

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 17, 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, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Varro, Comptroller Timothy Day, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol (via telecom), and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak

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 added Wastewater Superintendent Report re: discussion regarding UW Grease to Closed Session Agenda. Executive Director Varro requested to add Solid Waste Superintendent Report discussion re: gas company request in Open Session. Commissioner Dabinett moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. 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 May 3, 2023 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Madsen moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Dietz moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for both the March 1, 2023 and March 15, 2023 Authority Meetings, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the April 5, 2023 and April 19, 2023 Authority Meetings have been distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 12 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Litigation, U.W. Nitrate Permit Litigation and Plant Project, Phase 2 North Berm Cap, Septage Grease and Personnel Matters.

#23-103 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:42 p.m. Commissioner Meyer 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 Litigation, U.W. Nitrate Permit Litigation and Plant Project, Phase 2 North Berm Cap, Septage Grease and Personnel Matters.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported on the Franklin Pump Station Upgrade. Rapid Pump and Meter, and Pumping Services are beginning to gather equipment and supplies for upgrade and shall begin in 2-3 weeks.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the Treatment Works Approval Application was received for the Homestead Plant to be converted to a pumping station. A resolution was prepared for conditional endorsement of TWA upon satisfactory response of SCMUA review comments. Commissioner Drake moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioners Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-104 RESOLUTION RE: CONDITIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF TWA APPLICATION FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY HOMESTEAD WWTP CONVERSION TO A PUMPING STATION AND ASSOCIATED FORCE MAIN CONSTRUCTION

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Day reported on behalf of WRWVG Director Sajdak regarding a resolution authorizing the reimbursement of payment of grant funds to Halsted Middle School upon certification of project completion and approve by Rutgers Cooperative Extension-Water Resources Program. Also, noted release of funds National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the SCMUA for project layout and construction oversight for porous asphalt and tree trench project. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-105 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH HALSTED MIDDLE SCHOOL/NEWTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST WITH THE PROJECT LAYOUT AND CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT FOR A POROUS ASPHALT PROJECT IN THE SCHOOL'S FRONT PARKING LOT AND A TREE TRENCH PROJECT IN THE SCHOOL'S PAVED PLAYGROUND AREA

c. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the Leachate Storage Tank repairs and patches. An informal inspection was conducted and will provide a quote for the next steps to recondition the tank. The 25 year old tank will need to be emptied and cleaned in order to inspect the interior. Mr. Morris reviewed the process, and General Counsel Napolitano discussed public contracts laws for receipt of quotes. Mr. Day noted R&R Fund has funding for repairs. Commissioner Cocula motioned to approve solicitation of quotes for tank repairs, Commissioner Drake seconded. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Morris reminded the Commissioners that the Household Hazardous Waste Event is scheduled for June 3, 2023, and he has met with the vendor, MXI, for set up and coordination of event.

Mr. Morris reported on a request from the NJDOT and SKODA to have SCMUA store some of their equipment on site. Mr. Morris explained that it would be within the gated solid waste facility and would not be accessible during off work hours. A hold harmless insurance certificate should be requested, and Commissioners agree to request.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, and noted ALCO is working on landfill liner and they have finished the walls and the foundation of pump station. Discussion regarding planning of official grand opening ceremony for project, and where to host on site.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day presented a resolution listing equipment from both wastewater and solid waste that is no longer in service and not needed for further public use. Discussion re: auction vs. trade options. Commissioner Cocula moved resolution, Commissioner Drake seconded. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-106 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) SOLID WASTE AND UPPER WALLKIL FACILITY PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE THROUGH GOVDEALS PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris requested a motion to authorize a leave of absence with pay for Solid Waste Employee KB0941 to care for a family member. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-107 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD FOR KB0941

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution to authorize a two month leave of absence for Solid Waste Employee RT8942 for a personal illness. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-108 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A TWO(2) MONTH “OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A PERSONAL ILLNESS” FOR RT8942

Mr. Morris reviewed a Declaration of Appreciation resolution for Russell Teague who will be retiring on May 31, 2023 after 32 years at the Solid Waste Facility. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-109 RESOLUTION RE: DECLARATION OF APPRECIATION TO RUSSELL TEAGUE

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 #23-110 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER		x	x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT			x			

#23-110 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners congratulated long time employee, Russell Teague on his retirement.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary