

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JANUARY 5, 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

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 Final Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. 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 Drake. 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 December 15, 2021 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioners Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Dabinett motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. The motion passed.

Commissioner Dabinett moved the approval of the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the October 20, 2021 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the November 24, 2021 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Meyer, Dietz, Drake, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Wesley, Finkeldie. The motion passed.

No minutes were distributed at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:03 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion was seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/ Vernon Township MUA, Sparta Township White Deer Plaza WWTP and Personnel Matters.

#22-012 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:20 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, Sparta Township White Deer Plaza WWTP 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 updated the Commissioners regarding Hamburg Pump Station Rehabilitation, and confirmed that two high flow pumps were finally delivered. A portion of the electrical system is being removed, wet well is set for final coating, dry well side has no issues with bypass pumping. Slide gates are installed. Weekly meetings are continually being held and the project completion is set for early to mid-February.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that TWA application was received from Sparta Township for Celia Drive Pump Station. It was reviewed and approved for 662 linear feet of force main for a 9 home development. Connection fees will be due. Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to recommend and approve of the application, contingent upon receipt of Sparta Township's approvals. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, Commissioner Madsen seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain Commissioner Drake. The resolution passed.

#22-013 RESOLUTION RE: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF TWA APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CELIA DRIVE PUMP STATION AND FORCE MAIN IN SPARTA TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the Upper Wallkill Sewage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage volumes and revenues for the first month of the FY, December 2021. Sludge is at 8% of projections, Sludge is also at 8%, and 11% for Hauled Sewage. Connection fees totaled \$20,997.00, which is 10% of anticipated budget for the year.

c. Solid Waste Program

Chief Engineer's Report

Chief Engineer Sesto gave a status report for the Leachate Pump Station (Project #446). He indicated that the chemical feed start up is scheduled for next Monday and the pump station start up tentatively set for Tuesday. Contractor is still working on the concrete tank with leak issues, which will not interfere with the pump station start up.

Mr. Sesto updated the Commissioners on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project. Subcontractor is importing material for the drainage sand layer, ARM is coordinating with leak detection company, and will test for leaks coinciding with the sand layer installation. Mr. Sesto noted Tomco confirmed at a recent Progress meeting that milestone 1 shall be met by February 6th.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed Solid Waste Revenues and Tonnages for the first month of the FY2022. Compared to December 2021, tonnage was down 69 tons, however revenue was up due to shift in waste class. ID13 was up compared to ID10.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported that Requests for Proposals/Qualifications for 2022 Professional Services were posted on the SCMUA website on December 15th. Invitations to submit were sent to current SCMUA professionals and to-date three packages have been received. The deadline for proposals is January 14, 2022 and they will be reviewed and recommendations will be made at the Annual Reorganization meeting.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day indicated that he submitted 2021 safety grant information to Statewide Insurance, it was accepted, and the Authority will receive \$5,327.00 in reimbursements.

e. Personnel

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution for a request for a three month leave of absence for a Solid Waste Employee, as reported in Executive Closed Session. 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.

#22-014 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT A THREE (3) MONTH "OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR A PERSONAL ILLNESS" FOR AD5849

Mr. Morris presented a resolution to terminate Solid Waste Employee CM5237, for reasons as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Cocula 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.

#22-015 RESOLUTION RE: TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PART-TIME SITE ATTENDANT CM5237

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA), including Supplemental. On roll call:

Res #22-016 Financial Consent Agenda including Supplemental						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			X			
MADSEN			X			
COCULA			X			
DIETZ		X	X			
DRAKE	X		X			
MEYER			X			
WESLEY			X			
FINKELDIE			X			
DABINETT			X			

#22-016 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished everyone a Happy New Year!

11. ADJOURN

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary