

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON AUGUST 2, 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, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Comptroller Timothy Day, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto

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 Agenda, Mr. Varro requested removal of Personnel Items from the Regular Agenda and also to move the Closed Session to the end of the Business Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. 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 July 18, 2023 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Dietz moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Dietz moved to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2023 and June 20, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0); Abstain (2). Commissioners Wesley and Meyer abstained for the June 20, 2023 minutes due to absences at that meeting. The motions carried.

No minutes were distributed to the Commissioners at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

- a. Executive Session  
(moved to end of Business portion of the Agenda)
- b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips gave a status report on the Franklin Pump Station Project. Construction is ongoing. The header piping has not arrived onsite, but should be completed by next week once it arrives.

The Hamburg Pump Station generator ongoing. It is anticipated to get it commissioned by the beginning of next week.

**Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak reported the stewardship day held at Crandon Lakes, which brought together 30 residents/volunteers within the lake community to plant over 50 trees and shrubs. Also performed litter clean up, which was a large turnout on a hot day, and was very successful project

- c. Solid Waste Program

**Solid Waste Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reported on the Styrofoam densifier purchase from Foamcycle. The asking price at \$25,000 was initially deemed to be too high, and Mr. Morris made a counter offer which was accepted. The negotiated amount was for \$20,000, and the Commissioners agreed to the purchase to make Styrofoam processing more efficient for staff.

Mr. Morris reported that the Maintenance Staff informed him that one of the Peterbilt Tractors is in need of an engine. The price for a new engine and repairs off site was approximately \$45,000. Mr. Morris indicated that the Maintenance Staff have the skills and experience to rebuild with parts for less than \$20,000. Commissioners discuss the overall condition of the tractor and agreed with the recommendation to have on site staff make repairs which should provide for an additional 5-7 years of life.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Varro reported on the Landfill Life Extension Project, which is almost complete. He noted the items to be finalized.

Mr. Varro reviewed resolutions to amend current Professional Services Contract with ARM Group for SW Engineering Consulting Services for unforeseen Landfill Life Expansion Project overages, including lab testing, leak detection, etc. An additional resolution was prepared for engineering consulting services with ARM for the permanent cap design of the North Berm Slope portion of the Landfill Life Expansion Project. Commissioner Cocula moved both resolutions to amend and execute the Professional Service Contracts with ARM, Commissioner Drake seconded. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolutions passed.

**#23-126** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARM GROUP TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND ON-SITE INSPECTION SERVICES

RELATIVE TO THE LIFE EXTENSION/INFRASTRUCTURE  
RELOCATION PROJECT #551

**#23-127** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARM GROUP TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND ON-SITE INSPECTION SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE NORTHERN SLOPE PERMANENT CAPPING SYSTEM CHANGE ORDER PORTION OF THE LIFE EXTENSION/INFRASTRUCTURE RELOCATION PROJECT #551

Mr. Varro gave a status update on the Leachate Pump Station operations, and reviewed the issue with the low flows caused by sediment build up. The pipe was flushed out, however, it continues to collect sediment in one section of the pipeline during low flows. Consultations with design engineer to solve issue. A new larger pump may need to be installed to keep the flow moving through to avoid settlement. Presently, regular flushing of the pipeline area will be done as maintenance of the pipeline to avoid build up.

e. Personnel

Mr. Morris reported that he received a notice of retirement/resignation letter from Solid Waste Employee Ronnie Teague who has worked for the Authority for 19 ½ years, effective August 31, 2023. Mr. Morris requested a motion to accept and approve Mr. Teague’s retirement, and to also authorize to advertise for a replacement. Commissioner Drake motioned to approve Mr. Teague’s retirement and to post position, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motions passed.

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 #23-128 Financial Consent Agenda |     |     |     |     |         |        |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Commissioner                         | 1st | 2nd | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| MEYER                                |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| MADSEN                               |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| COCULA                               | X   |     | X   |     |         |        |
| DIETZ                                |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| PETILLO                              |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| DRAKE                                |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| WESLEY                               |     |     | X   |     |         |        |
| FINKELDIE                            |     | X   | X   |     |         |        |
| DABINETT                             |     |     | X   |     |         |        |

**#23-128** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

a. Closed Executive Session

At 3:27 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 (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 20 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA, U.W. Nitrate Permit, and Personnel Matter.

**#23-129** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:55 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. 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, U.W. Nitrate Permit, and Personnel Matters.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Mr. Dietz a Happy Birthday, and thanked him and the Personnel Committee for their efforts regarding the Executive Director position.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary