

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – April 17, 2025

I. The Minutes of the above-referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on April 21, 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.

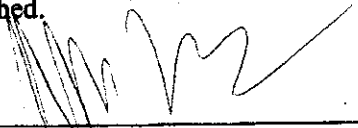
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (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: 4/23/25
cc: Tara Silipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners
ATTACHMENTS: ☒ Minutes
 ☐ Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

April 17, 2025 – 3:00 PM

6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Fred Akers	Vice-Chairman
Frank Formica	Member
Judy Ward	Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	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/Acting Board Secretary
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Arthur J. Murray, Esq.	County Counsel – Zoom
James Bertino, Liaison	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - absent

Vice-Chairman Akers 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 Press of Atlantic City, 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 Press of Atlantic City, The Daily Journal, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on March 27, 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, Board Secretary, which reflected a quorum was present.

Chairman Embry	absent
Fred Akers	present
Andrew Berenato	absent
Frank Formica	present - Zoom
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present – Zoom
Maria Mento	present

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 20, 2025 – 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. Oscar Echevarria, Electrician, for his 32 years of service and commitment to the ACUA. Mr. Echevarria was presented with a certificate to show the Authority's sincere appreciation for his 32 years of excellent service and dedication. Mr. DeNafo wished Mr. Echevarria all the best in his retirement.

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. DeNafo thanked Mr. Calvin McClendon, Lead Equipment Operator, for his 25 years of service and dedication to the ACUA. Mr. McClendon was presented with a certificate to show the Authority's sincere appreciation for his 25 years of outstanding service and hard work. Mr. DeNafo wished Mr. McClendon all the best in his retirement.

Vice-Chairman Akers then introduced 15-year-old Geoffrey Lovett, from Boy Scout Troop #55, who made a presentation to the Board on a Garden Bed Restoration Project that he completed in seven (7) months at The Somers Mansion in Somers Point. Geoffrey had approximately 20 fellow Boy Scouts assist him with this project, which will help him advance to Eagle Scout. He thanked Mr. DeNafo and the ACUA for their donation of EcoSoil. In addition to the ACUA, Geoffrey said he was very grateful to a local lumberyard, who donated the wood for the garden boxes, and The Tree-Man Tree Service, who donated woodchips. On behalf of the ACUA, Mr. DeNafo thanked Geoffrey and stated that he did an excellent job on this project.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 25-4-117: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures - \$9,758,047.14

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. DeNafo stated that the ACUA is now using UKG for payroll services. He thanked Linda Bazemore and her team for their dedication and hard work to get UKG up and running. Ms. Mento asked if UKG ties into other systems, and Mr. DeNafo replied that it does, and there is a mobile app as well, which is very user-friendly.

Mr. DeNafo then reported on the status of ACUA's search for a new health insurance provider. He said that the ACUA held a meeting with Marsh McLennan, who is the new broker of record to assist the ACUA in finding a new health insurance provider. Marsh McLennan has presented options to assist in potentially getting the ACUA out of the State-run health benefits program, but also allowing the ACUA to have Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with the same policy benefits, and a 12% savings. He said the ACUA is still waiting for final numbers from Marsh McLennan. If the ACUA is presented with a new plan that will work for the organization, then a special Board Meeting may need to be held to approve this. However, he stressed that many items still need to happen before any changes are made. Ms. Mento asked if the ACUA would need to pay any money back to the State if they change plans. Mr. DeNafo deferred the question to Ms. Bazemore, who stated that the ACUA pays their premiums on a monthly basis. She also heard that some agencies had an issue with prior costs, but they were not in State health benefits, rather, they were in stand-alone plans. Therefore, they were responsible for any additional costs.

Mrs. Ward stated she was very impressed with Geoffrey Lovett and his presentation. She added that the Boy Scouts help to teach good life skills. She also congratulated both Mr. Echevarria and Mr. McClendon on their retirements and wished them all the best.

Mr. DeNafo reminded everyone that the ACUA's Annual Earth Day is Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Akers asked if anyone had any further questions or comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary