

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 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 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 Gregory Randazzo, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Madsen, WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano

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 requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Dietz moved to approval thereof, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake 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 August 21, 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 Wesley. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There are no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the August 7, 2024 and the August 21, 2024 Authority Meetings were distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded

by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 13 minutes and discussions shall *include: Wastewater Solids Handling, Hampton Commons Effluent Permit, Updated COVID-19 Policy, and Personnel Items.*

**#24-139** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to Closed Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. 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: *include: Wastewater Solids Handling, Hampton Commons Effluent Permit, Updated COVID-19 Policy, and Personnel Items.*

b. Wastewater Program

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips noted that a new VacTruck was received and the Staff was trained on its operation and maintenance. This replaces the existing truck that was 25-year-old which is beyond its useful life.

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

Mr. Sesto reported that staff continues to work with Engineering Consultant, Hazen & Sawyer [Hazen] on the wastewater Facility Nitrate Upgrades. It was noted that Superintendent Phillips and Executive Director Sesto are scheduled to attend an Aqua Aerobics onsite seminar in Kansas City, MO from 9/18 – 9/20. The seminar will have detailed classes and a site visit to an Aqua Aerobics Facility that utilizes the Aqua Nereda process which is being proposed at the Upper Walkkill Facility.

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on budgeted revenues through August 2024. Septage collection is up to 77% of anticipated revenues, Sludge is at 74%, and Hauled Sewage is over expectations at 356%. No new connected fees for the month of August.

c. Solid Waste Program

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reminded Commissioners that the SCMUA Flag Retirement Ceremony will be taking place at the Sparta Veteran's Cemetery on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Scheduled to be in attendance for the Final Salute are local boy scout troops, Guard of Honor, Daughters of the American Revolution, the FS Band, and Mia Sanchez.

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

Mr. Sesto gave a status report on the North Cap Construction Project. The liner installation along the northern slope of the landfill is almost complete and Tomco continues to import and grade the drainage sand.

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reported on revenues and tonnages through August 2024. Tonnage is up 2% at 1,624 tons, and revenues are up 12.89%, which is aligned with anticipated totals for this time within the fiscal year.

d. Authority General Business

**Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Sesto reported that the electric generation aggregate bids shall be submitted on October 18<sup>th</sup> and the SCMUA is a member of the New Jersey Sewerage and Municipal Utility Authority Electrical Supply Aggregation He noted that electricity market is highly volatile and bid prices will not be guaranteed past 3:00 p.m. on the day that bids are accepted. A resolution was prepared to authorize the SCMUA Executive Director and/or Comptroller to accept or reject the bids by no later than 3:00 p.m. on bid day. Commissioner Cocula move the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-140** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING AN ENERGY AGENT CONTRACT WITH GABEL ASSOCIATES, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOSEPH SESTO, OR IN HIS ABSENCE, THE COMPTROLLER, TIMOTHY DAY, TO AWARD A CONTRACT AND/OR REJECT BIDS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JERSEY SEWERAGE AND MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY ELECTRICAL SUPPLY AGGREGATION

e. Personnel

**Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Morris presented two (2) resolutions to appoint part time site attendants to full time positions. Commissioner Drake moved both resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-141** RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF LOGAN FOSTER AS SOLID WASTE PART-TIME SITE ATTENDANT

**#24-142** RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER DICKINSON AS SOLID WASTE PART-TIME 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 #24-143 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			

**#24-143** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

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

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary