

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary  
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – September 19, 2024

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on 9/20/24.

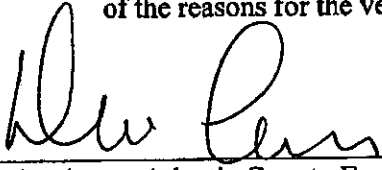
- (a)  by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b)  as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c)  beyond the statutory period for submission.

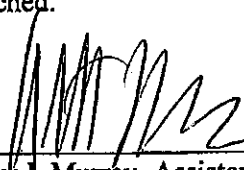
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur J. Murray, Assistant County Counsel  
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date: 9/25/24  
cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners  
ATTACHMENTS:  Minutes  
 Veto Message

**ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**  
**September 19, 2024 – 3:00 PM**  
**6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ**

**PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY**

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Frank Formica	Member
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Maria Mento	Member
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President Wastewater
Gary Conover	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO/Acting Board Secretary
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Eric Ricacho	Database Analyst
John Henry	Facilities Services Group Leader
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT**

Michael Dilks	Maintenance, ACUA (Retired as of 9/1/24)
Mary Dilks	Member of the Public
Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein - Zoom
Arthur J. Murray, Esq.	County Counsel – Zoom
James Bertino, Liaison	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - absent

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 August 19, 2024, 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
Frank Formica	present
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present
Maria Mento	present

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2024** – voted on and approved by all members.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None. Chairman Embry informed the Board that at the October Board Meeting he would like each Board Member to present a report.

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

Chairman Embry introduced Michael Dilks, who retired on September 1, 2024, after 20 years of service with the Authority. Mr. DeNafo stated that Mr. Dilks started working at the Authority in 2004 as a Collections Driver and then went on to hold several different positions over the past 20 years. His last position with the Authority was working in the Maintenance Department. On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Dilks, and wished him a successful, healthy and happy retirement.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION COMMENTS:**

**Resolution 24-9-217:** Authorizing a contract amendment to contract with Custom Bandag for New, Repair and Recapped OTR Tires, Bid 2023-SW-17. Total amount of increase is \$660,000.00.

Explanation: For year 2024, the amount of increase is \$180,000.00 due to an increase in the volume of new tires and tire-related service calls. The Authority is also exercising the option to extend the contract for one (1) additional year, from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$480,000.00. (Aggregate amount exceeds 20%.)

Chairman Embry asked for clarification on the aggregate amount exceeding 20%. Mr. Davis responded by stating that the increase is more than 20% of the original contract. Mr. DeNafo added that it also requires a certification by Ms. Bazemore. Ms. Bazemore said that the certification is included in the Authority's budget to the DCA on an annual basis.

Ms. Mento asked why the contract was being extended versus going out to bid again. Mr. DeNafo responded that the bid was for a 2-year contract, with a 1-year option to extend.

**Resolution 24-9-224:** Authorizing payment of certain expenditures. \$8,829,375.44

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote regarding the Retiree State Health Benefits expenses and approved all other expenditures.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote regarding payroll and Active State Health Benefits expenses and approved all other expenditures.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:**

Mr. Akers commented that the event held at the Wastewater Treatment Facility last week regarding the Microplastics Pilot Project was very well run. Mr. DeNafo agreed that it was a great event and thanked Mr. Pantalone for all of the hard work he and the Wastewater Staff put into the event. Chairperson Embry asked Mr. Pantalone if the Board will be receiving updated reports on how the project is going. Mr. Pantalone said yes, they will have data and will report it to the Board. Chairman Embry added that he was very impressed with Yidian Liu and Nathaniel Banks of PolyGone. Mr. Akers stated that Ms. Liu and Mr. Banks had reached out to 150 entities and only two responded back; one being Rick Dovey on behalf of the ACUA. Chairman Embry said that Mr. Dovey gave them the opportunity to use the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and Ms. Liu and Mr. Banks acknowledged this in the speech they made at the event, which Chairman Embry said was very good. Mr. Pantalone said that the ACUA Staff stepped up and worked very hard to make the event a great one. He added that the Authority also did get good press regarding the event.

Mr. DeNafo then updated the Board on the landfill and odors. He reminded everyone that this is political season and nothing has really changed since early April of this year. Since then, Mr. DeNafo said everything has been under good control and within compliance. He said this does not mean that there will never be any odor because we are still dealing with a landfill which produces smell as a by-product as trash breaks down.

Mr. DeNafo said he made a presentation on September 17, 2024, at the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, per a request by Chairman Maureen Kern, and it went well. Also, at that time, he invited the County Commissioners to come visit and take a tour of the ACUA facilities.

Mr. DeNafo also thanked Mayor Laura Pfrommer and the Egg Harbor Township Council. The EHT Council met at the ACUA GEO Building and took a tour of the facilities last week. Mr. DeNafo said they were here for approximately 2 hours. One week prior to this, two political candidates also came for a tour: Susan Lazarchick, who is running for the County Commissioner's seat, and James "Bear" Pesce from Egg Harbor Township who is running for an EHT Committee seat. They were at the facility for approximately 2 hours. Mr. DeNafo stated that it is always rewarding to see when people come here and understand that the ACUA is an impressive and major operation. Mr. DeNafo further explained that when someone goes through the Recycling Center or the Transfer Station or the Compost Facility or the Landfill -- each one has a different kind of a smell. At times, there also may be an odor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. DeNafo stressed that nothing has changed, and that any odor issues are continuing to be controlled.

Mrs. Pfrommer stated that the EHT Committee members who visited the facility on Friday were very impressed. She believes the knowledge that they gained, and the information that Mr. DeNafo provided them before the tour and then during the tour, helped them have a better understanding of what the ACUA does. Mrs. Pfrommer added that she advised the EHT Committee members to next go take a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant because that is also an impressive operation.

Mr. DeNafo said that next week there will be two City Council members from Absecon coming to the ACUA for a tour, and another political candidate will be visiting next Tuesday. Also, later that week, there will be another City Council member, along with the Mayor of Absecon.

Chairman Embry asked why is it that some days there is an odor at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and then other days there is none. Both Mr. DeNafo and Mr. Pantalone replied that both the weather and the wind are contributing factors. Mr. Pantalone added that the Wastewater Treatment Facility also takes outside sludge in from other entities that at times can contribute to more odors at the wastewater treatment facility.

Chairman Embry asked if anyone else had any further comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary