

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – December 21, 2023

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41A-37 et seq. on 12/22/2023

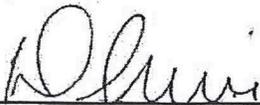
- (a) by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) beyond the statutory period for submission.

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

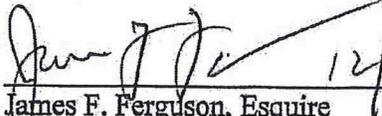
- (a) within ten days of delivery.
- (b) within twenty-four (24) hours of delivery where the action at the meeting was deemed by the Authority to be in response to an emergency situation.

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

 12/28/2023

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
December 21, 2023 – 3:00 PM
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Andrew Berenato	Member - Zoom
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	Member – Zoom – Left meeting at 3:30 p.m.
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President Wastewater
Gary Conover	Vice President of Solid Waste - Zoom
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO/Acting Board Secretary
James Rocco	Vice President of Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Ryan Donovan	Associate Engineer
Katherine Vesey	Director of Finance
Sharon Hunt	Director of Human Resources
Greg Seher	Director of Solid Waste
Lorenzo Domingo	Mechanical Group Leader
Amy Cook-Menzel	Communications Manager
Tanya Tartaglio	Business Manager
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Kristi Aiken	Maintenance Resource Coordinator/Assistant Board Secretary
Brittany Poplawski	System Analyst
Nicole Cannuscio	Human Resources Assistant
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

William J. Kaufmann, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Lynda Gamon Snelgrove, CCR	CSR Associates
Harvey Coccozza, Partner	Ford Scott & Associates
Kaitlyn Flynn	County Counsel – Zoom

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 November 29, 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	present - Zoom
John Lyons	absent
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present - Zoom
Maria Mento	absent

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 2023 –
Voted on and approved by all members.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Lorenzo “Lory” Domingo for his ingenuity and commitment to the ACUA in his position as Mechanical Group Lead at the Wastewater Facility. Mr. Domingo was presented with a certificate to show the Authority’s sincere appreciation for his 32 years of excellent service, dedication, institutional knowledge, and the positive impact he has had on the Authority. Mr. DeNafo wished Mr. Domingo all the best in his retirement.

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mrs. Tanya Tartaglio, Business Manager, who attended the meeting via Zoom. Mrs. Tartaglio was presented with a certificate to show the Authority’s sincere appreciation for her 20 years of outstanding service. Mr. DeNafo stated that, although Mrs. Tartaglio’s job position was “behind-the-scenes”, she played a critical role at the Authority in making sure that payments were being made on a timely basis and revenue was coming in. Mr. DeNafo wished Mrs. Tartaglio all the best in her retirement.

Mrs. Ward congratulated both Mr. Domingo and Mrs. Tartaglio and wished them the very best in their retirement.

Chairman Embry introduced Mr. Harvey Coccozza, a partner at Ford Scott & Associates, to the Board, who made a report stating that there were no findings or comments regarding the Authority’s 2022 Audit. After the report, Mrs. Pfrommer thanked Mrs. Bazemore and her staff for all of their hard work and the time that it took to prepare for the audit.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 23-12-315: Adopting Wastewater Rates, Fees and Charges.

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2024.

Linda Bazemore testified that the treatment of wastewater charged to the 14 participants of the system will increase from \$2,459.78 to \$2,508.97 per million gallons, resulting in an increase of 2%. The 2023 rate increased by 8% and there was an increase of 5% to the 2022 rate. In 2021, the flows decreased resulting in a rate reduction of 6.50%. The total amount to be billed to the 14 participants in 2024 is \$25,624,122. The amount billed to the participants in 2023 was \$25,121,688. As part of the calculation,

total system flows will remain at 10,213 million gallons in 2024, as they were in 2023. Sludge Gate Rates: Sludge Cake > 24.1% - \$55.19 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 20.1 to 24% - \$70.96 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 18.1 to 20% - \$78.45 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 16.0 to 18% - \$140.74 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake less than 16% - \$187.19 per Cubic Yd; Septage Disposal Rate will be \$.060 per gallon; Leachate Disposal Rate will be \$.075 per gallon; Grease Disposal Rate will be \$0.125 per gallon; Grease Recovery - Inspection fees \$127.50 for the first unit and \$20.50 for each additional unit

The Laboratory Fee Schedule remains mainly unchanged for 2024. The fee structure was slightly revised and modified for lab sample pick-ups and lab sample processing. All other advertised fees, rates and charges will remain unchanged.

The total Wastewater Budget for 2024 is \$32,683,749 which represents an increase of 5.30% as compared to the 2023 budget.

Resolution 23-12-316: Adopting Solid Waste Rates, Fees and Charges.

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2024.

Linda Bazemore testified that the total budget for 2024 is \$48,105,366 which represents a decrease of 2.18% as compared to the 2023 budget. The 2024 tip fee rate will be increasing by 3.5% resulting in projected tip fee revenue in the amount of \$31.2 million in 2024 as compared to \$30.4 million in 2023.

For the Solid Waste Division, the 2024 gate rates will be charged as follows:

Municipal Solid Waste will be \$85.77 per ton; construction & demolition waste and painted wood rate will be \$111.83 per ton; dry bulky waste rate will be \$111.83 per ton; dry industrial waste (non-hazardous) rate will be \$152.48 per ton; asbestos rate will be \$152.48 per ton; animal & food processing rate will be \$85.77 per ton; and recycling processing fee rate will be \$42.00 per ton. All other advertised fees, rates and charges remain unchanged.

Resolution 23-12-320: Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement between the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and the Egg Harbor Township Municipal Utilities Authority for Maintenance and Inspection Services.

Explanation: Renewal of agreement whereby the ACUA will perform pumping station maintenance and inspection services for the contract period January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Annual revenue to the Authority is \$372,530.00 for the Egg Harbor Township Pump Stations and \$48,040.00 for the Linwood Pump Station.

Mrs. Pfrommer abstained from the vote.

Resolution 23-12-334: Authorizing a contract with Aqua-Tex Transport, Inc. for Marketing of Recyclable/Reusable Material.

Explanation: Renewal of contract for contract term January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, at the rate of \$13.00 per ton. Amount of revenue to the Authority is approximately \$260,000.00.

Mr. Berenato abstained from the vote.

Resolution 23-12-384: Authorizing award of a Professional Services Contract for Professional Auditing Services to Ford, Scott & Associates. Amount is not to exceed \$59,000.00, for contract term January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Explanation: A resolution to award a professional services contract to Ford Scott & Associates to be auditors for the 2023 financial statements and 2024 landfill escrow audits, plus ancillary services if needed.

Mrs. Ward abstained from the vote.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Akers commented that he attended a recent Hamilton Township Committee Meeting and found the ACUA was on the agenda regarding the annual budget. He said Mr. DeNafo gave a presentation which was very well received, and Mr. Akers was also very impressed with this. In addition, Mr. Akers commented that he likes the ACUA's ads that he has been seeing in The Press of Atlantic City (ie – notices for the food drive; notices regarding collection dates). Mr. Akers also commended the ACUA Staff on their newsletters. He said they are doing an excellent job with them, as well as on the graphics.

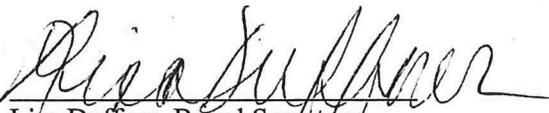
Mr. DeNafo thanked the Board stating that he truly appreciated the Board members reviewing the voluminous packets of materials for today's Board Meeting, and for their participation. He also thanked Mr. Akers for his support at the Hamilton Township Committee Meeting. Mr. DeNafo stated there were 27 budget meetings scheduled this year, and all of the presentations were well received. He also thanked Mrs. Bazemore, Mrs. Vesey, and staff for putting the budget together and also for the clean 2022 Audit.

Mrs. Ward then thanked Mr. DeNafo, Mrs. Bazemore and the Authority Staff for presenting the budget meeting in Pleasantville. She said she appreciated them taking the time to come to Pleasantville and go over everything with them.

Chairman Embry thanked Mrs. Bazemore, Mrs. Vesey and their staff for the no findings and no recommendations regarding the 2022 Audit. He then wished everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary