

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MARCH 5, 2025 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, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWMG Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Karl Meyer

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. County Commissioner Alan Henderson was in attendance. No comment from the public. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the 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 Wesley. 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 February 19, 2025 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 Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Chairman Petillo. The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the January 22, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Chairman Petillo. The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes for both the February 5TH & the February 19, 2025 Authority Meetings were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

Chairman Petillo moved the Executive Session to the end of the Business Agenda to accommodate public present.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that a break along the Sussex Borough Force Main was discovered on February 21st on Route 23 in front of Cow Patties Restaurant. This is the 41st break along this Force Main. The Borough requested that the Upper Wallkill Treatment Facility sewage drop-off area remain open after-hours such that they could continue to haul sewage while the repair was being made. The repair was completed around 8am the following morning. Discussions ensued on the reason for the constant breakage, and it was noted that Sussex Borough is gradually replacing sections throughout the Force Main.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on Rain Garden instructional workshops that were being conducted by the Watershed Group and Rutgers University. Two (2) online instructional workshops were held with 15-25 participants per session from local lake communities. Mr. Sajdak explained that they were previously registered and certain criteria and steps need to be taken to obtain a rebate to assist with the cost of the installation of the rain garden.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through February 2025. Septage volumes were at 12% of annual projections, Sludge volumes were at 20% of annual projections, and Hauled Sewage volumes were at 11% of annual projections. For February, the connection fees collected for the Upper Wallkill Plant are at \$119,601, and the Paulinskill Facility had no new connections.

c. Solid Waste Program

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through February 2025 for the Solid Waste Facility. Tonnage was down 1% compared to the same time last year. Revenues are up at \$2,740,086 for February 2025. It was noted that last year was a leap year and an additional day was tabulated compared to February 2025.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that the SCMUA has been awarded a Safety Excellence Award from Statewide Insurance for 2024 for constant commitment to Safety practices.

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips requested authorization to hire for summer seasonal assistance in the wastewater laboratory. Commissioner Madsen moved the authorization to hire for this position, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris requested authorization to advertise for 3-4 summer seasonal positions for solid waste site attendants. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorization to advertise to supplement staff in the summer months, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Morris reported that he received a resignation letter from part-time employee, Cassidy Giraldo, thanking the Authority for the opportunity. Commissioners wished Mr. Giraldo good luck in his future goals and position.

a. Executive Session

At 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Permit, Landfill Site Access Request, Hampton Commons Nitrate Permit.

#25-073 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:50p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close 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 included: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Permit, Landfill Site Access Request, Hampton Commons Nitrate Permit.

Executive Directors Report

After discussions in Executive Session, Commissioner Cocula moved to authorize Special Counsel Prol to file an appeal to the NJDEP Adjudicatory Hearing Decision for Hampton Commons stay of contested permit conditions. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

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 #25-073 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER						x
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
POGGI			x			

#25-074 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Meyer an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Commissioners wished Mr. Drake a Happy Birthday!

11. ADJOURN

At 3:53 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary