

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – March 21, 2023

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on March 22, 2024,

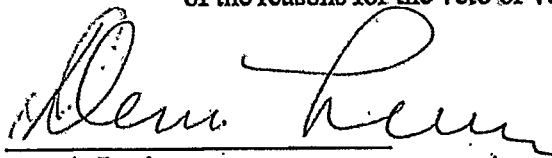
- (a) by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) beyond the statutory period for submission.

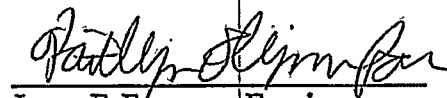
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (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:

3/22/24

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

ATTACHMENTS: Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

March 21, 2024 – 3:00 PM

6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Andrew Berenato	Member - Zoom
Frank Formica	Member
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
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
James Rocco	Vice President of Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
John Conover	Senior Engineer
Sharon Hunt	Director of Human Resources
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Brittany Poplawski	System Analyst
Ryan Mahoney	Communications Assistant
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Asst. Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein - Zoom
Alysia Remaley	County Counsel - Zoom
Kaitlynn Flynn	County Law Department - Zoom
Marlon Hargis	ACUA Laborer/Handler

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 2024-2025 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 16, 2024, 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 February 28, 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 - Zoom (participated beginning at 3:10 p.m.)
Frank Formica	present
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	absent
Maria Mento	present

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Chairman Embry stated that there were three individuals who would be retiring from the ACUA, and they would be presented certificates to show the Authority's appreciation of their many years of service. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Embry thanked Ms. Rubin, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Scull for their excellent service and congratulated them on their retirement.

Mr. DeNafo introduced Nancy Rubin, Lab Technician at the Wastewater Facility, who is retiring on April 1, 2024, after 33 years with the ACUA. Mr. DeNafo stated that Ms. Rubin has had a very long and successful career with the Authority, and the Authority appreciates all of her hard work and dedication over the years. He thanked Ms. Rubin and wished her all the best in her retirement.

Mr. DeNafo then introduced Ronald Anderson, Road Handler, who is retiring on April 1, 2024, after 28 years of service with the ACUA. He stated that Mr. Anderson has had a long and successful career at the Authority and that he is an individual who makes sure that the services the Authority provides are being done to the highest level. He thanked Mr. Anderson and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Mr. DeNafo stated that Donald Scull, Environmental Compliance Inspector, would also be retiring on May 1, 2024, after 34 years of service with the ACUA, but Mr. Scull was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. DeNafo stated that Mr. Scull has worked in a number of roles at the Authority throughout his career at the ACUA. He stated Mr. Scull is a dedicated employee and the Authority appreciates all of the hard work he has done. Mr. DeNafo wished Mr. Scull all the best in his retirement.

PRESENTATION BY THE ACUA ENGINEERING DIVISION:

Tom Ganard, Chief Engineer, informed the Board that on this month's agenda there is an invoice for approval from Lafayette Utilities, who performed an emergency repair on the Authority's Coastal Alternative Force Main. Mr. Ganard explained that this is a force main that runs from Mays Landing all the way to Pleasantville and then continues on to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. On December 28th, 2023, the Authority became aware of a situation at the Reega Station that was in need of immediate attention. He then introduced John Conover, Senior Engineer, and stated that Mr. Conover would go over Power Point slides and explain what happened regarding this emergency and the repairs that were made.

Mr. Conover stated that on December 28th, 2023, there was a leak at the Reega Station, and then a second leak occurred approximately one month later, behind Atlantic City Electric's property entrance, in Mays Landing,, which was approximately 1½ miles west of the first leak.

Mr. Ganard explained that typically force mains are under pressure, and they usually leak upward. However, in this particular instance, the sewerage stayed within the pipe, and it did not run down the bike path. Mr. Ganard stated that in order to repair a force main, you must re-route the flow around the force main and that is why there is a need for a bypass. This keeps the system operational, and it makes the section to be repaired dry. Once that is done, they can begin to assess how many feet of pipe needs to be replaced and the condition of the pipe. Mr. Ganard directed the Board's attention to a photograph where the pipe literally looked like "Swiss cheese". He added that if they did not repair this, the holes would get larger and this would be a safety hazard.

Mr. Conover showed photographs of what the pipes looked like prior to repair and what they looked like after repairs were made. Mr. Embry asked how the photographs were obtained and if a drone was used. Mr. Conover responded that the photos were from Google Earth, and they did not use a drone to obtain any photographs.

Mr. Conover stated that approximately 620 feet of pipe was replaced with C900 PVC Pipe at the Reega Station. The total cost for repairs, at approximately 70% completion, is \$288,698.17.

Mr. DeNafó mentioned that the pipe at the Reega Station was not very old and that the Authority has not really seen a lot of pipe failures due to age. He added that even the oldest pipe that the Authority has in their system, which was installed back in 1976-1978, is not really that old of a pipe.

Regarding the second location in need of repair, which is behind Atlantic City Electric's property entrance in Mays Landing, Mr. Conover stated that this leak was significantly worse than the leak at Reega Station. It was also a force main leak where wastewater actually came up and out of the hole. Mr. Conover said the Authority believes this was due to the added pressure from the bypass from the first leak, which caused sewerage to be on the bike path.

Mr. Ganard said that the significance of the second leak was they had to delay fixing the first repair because the second leak became more consequential to the surrounding environment. Therefore, they moved the contractors away from where the first leak was to make the repairs of the second leak.

Mr. Conover showed photographs of the pipe before the repairs and then after the repairs were made. This location had approximately 400 feet of pipe replaced with C900 PVC Pipe. The total cost for repairs, at approximately 85% completion, is \$304,624.53.

Mr. Embry asked if a video could ever be used to inspect pipes for leaks. Mr. Conover stated it would be difficult to video a force main. Mr. Ganard added that in order to video, you would have to bypass the whole line, just like they do in a repair to make sure that it is empty, which would be extremely expensive to do.

Mr. DeNafó added that all of the Authority's pipelines are assessed from an asset management standpoint.

Mr. Embry asked if the soil conditions had anything to do with this. Mr. Ganard replied that it can, depending on the pipe, but not in this particular case because the pipe corroded from the inside-out.

Mr. Embry stated that it sounds like the wrong kind of pipe was used. He asked what type of pipe should have been used instead. Mr. Ganard responded by stating that they would have liked to have used the PVC pipe that they are using now. However, back in the late-1980s, it was not used in this type of application. Mr. DeNafó also pointed out that if the original pipe was operating in the way that it was designed to operate, there would not have been any issues.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 24-3-104: Amending Procurement Card Policy and Procedures.

Explanation: Amending the Procurement Card Policy and Procedures to authorize the issuance of a P-Card to the Director of Wastewater. In addition, the title Mechanical and Electrical/Instrumentation Manager (also an authorized cardholder) will be corrected within the policy.

Ms. Mento asked who the new Director of Wastewater Operations was, and Mr. Pantalone responded that it is Peter Machotka.

Resolution 24-3-105: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures - \$6,950,857.60

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Mr. Formica abstained from the vote.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. DeNafo updated the Board on the following items. The first item he addressed was the odor situation at the landfill. Mr. DeNafo stated that he has been sending out communications, and he hopes everyone is getting them in the local communities. The next item Mr. DeNafo discussed was the extension of their 18" header that was completed. This was put back online Thursday with a shutdown system Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Yesterday, a sump pump was replaced which was causing some issues. This was completed and put online by the end of the day yesterday. Early next week, the tuning will be finished. As the Authority has added capacity and an additional vacuum to the system, the balancing of the wells must be done. The Authority does not want to do it at the end of the week because they do not want to leave it for the weekend and have an issue over the weekend. The Authority's third-party contractor will be coming back onsite and will start working midday on Monday.

Mr. DeNafo said the Authority has seen a significant decrease in complaints. He had a tour yesterday with someone who was very vocal at the meeting in Absecon which occurred a few weeks ago. Mr. Conover and Mr. DeNafo took this individual on a 2½ hour tour, along with Absecon Council President, Nick LaRotonda. The individual had a 6-page packet of questions and, by the end of the tour, he said, "You've answered all my questions, and I appreciate it. This is a more comprehensive system than I initially thought. I had no idea what the magnitude of the operation is that you have here." This individual was also very concerned with the nighttime landfill being the cause of odors because there is a correlation of nighttime and an increase in odors. However, Mr. DeNafo stated that it is not the operation of the nighttime landfill. It is the temperatures and the weather patterns. Mr. DeNafo said he was able to show the resident this because they sat at the landfill for approximately 30 minutes, and he said, "You will notice there is no odor here. They placed trash here last night, and they will place trash here today. The operation is very similar. When we go around this corner, you are going to smell the odor that you could get off-site." Mr. DeNafo advised the individual that the trash had been there for 12 to 18 months, and that is where the odors from the landfill come from. They do not come from fresh waste. Mr. DeNafo said it was then that the individual understood what was happening, and he appreciated the tour. Mr. Embry added that this resident will hopefully go back as a liaison and explain this to others. Mr. DeNafo said that he will continue to engage with the community so they have a better understanding of how the Authority operates.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary