

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON AUGUST 21, 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, 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. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. 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 August 7, 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) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The motion passed.

Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the July 17, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

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

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 16 minutes and discussions shall include: NJDEP Upper Wallkill Nitrate Permit Litigation, and Personnel Items.

#24-131 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Dietz moved to Closed Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. 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: NJDEP Upper Wallkill Nitrate Permit Litigation and Personnel Items.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the emergency generator automatic transfer switch replacement was completed at the County Homestead Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto gave a status report on the U.W. Nitrate Upgrade Project. The 60% engineering drawings are complete and were reviewed/comments on by SCMUA staff. Hazen and Sawyer reviewed and addressed all comments and questions. The Hardyston Code Official performed a site visit and reviewed applicable engineering drawings regarding local codes and classifications. Mr. Sesto indicated that the design schedule is on track for 90% completion November 2024. At that time, the plans shall be sent to the NJDEP for TWA review, the NJIB, and the NJ Comptroller's office.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reviewed the upcoming Fall restoration projects scheduled for the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group including a new rain garden in Crandon Lakes. Also, the restoration can begin at the old Culver Lake golf course with grants from Wildlife Nature Reserve plan.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported the attendants at the Recycling Center had the idea of creating a free library book swap. Mr. Morris indicated that many hardcover books come in for recycling and the cover must be separated from the pages in order to be recycled. With the creation of the book library, books can be put in or taken out to be used/read. The attendants will make sure all books are appropriate, and the area well kept. Commissioner Madsen moved to establish the book library at the Recycling Center, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the North Cap Construction Project. The biweekly meetings are being held with the Engineer, Contractor and SCMUA staff. He indicated that installation of gas venting sand and subsurface collection piping has begun. The liner installation subcontractor, ALCO, is scheduled to be on site on Monday, September 26th.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day prepared a resolution for a Solid Waste Budget Amendment to transfer funding between line items. Funding transferred from Salary to Seminars for upcoming training events. There is no overall increase in budget amount. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#24-132 RESOLUTION RE: AMENDING THE SCMUA'S FY2024 SOLID WASTE FACILITIES OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Day reviewed a resolution to auction two (2) Open Containers that are no longer needed for public use. The equipment shall be auctioned off at the best price through GovDeals.com. Commissioner Madsen moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#24-133 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) SOLID WASTE PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE THROUGH GOVDEALS.COM PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

d. Authority General Business

None

e. Personnel

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips presented a resolution regarding the promotion of Wastewater Employee Steven Braun for obtaining his S-1 License to become an Operator II. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#24-134 RESOLUTION RE: PROMOTION AND SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR STEVEN BRAUN

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Solid Waste Superintendent Morris received a resignation letter from Solid Waste Employee Alex Nielson. His last day will be September 4, 2024. Commissioner Drake moved to accept Mr. Nielson's resignation, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

Mr. Morris presented a resolution, as discussed in Closed Session regarding granting a nine-month “official intermittent leave of absence with pay” for solid waste employee WB4676. Commissioner Cocula made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-135 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A NINE MONTH “OFFICIAL INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY” FOR WB4676

Mr. Morris noted discussions in Closed Session that included the request of a three-month “Official Leave of Absence without pay” for employee ED6616. Commissioner Drake 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.

#24-136 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A THREE (3) MONTH “OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY” FOR ED6616

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reviewed a resolution for consideration to reassign Solid Waste Attendant Brendan Farence from part-time to full-time. Commissioner Dietz moved to approve this resolution, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-137 RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF BRENDAN FARENCE TO FULL-TIME SOLID WASTE SITE ATTENDANT

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 #24-138 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			

#24-138 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

None

11. ADJOURN

At 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Cocula, Secretary