

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary  
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – July 20, 2023

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on JULY 21 2023.

- (a)  by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b)  as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c)  beyond the statutory period for submission.

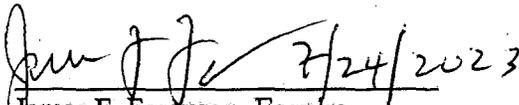
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (a)  within ten days of delivery.
- (b)  within twenty-four (24) hours of delivery where the action at the meeting was deemed by the Authority to be in response to an emergency situation.

III. The following action is taken on the Minutes:

- (a)  Approved in all respects.
- (b)  Vetoed in all respects. A written explanation of the reasons for the veto is attached.
- (c)  Approved in part and vetoed in part.  
The specific items which are vetoed and a written explanation of the reasons for the veto or vetoes is attached.

  
Dennis Levinson  
Atlantic County Executive

  
James F. Ferguson, Esquire  
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date:

cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS:  Minutes  
 Veto Message

**ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**  
**July 20, 2023 – 3:00 PM**  
**6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ**

**PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY**

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Maria Mento	Member
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President Wastewater
Peter Machotka	Director of Wastewater Operations
Gary Conover	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO/Acting Board Secretary
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
John Conover	Deputy Chief Engineer
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Kristi Aiken	Maintenance Resource Coordinator
Brittany Poplawski	System Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT**

Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein - Zoom
James Ferguson, Esq.	County Counsel – Zoom
Andrew Parker	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - Zoom
Fred Adams	Chairman, Weymouth Township Municipal Utilities Authority

Chairman Embry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced that the notice of the 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Daily Journal, The Clerk of Atlantic County, and The Clerk of The Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on February 17, 2023, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6, *et seq.* and it was posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building and Notice of Live Streaming of this meeting was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Daily Journal, The Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on June 26, 2023, and both notices were posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building.

Flag Salute

Roll call was taken by Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary, which reflected a quorum was present.

Chairman Embry	present
Fred Akers	present
Andrew Berenato	absent
John Lyons	absent
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present
Maria Mento	present

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 15, 2023** – voted on and approved by all members.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer’s Report** – None.

**Personnel** – None.

**Finance/Audit** - None.

**Engineering** – None.

**Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management** – None.

**Solid Waste/Recycling** – Mr. Akers reported that the temporary landfill-cap damage from wind is a continuing issue, but it is being very well managed. To date, the CNG Station has saved the ACUA over \$5 million dollars from fuel savings, tax rebates, and third-party sales. There have been sharp increases in fuel prices over the past 18 months. Mr. Akers said that it is great the ACUA does the compressed natural gas, which is saving the ACUA money. Regarding recycling, Mr. Akers reported that the average commodity revenue is going down, from \$45.84 per ton to \$34.50 per ton. Another issue that Mr. Akers said he has been watching for over ten years are the reports on the upgrades to the landfill gas collection system, which allows for more efficient collection of landfill gas. This was completed this month and is another milestone in the development of the landfill gas pipeline quality gas project for South Jersey Industries which started construction this summer. Mr. Akers said he is interested in this because he does not like to see the landfill gas be flared. He said it has been difficult to come up with methods that are efficient for converting landfill gas into energy. However, South Jersey Industries is now working on this with the ACUA.

**Wastewater** – None.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mr. Fred Adams, Chairman of the Weymouth Township Municipal Utilities Authority, addressed the Board. Mr. Adams stated that for over 50 years, Weymouth Township had been serviced by Hamilton Township, but they are currently “in a divorce”. He said Weymouth Township is in the process of building up a totally new Weymouth Township MUA, but they need help because there are a lot of issues they are running into that are new to them. Mr. Adams stated that he came before the Board today to ask the ACUA for guidance and for the following: 1) Water Sewerage Utility Maps for Weymouth Township in a GIS format. He said Hamilton Township has maps, but they are part of Hamilton Township’s maps and, because of security reasons, Hamilton Township will not give Weymouth Township these maps. 2) There are only approximately 228 clients in Weymouth Township, so they are small. They have various meters for water reading and one is electronic, which requires a handheld belt-clip, water-meter reader. However, Weymouth Township is going to be changing their infrastructure, and the price of quarterly readings is \$18,000. He said by the time Weymouth Township gets the new infrastructure with all new meters, the technology will demand another kind of meter reader.

Mr. Adams said Weymouth Township would appreciate any suggestions that the ACUA has in growing their MUA and thanked the Board, on behalf of Weymouth Township, for any assistance the ACUA could give them. Chairman Embry asked if anyone had any immediate answers or suggestions. Mr. DeNafu said the ACUA would be more than happy to assist Weymouth Township where possible. He suggested that Mr. Adams be given contact information from Tom Ganard, the ACUA’s Chief Engineer, so they can discuss these issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION COMMENTS:**

**Resolution 23-7-185: Authorizing execution of Settlement Agreement in The Matter of NJDEP v. ACUA. Amount of penalty is \$22,000.00.**

Mr. Parker asked for an explanation regarding the Settlement Agreement and penalty. Mr. DeNafo stated there are five fines, dating back to 2016. He explained that the first fine was because the ACUA has a limit of 300 tons per day, per their permit, on the amount of recycling that can be received. The ACUA went over this limit one day with 310 tons. Other fines were due to a delay in stack testing, and a waste-oil heater matter. Mr. DeNafo went on to explain, in detail, the reason for these fines. He also pointed out that the original fines totaled \$27,500, and the ACUA negotiated the amount down to \$22,000. Mr. Conover added that the ACUA's Title V Permit is also in its renewal phase, and this will clean up any issues.

**Resolution 23-7-191: Authorizing a contract amendment to contract with Graybar Electrical Technologies, Inc. for Electrical Equipment and Supplies under the OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing System. Amount of increase is \$35,000.00.**

Mr. Parker asked for further explanation regarding the \$35,000 increase. Mr. DeNafo responded by stating that the ACUA's centrifuges are part of the process for thickening the sludge at the ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility. These centrifuges are sent out for inspection every 18 months for rebuild and/or repairs. Two of the centrifuges were sent out, and the ACUA was given a quote on how much the repairs would be.

**Resolution 23-7-200: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures. \$7,239,111.32**

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Parker commented he heard in the news recently that beaches are being closed due to waste being found in the water. Mr. DeNafo responded by stating that the ACUA's certified lab does all the water testing for Atlantic County's bathing beaches. When there are heavy rains, however, fecal material from birds, dogs, and other animals, are flushed out into the ocean from the stormwater systems. As soon as he receives information from the lab that there is a high fecal count, Mr. DeNafo forwards the results to Atlantic County, so they are aware of it. Mr. DeNafo stated this is caused by a combination of the weather, environment, and stormwater systems. It has nothing to do with the ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility or the ACUA's discharge, which is 1-1/2 miles off the coast and, by this point, is chlorinated water. He added that this does not just happen here in Atlantic County; it happens all up and down the east and west coasts.

Mrs. Pfrommer suggested to Mr. Parker that he take a tour of the ACUA's Wastewater Plant so he can see for himself and have a better understanding and knowledge of the amazing process that goes on there. Mr. Parker agreed and said he would like to go on a tour. He also thanked Mr. DeNafo for his explanations on waste management.

Chairman Embry asked about the status of the trucks that the ACUA is waiting on to be delivered. Mr. DeNafo replied that the trucks are currently in northern New Jersey, but the ACUA will be following up on this to find out the status of delivery.

Mr. DeNafo introduced the new Director of Wastewater Operations, Peter Machotka, to the Board.

Mr. DeNafo said the ACUA is currently in the peak of its season for collections, and there is a shortage of labor, which is not related to COVID. The ACUA's ACD Team is fielding approximately 4,000 calls per month due to missed and/or delayed collections. Another challenge is that new ACUA employees may not be familiar with the routes, so they may miss collecting from some streets. Another issue that the ACUA is facing is not having enough trucks. Delivery can take up to 18 months, and this is the standard now. (It used to be 6 months.) Therefore, when the ACUA needs new trucks, they need to order them almost two years in advance. Mr. DeNafo has spoken to quite a few Mayors about these issues. He said the ACUA is doing everything they can, however, there are no quick fixes. There are also volunteers within the organization that are trying to help out as well.

Regarding collections, Mr. DeNafo stated that the ACUA prioritizes for pick up residential trash and residential recycling first, then commercials, followed by yard waste. He said the ACUA will frequently get complaints regarding yard waste. He explained that yard waste is the last to be picked up because there are no health hazards associated with leaving it out an extra day or two. However, there is with trash and recycling.

Mr. DeNafo is looking at automated systems and also looking at what Egg Harbor Township has done using automated side-loaders for collections. Mrs. Pfrommer commented that Egg Harbor Township's workmen's comp claims have gone down considerably – almost 70%.

Mrs. Ward thanked Mr. DeNafo and the ACUA on how they are handling the employee shortages and the other issues they are currently facing.

Ms. Mento also commented that towns may want to review what they are doing regarding collections to see how they can save on costs.

Mr. DeNafo gave an update on Ms. Idalia Mendez, a 72-year-old woman with dementia, who is still missing and was last seen walking past the ACUA's scale house on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:23 p.m. The scale house was closed at that time. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office has been working diligently to find Ms. Mendez using search parties and cadaver dogs. In addition, ACUA employees volunteered to search for her. However, Ms. Mendez has not been found to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary