
PEREZ			x			
FINKELDIE						x
DABINETT			x			

#21-004 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 (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Dabinett asked for an update on the irate contractor reported on at the November 25, 2020 Meeting. It was noted that correspondence is being prepared to hand deliver to the contractor's office.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary