

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary  
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – September 21, 2023

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A 40:41A-37 et seq. on Sept. 22 2023


- (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.

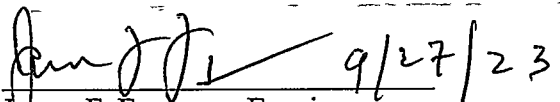
II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (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

 9/27/23  
James F. Ferguson, Esquire  
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date: 9/28/23

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

ATTACHMENTS:  Minutes  
 Veto Message

**ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY**  
**September 21, 2023 – 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
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
Ryan Donovan	Associate Engineer
Greg Seher	Director of Solid Waste
Kristi Aiken	Maintenance Resource Coordinator/Assistant Board Secretary
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Brittany Poplawski	System Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT**

Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Sarah Kiamos	County Law Department - Zoom
Andrew Parker	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners
Jerry Campanaro	Marsh & McLennan Agency
Ashley Dube	Difference Card

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 24, 2023, 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
John Lyons	absent
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present
Maria Mento	present

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 17, 2023** – voted on and approved by all members.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Authority Relations** - None.

**Centralized Maintenance** - None.

**Engineering** - None.

**Finance** - None.

**Solid Waste** - Mr. Akers reported that the Recycling Center dust and odor filtration system replacement was completed in August. Regarding recycling, paper commodity prices are up slightly, metal commodities prices are flat, and plastic commodity prices are down. Meanwhile, recycling collection tonnage is up about 11% over 2022. The ACUA sent three trailer loads of tires to market in August. Also, three new CNG packer trucks were added to the fleet to replace three 18-year-old diesel packer trucks, bringing the packer fleet up to 95% CNG vehicles.

**Wastewater** - None.

**PRESENTATION BY DIFFERENCE CARD REGARDING THE HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT (HRA) PLAN**

Mr. DeNafo addressed the Board and explained that the Authority has been exploring different insurance options to try and save money as the State Health Benefits Program, especially Direct 10, has continued to increase. Last year, there was a 21½% increase on the State's health premium. This year, the Authority anticipates another 8% increase. Not only is the Authority affected by this increase, but the employees are also. He stated that Atlantic County has been working with the Marsh & McLennan Agency on a policy that is a 20/35 Plan, which has a higher deductible, but provides a much lower premium for the Authority, and employees will be able to receive Direct 10 benefits. He explained that the Difference Card is an organization that has come up with a solution which will help the Authority make up the difference between the Direct 10 Plan and the 20/35 Plan. He reiterated that the Authority will still get the benefits of the premium. Also, the Difference Card may be used by employees at their physician's office/hospital, which will make up the difference from the 20/35 Plan to the Direct 10 Plan. Employees will see a savings of approximately 24%, and the Authority will also see savings in health insurance premiums as more employees participate in the program.

Mr. DeNafo stated that the Authority had prepared a resolution to go on the draft Agenda for the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan for this month. However, the HRA Plan is cumbersome and needs to be reviewed more thoroughly. It would be difficult to get that done in time for this month's Board meeting. Also, the Authority wanted to have a presentation to the Board first, which would be helpful. He said if the Authority does move forward with this plan, there would have to be a special enrollment period.

Mr. DeNafo then introduced Jerry Campanaro from Marsh & McLennan Agency, and Ashley Dube from the Difference Card. He stated that they would be making a presentation to the Board on the HRA Plan.

Ms. Dube began by saying that the Difference Card has been in existence for 22 years and is based out of West Chester County, New York. Her presentation included slides which showed how both employees and the Authority would save money by having the HRA Plan. Ms. Dube also stated that all employees will receive Direct 10 benefits with the HRA Plan. If an employee is already enrolled in the Direct 10 Plan, they will have an approximate savings of 24% with the HRA Plan. Those enrolled in Direct 15, will have approximately a 21% savings, and those enrolled in Direct 20/30, will see approximately a 13% savings. She explained that this is a way for employees to still have good benefits but pay less out of their paycheck for contributions towards health benefits.

Mr. Parker asked what would happen if someone was at their doctor's office and forgot to bring the Difference Card with them. Ms. Dube replied that the individual should request a receipt from their doctor's office and submit that to the Difference Card for reimbursement. Mr. Parker asked how long it takes for reimbursement, and Ms. Dube said approximately 2 to 4 business days.

Mr. Campanaro addressed the Board next. He stated that Hunterdon County was the first to utilize the HRA Plan and Difference Card. He reiterated that it would benefit the Authority and the employees by saving them money.

Ms. Mento asked if the Authority had any employees who had Direct 15 and Direct 20. Ms. Bazemore responded that there are. Ms. Mento then asked for confirmation that these employees would get the benefit of being in Direct 10 through this program, and Ms. Dube responded that they would. Ms. Mento asked if the savings that Ms. Dube and Mr. Campanaro are projecting assumes that all of the Authority's employees join the HRA Plan. Ms. Dube replied that the program would be optional. Ms. Mento then asked if there is a number where it is going to cost the Authority if "x" amount employees do not sign up. Ms. Dube responded by stating that they would need 25 employees to sign up. Ms. Mento asked what that would mean to the Authority, and if the Authority would break even with zero savings/zero costs. Mr. Campanaro replied that the more members who joined, the greater the savings to the Authority.

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

Mr. DeNafo introduced the Authority's new Vice President of Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management, James Rocco, to the Board. He stated that Mr. Rocco has more than 30 years of engineering and project management experience and brings distinct experience and knowledge that make him an excellent fit for this role. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Embry welcomed Mr. Rocco and wished him all the best in his new position with the Authority.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.**

#### **RESOLUTION COMMENTS:**

**Resolution 23-9-225: Authorizing award of a contract to Jesco, Inc. for the purchase of a Topcon VR Base & Rover for two (2) landfill bulldozers, through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing System. Cost is \$161,300.00.**

Chairman Embry said he was curious about the cost of the two bulldozers and the GPS system being so high. Mr. DeNafo explained that the surveying software continually monitors where the bulldozers are located. Mr. DeNafo said this is a real-time, elevation monitoring system which gives direction and tells the operators where they can fill and where they cannot fill. For example, as the bulldozers are coming around side slopes, it is imperative that they are not over-filling material or under-filling material.

**Resolution 23-9-245: Authorizing a contract amendment to contract with Fastenal Company through NJ State Contract for Industrial/MRO Equipment & Supplies. Amount of increase is \$6,404.35.**

Chairman Embry asked if employees receive boots and other equipment immediately after being hired. Ms. Bazemore replied that they do not and that items are not ordered for new employees for at least two (2) weeks after they are hired.

**Resolution 23-9-247: Authorizing the Atlantic County Utilities Authority to renew its membership in the Atlantic County Insurance Commission.**

Ms. Mento asked if this resolution refers to the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). Chairman Embry responded that it is. Ms. Mento asked if the Authority has reassessed this and whether it makes sense to be part of JIF versus going out and finding other options. Mr. DeNafo said that Janette Kessler, who is a Commissioner for the ACIC, thoroughly reviews and is aware of all claims of the ACUA and keeps management informed of claims information as related to premium costs. Ms. Pfrommer mentioned that Egg Harbor Township is making a change for next year and that Egg Harbor Township will be leaving the JIF. She suggested that it might be worth it for the Authority to investigate this further.

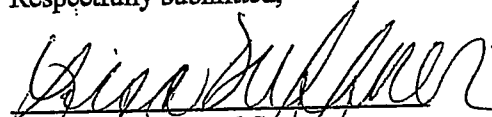
**Resolution 23-9-249: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures. \$6,793,804.82**

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

**PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS:** None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary