

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2022 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 Meyer, Vice Chairman Drake, Commissioner Petillo, Madsen*, Cocula*, Dietz*, Finkeldie*, Wesley*, Dabinett*, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day*, Solid Superintendent Jonathan Morris*, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips*, General Counsel John Napolitano*, Special Counsel Thomas Prol*, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

* Remote attendance

Also in Attendance: Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Edward Lyon, and Assistant Enforcement Officer Christopher Goul. (both left at 3:15 pm before Closed Session.)

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Meyer 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 Meyer opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment. Chairman Meyer closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Executive Director Varro requested to add Discussion re: E-Waste Recycling Update under Solid Waste Superintendent's Report, and to move the Solid Waste Enforcement 2021 report to the beginning of the business section of agenda before Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Drake moved the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cocula moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the January 5, 2022 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Drake motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. The motion passed.

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to open to the public, the Closed Session Minutes from January 17, 2018 to November 24, 2021 Authority Meetings, if reasons for confidentiality no longer exist. Commissioner Madsen made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the December 15, 2021 Authority Meeting were distributed for Commissioners' review.

7. BUSINESS

Solid Waste Enforcement 2021 Report

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Edward Lyon and Solid Waste Enforcement Assistant Christopher Goul gave a report on the County-wide Enforcement Program for 2021. The program consists of tracking haulers and containers to ensure they follow County Flow Control regulations, and dispose of debris at the Sussex County MUA. They documented 1704 containers, which is an increase of 424 from last year. Mr. Lyon reviewed the process of container checks and violation cases. Mr. Lyon reported that the "runners" program for unpaying customers has been successful, with the number of runners declining significantly since inception.

a. Executive Session

At 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Drake 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 Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 30-40 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/Vernon Township MUA, Upper Wallkill NJPDES Permit Appeal for Nitrate, Resident's suggestions, and Personnel Matters.

#22-017 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Vernon Township/Vernon Township MUA, Upper Wallkill NJPDES Permit Appeal for Nitrate, Resident's suggestions, and Personnel Matters. When the need for confidentiality of these matters no longer exists, they will be opened to the public.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips gave a status report on the Hamburg Pump Station Upgrade Project. He indicated that the contractor has begun to integrate the new system into the old system and completion should be mid or end of February.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro introduced a resolution for the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group to authorize the submission of a permit application to the NJDEP for wetland habitat enhancement activities at the SCMUA Paulinskill Plant property Frankford Township. A general wetlands permit is required to conduct the activities, resolution also authorized Executive Director and WRWVG Director to sign and all related documents. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, Commissioner Dabinett seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#22-018 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A FRESHWATER WETLANDS GENERAL PERMIT APPLICATION TO NJDEP SEEKING PERMISSION TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS WETLANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS AT THE SCMUA'S PAULINS KILL WASTEWATER FACILITY PROPERTY

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported that certain municipalities require the services of a Certified Professional Recycling Coordinator to certify their 2021 Recycling Tonnage Reports before submittal to the NJDEP. A resolution was prepared to authorize shared services agreements with those municipalities requesting this service for an amount of \$300.00. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#22-019 SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT(S) WITH VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CERTIFY AND SUBMIT THE 2021 RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO NJDEP

Mr. Morris reported on a customer's email with positive feedback regarding SCMUA staff at the Convenience Center and Recycling Center. She noted they are always helpful and cheerful, even in the hard weather conditions being outside.

Mr. Morris reported on an odor complaint from a resident on Route 15 whose property is adjacent to the SCMUA's. It was noted that the Authority has odor misters that help with migrating odors, however they are turned off during freezing temperatures because the spray nozzles become frozen and get damaged. Mr. Varro added that there is a plan to install additional landfill gas wells in the problem areas to capture odor causing gas. The landfill gas wells will be installed over the next week.

Mr. Morris reported that after evaluations by SCMUA Staff, it was decided to continue and extend the current agreement with Electronic Recycling, Inc. (ERI) for E-waste handling and disposal. It was indicated that daily drop-off of covered E-Waste shall be at no charge, uncovered shall be 20 cents per pound, and Events days shall be reduced from 4 to 2 per year. ERI currently, and will continue to pick up stored E-Waste on a weekly basis.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project progress, and the start up was scheduled for 10 am today, however it was delayed. The system was not ready for full automatic change over. The flow meters and chemical pumps were tested, staff received training on equipment. The control panel is almost complete, waiting on a few more instrumental equipment installations.

Mr. Sesto gave a progress report on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project, and indicated meetings are held weekly. The aggregate material has been scheduled for installation on the slopes for Tuesday. Certain areas still need to be completed, however contractor assured SCMUA that noted substantial completion milestone shall be met on February 6th, per contract.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported on the Aggregate Energy Bid that the SCMUA is included in for energy pricing. The current contract ends May 2022. SCMUA Energy Consultant, Gabel indicated that the market conditions are trending higher than previous, and new regulations regarding clean energy requirements have driven prices higher. It is projected to be 15-20% higher in energy generation, and 10-15% higher in electric delivery charges, as well. Mr. Varro will report back with results.

Mr. Varro reported that RFP/RFQs were solicited for Professional Services for 2022, and they were opened on January 14, 2022, and are being documented and reviewed. He noted IT services were new for this year, and RFPs were more complex and detailed. He reviewed the current firms for 2021 and those that were received. Proposal information will be forwarded to Commissioners for their review and appointments shall be made at the Annual Reorganization Meeting on February 2, 2022.

e. Personnel

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution for a request for an intermittent leave of absence for a Solid Waste Employee to care for a family member, as reported in Executive Closed Session. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#22-020 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR 3 MONTH PERIOD FOR JR0153

Mr. Morris presented a resolution to promote exemplary Solid Waste Employee Michael Sapsai from part-time to full-time to fill a job vacancy. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#22-021 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF SOLID WASTE FULL-TIME SITE ATTENDANT MICHAEL SAPSAI

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA).

Res #22-022 Financial Consent Agenda including Supplemental						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
DRAKE		x	x			
MEYER					x	
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

#22-022 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners thanked the Solid Waste Enforcement Officers Ed Lyon and Chris Goul for their work on the SW Enforcement Program, and noted its success. Also, it was expressed that it was good to see the start-up of the Leachate Pump Station/Force main underway.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:20 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary