

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MARCH 20, 2024 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: Acting Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Thomas Madsen, Karl Meyer, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (remote), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Wallkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski.

Also in Attendance: Solid Waste Employee Rick Fredholm, Karen Sayer, Asst. Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Christopher Goul

Absent: Chairman Petillo and Comptroller Day

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.

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director Sesto requested to move Personnel Matters to the beginning of the business agenda, immediately after Closed Session. Commissioner Cocula moved the revised Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); 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 (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the March 6, 2024 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Cocula moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On roll call: Ayes (7) Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion passed.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes for both the February 21, 2024 and March 6, 2024 Meetings were 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 Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake noted the Closed Session should be approximately 16 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/Vernon Township MUA Litigation, and Personnel Matter.

#24-079 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:45 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. 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: Vernon Township/Vernon Township MUA Litigation, and Personnel Matter.

Personnel Matters

Executive Director Sesto presented a resolution, after Closed Session discussions to dismiss Solid Waste Employee. Commissioner Dabinett moved the resolution to terminate employee RF7982, Commissioner Cocula seconded. On roll call: Ayes (7) Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The resolution passed.

#24-080 RESOLUTION RE: TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT OF FULL TIME SITE ATTENDANT RF7982

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the septage hauling area has seen a significant reduction in grease loads since the cameras have been installed. Haulers received warnings and are aware of the cameras and surcharges.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on the Emerald Ash tree replacement program. Watershed Educational Outreach Coordinator Kristine Rogers had an online training session to participating lake communities, and there was a positive response with 100 residents responding for this program.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris reported on a proposed Operator Health and Safety Training Program to be held in partnership with the County. He reviewed programs available through CAT and Total Equipment Training. The training would be a combination of “classroom” and “hands on” learning. He will continue to gather information and work with County Officials to schedule.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the Stage 2 Expansion Project. The Contractor Area has construction has been completed other than final painting. Additionally, other minor punch-list items remain.

Mr. Sesto reported that a preconstruction meeting was held on March 15th for Contract #551B - North Cap Project with Tomco Construction. The contractor intends to mobilize as soon as weather permits.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported for Comptroller Day and reminded Commissioners and Staff that the County Clerk’s Office will be sending an email regarding information regarding Financial Disclosure Statement submittals.

e. Personnel Matters

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto and Personnel Committee Chairman Dietz noted that the Executive Director position filled by Mr. Sesto has completed its probationary period of six months. A salary adjustment is warranted and appropriate. A resolution was prepared for consideration, Commissioner Madsen moved said resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#24-081 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR JOSEPH SESTO, SCMUA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHIEF ENGINEER

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 #24-081 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA	x		x			
DIETZ			x			
DRAKE			x			
PETILLO						x
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
DABINETT			x			

#24-081 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Petillo an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

No further comments.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary