

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JUNE 5, 2019 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 Drake, Vice Chairman Meyer, Commissioners Perez, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen, Petillo, Finkeldie, and Dabinett, Administrator John Hatzelis, Executive Director/Chief Engineer Varro, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Angelo Baron, General Counsel Napolitano, Special Counsel Prol, Recording Secretary Tara Kronski.

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Caldera of Laddey Clark and Ryan (observing only).

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Drake 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 Drake opened the meeting to public comment. No public present.

4. OATH OF OFFICE

General Counsel Napolitano gave the Oath of Office to newly appointed Mr. John Finkeldie to fill an unexpired term to 1/31/2024. Special Counsel Prol gave the Oath of Office to Mr. Robert Dabinett to fill an unexpired term to 1/31/2020. Commissioners, Staff and Professionals congratulated the newly appointed Commissioners.

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Drake asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Administrator Hatzelis requested to amend the Agenda to include Solid Waste Superintendent report, discussions regarding acquisition of a landfill compactor in Open Session and General Counsel Report to include Right of Way for Leachate Pump Station/Force Main discussions in Executive Session. Commissioner Meyer moved Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dietz 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 Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the May 15, 2019 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Freeholder Board. Commissioner Perez motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call vote: Ayes (6) Commissioners Perez, Meyer, Drake, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen, Petillo; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the April 17, 2019 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call vote: On roll call vote: Ayes (6) Commissioners Perez, Meyer, Drake, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen; Nays (0); Abstain (3) Commissioners Petillo, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion carried.

Commissioner Dietz moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the May 1, 2019 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call vote: Ayes (7) Commissioners Perez, Meyer, Drake, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen, Petillo; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion carried.

Distributed: Open and Closed Minutes for May 15, 2019 Authority Meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: (9) Ayes, (0) Nays. The motion carried. Chairman Drake noted the Closed Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Commissioner Protocol, Leachate PS/FM Right-of-way Acquisition, Sparta Stop and Shop Connection Collection Matter and Personnel Items.

#19-098 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:42 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session included: Commissioner Protocol, Leachate PS/FM Right-of-way Acquisition, Sparta Stop and Shop Connection Collection Matter and Personnel Items. 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. Baron reported on another break in the Sussex Borough Force Main. The Sussex Borough DPW repaired and noted it was the 28th break on this force main. Short discussion held on history of breakages and theories of why this occurs so frequently. Sussex Borough owns this Force Main along Route 23.

Executive Director/Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro reviewed a proposal by the NJDEP to upgrade certain local water tributaries to Category 1 Protection, which would affect the Authority's Hampton Commons Plant operations and permit compliance. He reviewed many inconsistencies throughout the NJDEP report/proposal, as well as the difficult and costly standards and conditions that would have to be met for the facility's permit renewal.

Mr. Varro reported on a NJDEP proposal for New Jersey Groundwater Quality Standards that was prompted by the discovery of certain water repellent chemicals in waterways. Mr. Varro noted that the discharge of the SCMUA wastewater plants are not drinking water areas. He submitted comments to the NJDEP with the endorsement of the Association of Environmental Authorities. The Authority is very much in favor of the protection of sources of drinking water, but not costly overstated regulations on effluent that is already within testing parameters.

Mr. Varro reported on the meeting held with Vernon Township Officials regarding the establishment of a sludge processing facility, however EarthCare/Wind River was a no show. Mr. Varro noted there were short discussions held regarding connection fees, but the process cannot move forward until Applicant is present. It was reported that this facility would pay connection fees but ultimately could negatively affect Upper Walkkill Facility revenues, and must be studied further.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Morris reported on the June 1st Household Hazardous Waste Event that served over 700 customers including residents, schools and municipalities. He noted total collection was 2.97 tons of HHW and 7 tons of fluorescent lamps for a total net cost of \$30,252.53. The next HHW day is scheduled for November 2, 2019.

Mr. Morris opened discussions and reported on the situation of the Solid Waste Facility's current garbage Compactor, in which a rebuild would not be feasible. He requested authorization to purchase a new Compactor through the National Cooperative Pricing Council, funding is available in R&R Fund and lease or purchase options are available. Commissioner Cocula moved to proceed steps to obtain a new Compactor through the National Cooperative Council, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Dabinett, Finkeldie, Perez, Meyer, Drake, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen, Petillo; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The Motion passed.

Executive Director/ Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro reported on an update from Mott MacDonald for the Force Main/Pump Station. The TWA was signed and will be forwarded to NJDEP by the end of the month. The I-Bank loan application is projected for mid-October and bid award by January 2020.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Hatzelis reported that both Tonnage and Revenues from December 1st through May 31, 2019 are up and over projections. Mr. Hatzelis explained quandary in the offset for higher revenue, also means quicker use of landfill space. Commissioner Perez requested staff to analyze impact on revenue stream if Freon Removal charge (\$10/unit) is waived as an incentive to dispose of items containing Freon properly.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director/Chief Engineer

Executive Director Varro opened discussions regarding meeting schedule during the summer months and Commissioner Cocula moved to cancel the July 3, 2019 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

e. Personnel

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris presented a resolution related to Executive Session discussions for and an extension of a Leave of Absence for Christina Woodruff for personal injury. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

#19-099 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND “OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY FOR PERSONAL ILLNESS, FOR AN ADDITIONAL 30 DAY PERIOD” FOR CHRISTINA WOODRUFF

Executive Director/Chief Engineer’s Report

Mr. Varro reported that Mr. Timothy Day has accepted the position of SCMUA Comptroller and a resolution was prepared to appoint subject to favorable completion of a physical examination. Commissioner Madsen moved the appointment, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Perez, Meyer, Drake, Dietz, Cocula, Madsen, Petillo; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Dabinett and Finkeldie. The motion passed.

#19-100 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY DAY AS SCMUA COMPTROLLER

Mr. Varro reported that the Assistant Engineer position was previously discussed in Executive Session and no action is warranted at this time.

8. Payment of Bills

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

Res #19-101: Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
ROBERT DABINETT					x	
JOHN FINKELDIE					x	
DAN PEREZ			x			
KARL MEYER		x	x			
JOHN DRAKE			x			
WAYNE DIETZ			x			
ANDREA COCULA	x		x			
TOM MADSEN			x			
RONALD PETILLO			x			

The motion passed.

#19-101 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners welcomed and congratulated the new board members and a belated birthday to Commissioner Petillo and Executive Director Varro. New Commissioners Mr. Dabinett and Mr. Finkeldie thanked the board and noted they were looking forward to their new positions. Commissioner Dietz also complimented the Staff on their organization in running the special event days along with regular operations on busy Saturdays at the Solid Waste Facility.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:30 p.m. Chairman Drake adjourned meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary