

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JULY 17, 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, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Walkkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

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. OATH OF OFFICE

Special Counsel Prol administered the Oath of Office to Mario Poggi, appointed by the County Commissioners to an unexpired term through January 31, 2025.

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman requested a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

7. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the June 19, 2024 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 passed.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the June 5<sup>th</sup> & June 19<sup>th</sup> Authority Meetings were distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

8. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:03 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 40 minutes and discussions shall include: Nitrate Upgrades Project – Upper Wallkill, Closed Executive Session Commissioner Responsibilities, Audio/Video Upgrades for Commissioner Meeting Room and Personnel Item.

**#24-118** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:52 p.m. Chairman Petillo adjourned Closed Session.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Nitrate Upgrades Project – Upper Wallkill, Closed Executive Session Commissioner Responsibilities, Audio/Video Upgrades for Commissioner Meeting Room and Personnel Item.

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported on the status of the utility pole replacement project at Upper Wallkill. An additional eight (8) utility poles were replaced this year for a total of 18 from the start of the replacement program. There are 12 remaining poles to be replaced.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reviewed the process to obtain an Amendment to the Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan. The process is as follows: (1) SCMUA receives an application to endorse the Amendment, (2) the Sussex County wastewater PAC reviews and endorses the application, (3) Sussex County Board of Commissioners reviews and endorses the application, and (4) NJDEP reviews and approves the application. The NJDEP review can take 1-2 years. Mr. Sesto reported the process can be long, but the SCMUA's portion is generally quick barring any issues or concerns during the review process.

**Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak gave a status report on the recent AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Ethan Melniczek who has recently completed the program under the supervision of the WRWVG including 1700 hours of volunteer projects throughout the County. Mr. Sajdak noted that the SCMUA Watershed Ambassador program is only one (1) of three (3) active in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Sajdak also reported that Ms. Rogers and Ms. Latincsics will be representing the SCMUA/WRWVG at the County Fairgrounds, the display will be in the County Administration Building.

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on Sludge, Septage and Hauled Sewage through the end of June 2024. Sludge is at 60% of the anticipated budget, Septage is at 59%, and Hauled Sewage is higher than expected at 211%, overall 59%. Upper Walkkill connection fees total \$572,972.00 which are significantly over the projected budget. There have been no additional connections for the Paulinskill Wastewater Plant.

c. Solid Waste Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reported that the Compactor was out of service on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Foley Corp. inspected the machine and reported that there was a front differential failure. Parts were ordered totaling \$55,000. The SCMUA Maintenance Staff repaired the machine. Mr. Morris indicated the John Deere Dozer was also down due to coupling and brake failures. This machine is still under warranty and was transported to John Deere and is currently being repaired.

Mr. Morris reported on the Flag Retirement Ceremony that has been scheduled for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Veterans' Cemetery in Sparta. The Saturday date will hopefully be more accessible to Scouts, Veterans and the Public that wish to attend.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reported on the Stage 2 Expansion Project punch list and closeout items. There are two (2) minor items remaining on the list which are anticipated to be completed by the end of this week. There will be a resolution to release the retainage amount at the next Authority Meeting.

Mr. Sesto indicated that Tomco has mobilized for the Landfill Permanent North Cap Project. They have installed silt fencing and are tracking vegetation.

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on Tonnage and Revenues through June 2024. Tonnage is up 2.3% compared to the same time period in 2023. Revenues are also up \$856,000, or 13.3% in comparison to last year.

d. Authority General Business

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reminded the remaining Commissioners and Staff to take the Cyber Security training course which consists of three (3) award certificates. The courses are available through the end of July 2024.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reviewed a resolution prepared to award a contract for Audio/Video upgrades to the Commissioner Meeting Room. Two (2) quotes were received. It was recommended to award the contract to the low bid from CSAV Systems for \$36,109. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-119** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

e. Personnel

**Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Sesto reviewed resolution for consideration for promotion of Solid Waste Employee, Derek Becker. Commissioner Drake made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-120** RESOLUTION RE: PROMOTION TO SOLID WASTE HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I AND SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR DEREK BECKER

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 #24-120 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
POGGI					x	

**#24-121** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners congratulated newly appointed Commissioner Poggi.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:10 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary