

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JUNE 7, 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 (via telecom), Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Also in Attendance: Solid Waste Employee Edward Deiterle

Absent: Comptroller Day, Chief Engineer 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 added discussion re: Vernon Litigation to Closed Session Agenda. Executive Director Varro requested to move Personnel Discussion to the top of the Closed Session Agenda to accommodate Mr. Deiterle. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie 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 17, 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 Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the April 5, 2023 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1). The motion passed.

Commissioner Drake moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the April 19, 2023 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. The motion passed. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the May 3, 2023 and May 17, 2023 Authority Meetings have been distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

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 was seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 25 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Litigation, U.W. Nitrate Permit Litigation, Phase 2 North Berm Cap, Septage Grease and Personnel Matters.

#23-111 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:07 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8), 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, Landfill Life Expansion-North Berm Cap, and Personnel Matters.

Commissioner Meyer left the meeting during Closed Session at 4:00 p.m.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported on the utility pole replacement project, and indicated that 6 additional poles have been installed along the UW Plant entrance road. A total of 18 have been completed, with 12 more to be installed within the next two years.

Mr. Phillips indicated that the Franklin Pump Station Force Main Project is going well and noted there is no need for temporary bypass for the pumping, due to a split wet well.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reviewed his project for the Long Pond School rain garden with the assistance of the Andover DPW. The project was a success with the participation of the students to help with construction of the garden. It was a good community effort.

Mr. Sajdak reported on the expanding grant funding for the replacement of ash trees, due to the destruction of them by the emerald ashborer beetles. There are certain criteria to be met regarding participation and receipts. Over 48 trees have been replaced.

c. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Morris reported that 600 vehicles accessed the Solid Waste Facility for the June 3rd Household Hazardous Waste Event. There were no issues and the final cost was approximately \$34,248 from vendor MXI Environmental Services.

Mr. Morris was happy to report that a customer stopped by the Administrative Office to compliment the staff at the Residents' Convenience Center and Recycling Center. The customer noted how pleasant and helpful the staff is each time she comes in.

Mr. Morris reported that an accident occurred with a customer's dump trailer. Our employee was assisting to unload when a piece of wood got jammed in the track of the trailer. The trailer was damaged and an incident report was created and the customer will file a claim with his insurance.

Mr. Morris reminded the Commissioners, that there is a Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled for June 14, 2023 at 10:00am at the Veterans' Cemetery on Route 94. All are welcome.

Chief Engineer's Report

Executive Director Varro reported on behalf of Mr. Sesto re: the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, and noted that training shall be held for the new paradigm system at the CRC. Phase 4 pump station framing is complete and electrical controls are being installed. Contractor is also processing stockpile of stone for crushing. Project completion set for August 18, 2023.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reviewed a resolution to appoint a Health Benefits Consultant to reduce costs, interpret plans and evaluate claims data. Commissioner Madsen moved resolution, Commissioner Drake seconded. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The resolution passed.

#23-112 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A HEALTH BENEFITS CONSULTANT TO EVALUATE THE AUTHORITY'S EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

Mr. Varro reported a resolution was prepared for Commissioners' authorization to dispose of certain HR records that have been approved by the State of NJ Records Management. (Request #592737). Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-113 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS SCMUA RECORDS

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris requested a motion to accept the resignation of Solid Waste Attendant Kylie Ressler who has been on an extended LOA. A letter of resignation was received. Commissioner Dabinett moved to accept the resignation, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Mr. Morris referred to Closed Session discussions regarding employment needs, and asked for a motion to promote current part-time employee Shane Dediminicantanio to full-time site attendant. Commissioner Drake moved to authorize the promotion. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Mr. Morris also recommended promoting Daniel Zito from part-time to full-time site attendant. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorization to promote Mr. Zito, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes(8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Mr. Morris requested authorize for an intermittent leave of absence for Solid Waste Employee MS7461 to care for a family member. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-114 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT AN OFFICIAL NINETY (90) DAY INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MS7461

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak requested a motion to hire a summer intern to assist with the local watershed programs. Commissioner Cocula moved authorization to hire summer intern, Alexandria Karanikas using grant funding. Commissioner Dabinett seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion resolution passed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro presented a resolution to reassign part-time administrative assistant, Mary Legg to full-time administrative assistant. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-115 RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF MARY LEGG FROM PART-TIME TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mr. Varro referred to closed session discussions and requested Commissioners to accept his retirement. Commissioners thanked Mr. Varro for his service to the Authority, Commissioner Drake moved the acceptance with regret, Commissioner Dietz seconded. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The motion 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 #23-116 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER						x
MADSEN			x			
COCULA	x		x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE		x	x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

#23-116 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners had no comments.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:25 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary