

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JUNE 20, 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 Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Varro, Comptroller Timothy Day, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, 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: Commissioners Wesley and Meyer

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

Commissioner Dietz moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the June 7, 2023 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Finkeldie moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for both the May 3, 2023 and May 17, 2024 Authority Meetings, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

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

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 Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (7), 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 Litigation, U.W. Nitrate Permit Litigation, and Personnel Matters.

**#23-117** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:25 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7), 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 Personnel Matters.

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Wastewater Superintendent Phillips noted that the Annual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been completed and sent to the NJDEP.

Mr. Phillips reported on the status of the Franklin Pump Station Project and the contractor is pouring concrete for PS Nos. 1 & 2. Also, they will take the next few weeks to replace conduits.

**Chief Engineer's Report**

Mr. Sesto reported on the bid opening for Contract #23-05 for Ferric Chloride Delivery for the Upper Wallkill Plant. The low bid was from Coyne Chemical for \$3.0106 per gallon, and the bid was reviewed by Counsel and recommended for award. A resolution has been prepared to award contract, Commissioner Madsen made the motion to authorize award resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Dabinett; The resolution passed.

**#23-118** RESOLUTION RE: AWARD OF CONTRACT NO. 23-05 FOR FERRIC CHLORIDE SOLUTION DELIVERY

**Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak gave an update on the Paulinskill Facility planned activities, in conjunction with the USF&WS, which will be providing excavation equipment for the wetlands. The project will include analogs of beaver dams and habitat enhancements. Mr. Sajdak also reported that WRWMG Outreach Coordinator Kristine Rogers represented the Authority/WRWMG at the NJ Corporate Wetlands, and secured \$25,000 in funding to implement floating wetland islands at both the Fairview Lake-YMCA and Princeton/Blairstown Center.

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage for the month of May 2023. Septage is at 35% of the anticipated budget, Sludge is at 34%, and Hauled Sewage is at 72% which is higher than anticipated. Connection fees are ahead of budget expectations at 69% for the fiscal year.

#### c. Solid Waste Program

### **Solid Waste Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reported on a plastic bag recycling pilot program with Trex Decking. The Recycling Center is currently accepting plastic bags/film and other qualifying plastic types for recycling. After 500 lbs. of plastic bags are collected, it is sent to Trex and a bench is sent in return which was subsequently donated. Mr. Morris reported the SCMUA donated the first bench to the Veterans' Cemetery on Route 94 in Sparta. The second bench will be similarly donated.

Mr. Morris reported on the Flag Retirement Ceremony, organized by the SCMUA and held on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans' Cemetery on Route 94 in Sparta. The following organizations participated in the ceremony, including Daughters of the American Revolution, local American Legions, the Franklin Band, and Salute Honor Guard. Also, SCMUA Staff Veterans also took part.

### **Chief Engineer's Report**

Chief Engineer Sesto updated the Commissioners on the status of the Landfill Expansion Project, and the Contractor and Alcoa (subcontractor) are working on Phase 4 liner, placing stone, etc. Electrical work being done on Phase 4 Pump Station, and guiderail installation.

Mr. Sesto reviewed Project #551 (Landfill Life Expansion Project) latest Change Orders for installation of safety guiderails and further safety code necessities (i.e. exit/emergency lighting). Construction Review Committee has approved and deemed these changes necessary for project completion for an additional cost of \$303,149.15. A resolution was prepared for authorization thereof, Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Dabinett; The resolution passed.

**#23-119** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 193 TO SCMUA CONTRACT NO. 551 – STAGE 2 LANDFILL EXPANSION, TOMCO CONSTRUCTION, INC.

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on tonnage and revenue, which are down compared to the same time period as last year (Dec – May), noting Tonnage is down 1.1%, and Revenues are down \$41,000.00. So far, the month of June is showing higher volumes.

d. General Authority Business

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day prepared a resolution to write off bad debts that are deemed uncollectable after multiple efforts to contact customer. There are \$406.85 worth of bad debt for the Solid Waste Facility from 2020-2022. The debts are associated with two instances of the SCMUA scale system/charge card stations being inoperable. Commissioner Madsen, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#23-120** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TREASURER TO DELETE BAD DEBTS DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES WITH THE SOLID WASTE SCALE CREDIT CARD MACHINES

Mr. Day reported on the results of the recent auction, in which \$98,585.00 was collected for 8 pieces of equipment.

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 #23-121 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER						x
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ		x	x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY						x
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT			x			

**#23-121** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioners Meyer and Wesley excused absences, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioners also gave praise to Kristine Rogers on her efforts to secure grant funding for continued WRWMG projects.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Cocula, Secretary