

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – May 21, 2026

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on May 22, 2026.

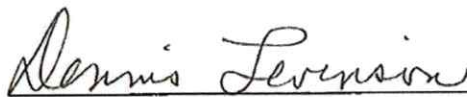
- (a) by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) beyond the statutory period for submission.

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: 5/26/26
cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners
ATTACHMENTS: Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

May 21, 2026 – 3:00 PM

6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Marvin Embry | Chair |
| Fred Akers | Member |
| Laura Pfrommer | Member |
| Maria Mento | Member |
| Michael Pullia | Member |
| Matthew DeNafo | President |
| Joseph Pantalone | Vice President of Wastewater |
| Greg Seher | 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 |
| Sharon Hunt | Director of Human Resources |
| Christine Longfellow | Senior Human Resources Generalist |
| Donna Passerelli | Human Resources Generalist |
| Oren Thomas | Procurement & Contracts Manager |
| Janette Kessler | Safety & Risk Manager |
| Brittany Poplawski | Senior Systems Analyst |
| Ryan Mahoney | Digital Media Specialist |
| Emil Bobev | Project Analyst |
| Lisa Duffner | Executive Assistant/Board Secretary |
| Sonia Chowdhury | Executive Assistant/Asst. Board Secretary |

ALSO PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brittany Chan, Esq. | Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein |
| Arthur J. Murray, Esq. | Atlantic County Law Department - Zoom |
| Loren Altshuler | Gabel Associates |
| David (Last Name Unknown) | Member of the Public |

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 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule was mailed to The Press of Atlantic City, The Star Ledger, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on February 20, 2026, 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 Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners, and also posted on the ACUA's Public Website, on May 1, 2026, 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 which reflected a quorum was present.

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Chairman Embry | present |
| Fred Akers | present |
| Laura Pfrommer | present |
| Judy Ward | absent |
| Maria Mento | present |
| Alex Marino | absent |
| Mickey Pullia | present |

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16th, 2026, MEETING – Ms. Mento and Mrs. Pfrommer abstained from the vote. All other Board members approved the Minutes of the April 16th, 2026, Board Meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. DeNafo introduced Loren Altshuler, Vice President of Procurement for Gabel Associates. Ms. Altshuler gave a brief synopsis regarding the Authority's purchase of electric generation service for the Wastewater Pump Stations Account and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Account. Ms. Altshuler went over the bids that were submitted to the Authority, along with pricing, and then asked if there were any questions. Chairman Embry asked how the energy from the windmills at the Wastewater Facility fit in with these bids. Mr. DeNafo responded that the bids were for the purchase of additional electricity that is needed for the balance not provided by the Wind Farm (approximately 40%).

Next, the Board presented Donna Passarelli, Human Resources Generalist, with a certificate recognizing her 11 years of excellent service with the Authority. Mr. DeNafo stated that Mrs. Passarelli will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Board and the Authority, Mr. DeNafo congratulated Mrs. Passarelli on her upcoming retirement beginning June 1, 2026.

Next, Sharon Hunt, Director of Human Resources, made a presentation on the results of the Authority's recent Health Survey. Mrs. Hunt stated that a majority of ACUA employees who took the survey found the new health insurance program to be satisfactory. She said the Authority will be sending out another follow-up survey in about six months. Ms. Mento asked Mrs. Hunt how many employees/retirees responded to the survey that the Authority sent out, and Mrs. Hunt said 143 responded; 99 are active employees and 44 are retirees.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Pfrommer commented that a letter was written to the Authority which commended Sharon Hunt regarding the Authority's new health insurance and benefits' programs. Mrs. Pfrommer said the individual who wrote the letter stated that Mrs. Hunt went above and beyond to help retirees and their spouses. Ms. Mento also thanked Mrs. Hunt and stated that the survey was very well done. Chairman Embry commended the Human Resources Staff and thanked them for all of the hard work they did. Mr. DeNafo agreed and pointed out that the Authority is going to be saved an estimated \$2,000,000 this past year by leaving the State Health Benefits Program. He said the health insurance under the State program has gone up 38% this year.

Mr. Akers asked how "Dovey Drive" came about. Mr. DeNafo stated that when the Authority was planning to honor Rick Dovey's retirement from the Authority, it was decided they would plant a tree in his honor and, in addition, name the street leading into the Environmental Park "Dovey Drive."

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 26-5-154: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures in the amount of \$8,846,318.93.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Embry announced to the Board that they would be going into a Closed Session to discuss the current litigation regarding Bel Aire Lakes and insurance matters. When this matter is no longer in dispute, the Minutes of the Closed Session will become available for public inspection.

A motion was made by Mr. Akers, and seconded by Mrs. Pfrommer, to enter into an Executive Session. By a roll-call vote of 5-0-0, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into an Executive Session at 4:18 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 4:35 p.m. and then entered into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mr. DeNafo announced to the Board that he would like to hold the July Board Meeting in the conference room at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He said Wastewater's new control room has been completed, and he would like the Board to see it.

Mr. DeNafo stated that he received telephone calls from some County Commissioners who were concerned with the Authority's policy on political attendees at the Authority's Earth Day event this year. Mr. DeNafo advised the Commissioners that he would bring this subject up at today's Board Meeting in case the ACUA Board would like to change the policy to exclude political affiliations from the Earth Day event. He continued by stating that, in the past, the Authority has had various political affiliations, and the ACUA has never excluded anyone. After discussing the matter, the ACUA Board decided today that everyone has a right to be at the Authority's annual Earth Day event. Therefore, the current policy, which includes all political affiliations, will not be changed.

Next, Mr. DeNafo thanked Ms. Mento for assisting the Authority regarding the transition of healthcare benefits. Since Ms. Mento worked at the ACUA and knows the ins and outs of the Authority, she was extremely helpful, especially from the perspective of retirees, and the information she was able to provide was invaluable.

Chairman Embry asked if there were any further questions or comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary