

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 15, 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, Wayne Dietz, Andrea Cocula, John Wesley, 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 (via telecom), and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner 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

There are no changes/additions to the Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved the 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 Finkeldie. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the May 1, 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 (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The motion passed.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the April 17, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There were no minutes distributed at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:04 p.m. Commissioner Madsen 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 Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 19 minutes and discussions shall include: Nitrate, PFAS, Connection Fee Hardship Program, Force Main Site Request, Waste Management, and July Meeting Schedule.

#24-095 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:27 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. 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: Nitrate, PFAS, Connection Fee Hardship Program, Force Main Site Request, Waste Management, and July Meeting Schedule.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips gave an update on the emergency generators at the Homestead WW Facility. The County ordered a new transfer switch on May 7th for the facility. The ATS has a 4-6 week lead time. The emergency power transfer will be done manually until the installation is completed. Additionally, it was discovered by SCMUA staff that the Hampton Commons Facility's generator is not in suitable working order. The unit is still under warranty and a claim was filed with Foley (i.e. CAT distributor). The SCMUA portable backup generator is currently being used at the Facility.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on the tree planting event at the Wildlife Refuge is being coordinated with the County Realtors Association where over 250 trees were planted. He noted that the WRWVG has reached every corner of the County with their programs, including the installation of two floating islands at Swartwood State Park. Also the WRWVG conducted stewardship work at the Woodburn Park in Wantage with assistance from High Point High School students and Wantage DPW.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the first ever "Recycle More" Event that was held on May 11th. There were 133 vehicles that utilized the recycling vendors. Over 4.25 tons of recyclables were collected that included some of the following:

- Helpsy - 1000 lbs. for clothing, textiles, and stuffed animal recycling
- SK Shred - 1200 lbs
- Back Thru the Future and REI accepted e-waste and hard drives

Recycling Coordinator, Dawn Latincsics, organized the event, and hopes to get more attendees next year.

d. Authority General Business

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reported that Microsoft is requiring a double authentication identification application for all SCMUA emails. Contact himself or Mr. Sesto for any questions or problems downloading the application or signing into SCMUA email. Mr. Day also indicated that SCMUA staff standard daily computer users and Commissioners will be trained on cyber security.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto opened discussions on the July 3rd Commissioner Meeting, and Commissioners agree to cancel this meeting. Commissioner Cocula moved to cancel July 3, 2024 Commissioner Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

e. Personnel

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution to appoint part-time Solid Waste Attendant Tabitha Westerman, to full time as discussed in Closed Session. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-096 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLID WASTE FULL TIME SITE ATTENDENT TABITHA WESTERMANN

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 #24-097 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			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT						x

#24-097 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

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

11. ADJOURN

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary