

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 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, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (telecom), 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

Absent: WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak

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 Final Agenda. Commissioner Finkeldie 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 Madsen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. 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 September 18, 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 roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0), Abstain (1) Chairman Petillo. The motion passed.

There are no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the September 4, 2024 and the September 18, 2024 Authority Meetings were distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 15 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Litigation, Vernon Township Water Quality Management Plan Amendment and Personnel Items.

**#24-150** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to Closed Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. 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 include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Litigation, Vernon Township Water Quality Management Plan Amendment and Personnel Items.

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported that the NJDEP conducted an annual inspection of the Hampton Commons Wastewater Treatment Facility on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The compliance officer reviewed files, took samples for lab testing; all was in order. Mr. Phillips is waiting for the final report. Mr. Sesto noted that an effluent Nitrate Limit is to become active on Spring 2025. SCMUA is working with One Water LLC to be proactive with this upcoming change in the effluent limit.

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported wastewater data through September 2024. Septage collection is up to 87% of anticipated revenues, sludge is at 81%, and hauled sewage is over expectations at 416%. There were no new connected fees for the month of September 2024. Connection fees are currently at 252% of anticipated revenues. The Paulinskill Facility added one connection fee bringing the total to \$5,906.00 for the year to date.

c. Solid Waste Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris reported that the Audio/Video Upgrades for the Commissioner Meeting Room are complete. SCMUA staff have utilized the new equipment during an internal training as well as during the SWANA O&M Landfill Gas class. The new equipment has worked great.

Mr. Morris gave an update on the upcoming Fall events at the Solid Waste Facility. The Electronic Waste Event will be held Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm. The Paper Shred event will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12pm. The bi-annual Hazardous Waste Event will be held Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7am – 2pm. He noted that schools are already reaching out to participate in Earth Day 2025; a tentative date is

set for April 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. There are two (2) tours scheduled for the month of October that include a plastic free promoting business from Sparta and Sparta Seniors Club. The Sparta and Sparta Seniors Club will be on-site on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto reported that the closing on the short-term loan for the North Cap Construction is scheduled for next week. The contractor is currently working on Phase 1 and 2 of the 3-phase project. Currently, they are placing the drainage sand. ALCO, the liner contractor, will be on site after Tomco completes the installation of the sand and piping.

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on revenues and tonnages through September 2024. Tonnage is up 2.1% at 1,837 tons, and revenues are up 12.77%, which is aligned with anticipated totals for this time within the fiscal year.

d. Authority General Business

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day prepared a resolution to extend a current contract with MicroComputer Consulting Group, Inc. for IT Cyber Security Services for the SCMUA. The original contract award was fair and open and had the option to extend the agreement. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-151** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MICROCOMPUTER CONSULTING GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) CYBER SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto recommended that the FY2025 Rate Hearing be held on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30. Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Cocula moved to advertise the FY2025 Rate Hearing on November 6, 2025 to begin at 3:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

e. Personnel

**Solid Waste Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution to reassign Recycling Coordinator Dawn Latincsics from full time to part time as per discussions in Executive Session. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#24-152** RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF DAWN LATINCSICS TO PART-TIME RECYCLING COORDINATOR

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 #24-153 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER		x	x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
POGGI			x			

**#24-153** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Dietz thanked Mr. Sesto and Mr. Phillips and Mr. Morris for their assistance on the recent Personnel issues.

11. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary