

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 1, 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, John Wesley (remote), John Finkeldie, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, 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: Commissioners Wayne Dietz & Robert Dabinett

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

Executive Director Sesto requested to move Superintendent's Report on Solid Waste Homeowner Exemption to Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Drake moved the revised Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Finkeldie moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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 April 17, 2024 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Madsen moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the March 20, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Petillo. The motion passed.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the April 3, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the April 17, 2024 Authority Meeting were emailed 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 (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 25 minutes and discussions shall include: Hazen and Sawyer U.W. Nitrate Upgrades Project, Vernon Township, PFAS Regulations and Solid Waste Homeowner Exemption.

**#24-091** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 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: Hazen and Sawyer U.W. Nitrate Upgrades Project, Vernon Township, PFAS Regulations and Solid Waste Homeowner Exemption.

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported on the Emergency Generator Maintenance contract which is awarded through the Wastewater Cooperative to GenServe Inc.. This routine generator maintenance by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party will lead to longer generator life for the equipment as it ages.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reported that the engineering design from Hazen & Sawyer for the U.W. Nitrate Upgrade Project is 30% complete. I-Bank financing process ongoing.

Mr. Sesto reviewed the Laboratory Services proposal for the Upper Walkkill Facility. Garden State Labs submitted rates and was awarded the contract under Non-Fair and Open process for one (1) year. A resolution was prepared for award. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie. The resolution passed.

**#24-092** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) AND GARDEN STATE LABORATORIES, INC. FOR LABORATORY TESTING SERVICES AT WASTEWATER FACILITIES (CONTRACT #24-10)

### **Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak reported on the activities of the Wallkill River Watershed Group's for the past week. Over 700 trees have been planted with the assistance of 150 students. A school group will also be assisting with the implementation of floating islands at Swartswood State Park. He also indicated that an event at the Wildlife Refuge is being coordinated with the County Realtors Association.

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reviewed Upper Wallkill data for the month of April 2024. He reported that Sludge is at 42% of projections, Septage is at 38%, and Hauled Sewage is at 122%, which averages 38% overall anticipated for the fiscal year. Connection fees through April are \$487,891, well over anticipated for FY2024 for the Upper Wallkill Facility. Connection fees for the Paulinskill Facility are at \$2,953.00.

#### c. Solid Waste Program

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reported on the recent Earth Day Event at the Solid Waste Facility which was a big success. He recognized the WRWVG team, including Kristine Rogers and Nathaniel Sajdak, as well as Dawn Latincsics and Staff that did a phenomenal job with the setup, especially with the change in date due to weather. There were eight (8) stations that were attended by local school children grades 2-5 from around the County. Sammy the Seagull was a fan favorite. No facility operations procedures were affected as a result of the program.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reported on the Northern Permanent Cap Project. The Notice to Proceed was issued on March 14<sup>th</sup> to Tomco Construction. As of the date of this meeting, Tomco had not secured an agreement with their named subcontractor.

Mr. Sesto reported that he prepared a resolution to award Pace Analytical, Inc. a one (1) year contract for Solid Waste Laboratory Testing services. Commissioner Cocula moved the award resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie. The resolution passed.

**#24-093** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) AND PACE ANALYTICAL INC. FOR LABORATORY TESTING SERVICES AT THE SOLID WASTE FACILITY (CONTRACT #24-20)

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported that compared to the same time period, Dec. – Apr. 2023, tonnages are up 3.8% for 2024, revenues are also up totaling \$638,000 or 14.9%.

d. Authority General Business

**Executive Director**

Mr. Sesto informed the Board that starting May 21<sup>st</sup> a multi-factor authentication will need to be performed for SCMUA email accounts for security purposes. He distributed a handout with directions how to set up this security feature.

Mr. Sesto reported that he, Chairman Petillo, Vice Chairman Drake, Comptroller Timothy Day, and Operations Manager Mike Rathbun attended the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon this past week. The SCMUA won an award for Outstanding Customer Service which is a direct reflection on the staff. Commissioners recognized the SW staff for their hard work and positive interactions with customers.

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 #24-094 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ						x
DRAKE		x	x			
PETILLO			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT						x

**#24-094** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners congratulated staff on their Customer Service Award from the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioners Dabinett and Dietz an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary