

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary  
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – December 18, 2025

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on December 19, 2025:

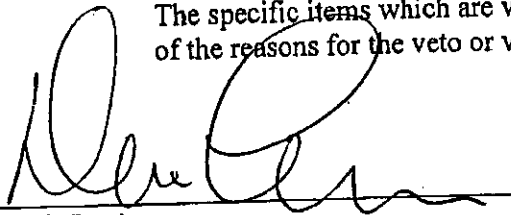
- (a)  by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b)  as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c)  beyond the statutory period for submission.


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: 12/23/25

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

ATTACHMENTS:  Minutes  
 Veto Message

**ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

**December 18, 2025 – 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
Alex Marino	Member
Michael Pullia	Member
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President of 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
Katherine Vesey	Director of Finance
Sharon Hunt	Director of Human Resources
Ish Chameli	Human Resources Assistant
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Fredy Flores	Computer Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT**

Keith Davis, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Arthur J. Murray, Esq.	Atlantic County Law Department - Zoom
Harvey Coccozza, CPA, RMA	Ford, Scott & Associates, LLC
Lynda Snelgrove	Transcriptionist, Court Reporting Services (CSR)
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 2025-2026 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 25, 2025, 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 Star Ledger, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on November 24, 2025, 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	present - Zoom
Maria Mento	present
Alex Marino	present
Mickey Pullia	present

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2025, MEETING** – voted on and approved by all members, except for Mr. Marino, who abstained from the vote.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

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

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Gary Conover, Vice President of Solid Waste, for his 35 years of dedicated service to the ACUA. Mr. Conover will be retiring at the end of December, and he was presented with a certificate to show the Authority's sincere appreciation for his excellent service, dedication, institutional knowledge, and the positive impact he has had on the Authority. Mr. DeNafo wished Mr. Conover all the best in his retirement. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Embry also wished Mr. Conover a happy retirement.

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Pat Broecker, Recycling Group Leader, who will be retiring at the end of December. Mr. Broecker was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Broecker for his 36 years of dedicated service to the ACUA. He said Mr. Broecker will be presented with a certificate in appreciation, and he wished him all the best in his retirement.

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mike Butler, Fleet Services Group Leader, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Butler for his 19 years of dedicated service to the ACUA. He said Mr. Butler will be presented with a certificate in appreciation, and he wished him all the best in his retirement.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Embry thanked all of the retirees for their many years of outstanding service. Mrs. Ward also congratulated all of the retirees and wished them the best in their retirement.

**AUDIT PRESENTATION - 2024 AUDIT REPORT**

Ms. Bazemore introduced Mr. Harvey Coccozza, CPA, RMA, and a Partner with Ford, Scott & Associates, to the Board, stating they performed the 2024 Audit, and Mr. Coccozza would be reporting on this. Mr. Coccozza then went over the report and stated that there were no findings or comments regarding the Authority's 2024 Audit. On behalf of the ACUA, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Coccozza for his presentation. He also thanked Mrs. Bazemore, Katie Vesey, and the Finance Department Staff for all of their hard work and for the time that it took to prepare for the audit.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION COMMENTS:**

**Resolution 25-12-295: Adopting Wastewater Rates, Fees and Charges.**

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2026.

Linda Bazemore testified that, per statutory requirements, a Notice of the Proposed Wastewater Rates and Fees, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2026, has been duly published in both The Press of Atlantic City and The Star Ledger. For the record, the rate for the treatment of wastewater charged to the 14 participants of the system will increase from \$2,559.15 to \$2,610.33 per million gallons, resulting in an increase of 2%. The rates for 2025 and 2024 both increased by 2%. The total amount to be billed to the 14 participants in 2026 is \$26,659,337.00. The amount billed to the participants in 2025 was \$26,136,604.00. As part of the calculation, total system flows will remain at 10,213 million gallons in 2026, as they have been since 2021. Sludge Gate Rates: Sludge Cake > 24.1% - \$59.91 per Cubic Yd.;

Sludge Cake 20.1 to 24% - \$77.03 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 18.1 to 20% - \$85.16 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 16.0 to 18% - \$152.78 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake less than 16% - \$203.20 per Cubic Yd. The 2026 Sludge Gate Rate increase is reflective of a 5% increase. Septage Disposal Rate will be \$.07 per gallon; Grease Recovery - Inspection fees for 2026 - \$138.39 for the first unit and \$22.26 for each additional unit. The Grease Recovery - Inspection fees increase is reflective of a 5% increase. Grease disposal rate will be \$.13 per gallon.

The Laboratory Fee Schedule modifications included an average increase in rates that amounted to 3.13%. All other advertised fees, rates and charges will remain unchanged.

The total Wastewater Budget for 2026 is \$34,054,380, which represents an increase of 3.12% as compared to the 2025 budget that amounted to \$33,025,145.

Chairman Embry asked if there were any comments from the public, and there were none. Roll call was taken, and the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Resolution 25-12-296: Adopting Solid Waste Rates, Fees and Charges.**

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2026.

Linda Bazemore testified that, per statutory requirements, a Notice of the Proposed Solid Waste Rates and Fees, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2026, has been duly published in both The Press of Atlantic City and The Star Ledger. Ms. Bazemore testified that the total budget for 2026 is \$51,420,445, which represents an increase of 5.09% as compared to the 2025 budget. The 2026 tip fee rate will be increasing by 2% resulting in projected tip fee revenue in the amount of \$31,951,655 in 2026, as compared to \$31,426,567 in 2025.

For the Solid Waste Division, the 2026 gate rates will be charged as follows:

Municipal Solid Waste will be \$89.89 per ton; construction & demolition waste and painted wood rate will be \$117.21 per ton; dry bulky waste rate will be \$117.21 per ton; dry industrial waste (non-hazardous) rate will be \$159.80 per ton; asbestos rate will be \$159.80 per ton; animal & food processing rate will be \$89.89 per ton; vegetative waste rate will be \$89.89 per ton; recycling processing fee rate will be \$44.37 per ton; and yard waste rate will be \$27.50 per ton. All other advertised fees, rates and charges remain unchanged.

Chairman Embry asked if there were any comments from the public, and there were none. Roll call was taken, and the resolution was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Resolution 25-12-309: Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Bridgeton for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services, for the contract term January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2030, with up to two (2) additional one (1) year extensions. The estimated revenue to the Authority for the first year of the agreement is \$959,991.06**

Explanation: The Authority will perform Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services for the City of Bridgeton.

Chairman Embry asked about additional costs. Mr. DeNafo stated that the Authority has noticed that using a flat Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the municipal contracts needed to be changed and the Authority is doing away with "auto-roll" contracts. Instead, the Authority will be using 5-year term contracts. This way, a contract can be reevaluated every 5 years.

Mr. Marino asked about extensions of contracts. He asked, as an example, if Bridgeton requested the extension or if the Authority did. Mr. DeNafo replied that in most cases it is the municipality that wants an extension and, in this case, Bridgeton had requested it.

**Resolution 25-12-314:** Authorizing a Rider to the Shared Services Agreement between the ACUA and the City of Ventnor for Solid Waste, Bulky Waste, Recycling, and Yard Waste Collection Services. This is a one (1)-year extension to the agreement, beginning January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Amount of estimated revenue for this extension is \$746,757.01, plus associated tip fees. During this timeframe, the Authority will discuss the potential of a new five (5) year agreement with the City of Ventnor.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**Resolution 25-12-315:** Authorizing a Rider to the Shared Services Agreement between the ACUA and Egg Harbor Township for Recycling Collection Services. This is a six-month extension, beginning January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026. Amount of estimated revenue for this extension is \$382,181.03. During this timeframe, the Authority will discuss the potential of a new five (5) year agreement with Egg Harbor Township.

Mrs. Pfrommer abstained from the vote.

**Resolution 25-12-325:** Authorizing the award of a contract to Foley, Inc. for Heavy Equipment, Parts, Accessories, Supplies & Related Services through the OMNIA Partners National Cooperative Purchasing System. Amount is not to exceed \$960,000.00 for contract term January 1, 2026, to October 2, 2026.

Explanation: Annual contract for the parts, repairs and service of Solid Waste Heavy Equipment.

Mrs. Pfrommer asked for clarification on the contract term. Mr. DeNafo responded, stating that this contract is issued every year. Because the OMNIA partner has not set the contract term for a full year, the Authority cannot have a full year contract.

**Resolution 25-12-341:** Introducing 2026 Wastewater Division Budget.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**Resolution 25-12-342:** Introducing 2026 Solid Waste Division Budget.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**Resolution 25-12-344:** Authorizing Amendment to the Approved 2025 Solid Waste Division Budget.

Explanation: Management is requesting that the Board authorize an amendment to the 2025 Solid Waste Division Budget, per requirements of the DCA.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**Resolution 25-12-345:** Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Ventnor for Digital Media Consulting Services. Cost to Ventnor is not to exceed \$13,200.00.

Explanation: The ACUA will assist Ventnor in creating and managing digital content for its online presence, at the rate of \$65.00 per hour, for the contract term January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote. She also commended the ACUA's Authority Relations Team on the excellent job they have done and continue to do with regard to the Ventnor City newsletter.

**Resolution 25-12-347:** Authorizing payment of certain expenditures. \$7,449,841.83

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

#### **PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:**

Chairman Embry announced that a group photo of the ACUA Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 2:30 PM. He requested all Board members attend in person.

Mr. Marino commented that he was very sorry to hear of the passing of former ACUA employee, Michelle Bellinger. He said he knew Ms. Bellinger very well. She was a great ambassador for the ACUA, and she was always willing to set up a table at Stockton University. Chairman Embry added that there will be a memorial service for Ms. Bellinger next week.

Mr. Marino stated that Stockton University received a presentation from PolyGone in September, and he was very impressed with them. He said hearing what the ACUA has done, under Joe Pantalone's leadership over the last year-and-a-half, has been simply incredible. Mr. Marino said as a former County Commissioner, he is very much interested in the Economic Development of Atlantic County and wanted to know why PolyGone is not here in Atlantic County. Therefore, he did his own investigation to find out where they were located. After speaking with Mr. Pantalone, Mr. DeNafo and Chairman Embry, Mr. Marino said that he reached out to Lauren Moore of the Atlantic County Economic Alliance (ACEA). They scheduled a meeting with Mr. Marino, Mr. Pantalone, and Max Slusher and Lauren Moore from the ACEA to discuss PolyGone. Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. Pantalone reached out to PolyGone, and he, Mr. Marino, and Stockton's Dean of Science had a meeting approximately two weeks ago. The meeting went well, according to Mr. Marino, and PolyGone is interested in moving components of their operation to the Atlantic County region.

Chairman Embry asked what incentives could be offered to get PolyGone to come to Atlantic County. Mr. Marino replied grant-writing support. Mr. Marino said that the ACEA partners with Triad Associates, and Triad could assist with grant-writing opportunities. Chairman Embry then asked how the ACUA fits in, and Mr. Marino stated that the ACUA provides funding to the ACEA, and they are partners with them.

Next, Mr. DeNafo updated the Board on the Town Budget Meetings that the Authority has had with municipalities since the end of November to go over the 2026 rates. He reported that these meetings have all gone well.

Regarding the Authority's landfill expansion, the application was submitted on October 27, 2025, and the first SWAC meeting was on December 9, 2025, which went well. There will be another SWAC meeting in January of 2026, then, hopefully, the Authority will get a recommendation from SWAC to go to the County Board of Commissioners, which is the next step in the process. In addition, some municipalities have passed resolutions in support of the ACUA's expansion of the landfill (ie - Egg Harbor Township and Linwood), and Mr. DeNafo believes more municipalities will be passing resolutions in support of the landfill expansion.

Mr. DeNafo thanked the Board for all of their support over the past year. He said the Authority truly appreciates each and every Board member attending the Committee and Board meetings each month, and supporting everything the Authority does. He said the ACUA's 2025 highlight video will be shown at the January Board Meeting.

Ms. Mento asked Mr. DeNafo if there have been any updates regarding three SWAC applicants. Mr. DeNafo said that he has followed up with the County Executive's Office and was advised that the hope is the three applicants will be recommended to be on the SWAC Board.

Mrs. Ward thanked Mr. DeNafo for all of the assistance he and the ACUA Staff have given to Pleasantville. She said 2025 has been a very trying year, and she appreciates all of the Authority's help. She also wished everyone and their families a very Happy Holiday Season.

Mrs. Pfrommer commented that it has been an honor and a privilege to have Gary Conover working at the ACUA. She said whenever she had any questions or concerns, Mr. Conover has always helped out. She wished him all the best in his retirement.

Chairman Embry commended the ACUA on how immaculate and clean the Transfer Station looks. He said he recently drove by it and wanted to commend the staff on this. Mr. DeNafo said that Gary Conover and Greg Seher oversee the Transfer Station and they, along with the staff, are doing a great job.

Chairman Embry asked Mr. DeNafo to give an update on the negotiations regarding the windmills at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. DeNafo said that the Authority is still in negotiations with Leeward Renewable Energy, LLC. Gabel Associates is assisting the Authority in these negotiations. Mr. DeNafo is hopeful that this will be wrapped up in January 2026, and he will keep the Board updated.

Chairman Embry thanked the Board Officers and ACUA Staff for the work they have done in 2025. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and asked if anyone had any further questions or comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary