

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 3, 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: Chairman Ronald Petillo, Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Thomas Madsen, Karl Meyer, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (remote), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett (remote), Comptroller Timothy Day, 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

Absent: Executive Director 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 comment. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo added discussions regarding Construction Review Committee to the Closed Session Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Finkeldie 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 March 20, 2024 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Drake moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Petillo. The motion passed.

Commissioner Finkeldie moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the February 21, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the March 6, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (8) Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Madsen. The motion passed.

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

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 (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 15 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township Litigation, and Construction Review Committee.

#24-083 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:25 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 Litigation, and Construction Review Committee.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that on March 24th there was a break in the Sussex Borough Force Main in front of the Cow Patties Restaurant. This was break number 39 and was due to a hole in the side of the pipe. It was repaired. SCMUA sent the Borough an invoice for the overtime incurred due to overnight hauling operations as outlined in the FY2024 Rate Schedule.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on the US Fish & Wildlife funding that assisted in the planting of 3 acres of warm season grass at the Paulinskill WW Reclamation Plant in Branchville. The USF&W provided all the drills and the seed, and the plant growth has started. Mr. Sajdak also updated the Commissioners on the Emerald Ash Borer Tree Replacement Project, and 136 homeowners are participating through 6 different lake communities.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed Upper Wallkill data for the month of March 2024. He indicated that Sludge is at 29% of projections, Septage is at 28%, and Hauled Sewage is at 92%, which averages 28% overall. Connection fees through March total \$109,228, with no new connection fees for Paulinskill Facility.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on status of the Equipment Operating and Safety Training in cooperation with the County. He reviewed the company offerings and pricing. He noted that after the County submits their headcount, he will schedule the training.

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnage and revenues through March 2024. Tonnage is up 2.4% and revenues are up \$447,000 (13.57% increase).

Mr. Day referred to Closed Session discussions regarding the Construction Review Committee and SCMUA Construction Projects. Commissioner Cocula moved to authorize the Construction Review Committee (CRC), and/or its chairman, to make certain project management decisions and authorizations, including construction and engineering change orders, for both the Solid Waste and Wastewater Facilities, motion seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion passed.

Comptroller Day reminded the Commissioners and Staff to look for email from the County Clerk’s Office in regard to submitting the 2024 Financial Disclosure Statement.

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 #24-084 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
PETILLO			x			
WESLEY		X	x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

#24-084 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Jon Morris and John Wesley Happy Birthday!

11. ADJOURN

At 3:38 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary