

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – December 19, 2024

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41A-37 et seq. on December 20, 2024.

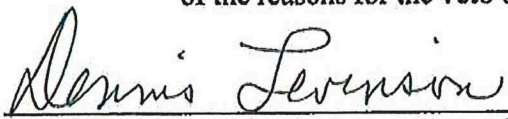
- (a) ☒ by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) ☐ as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) ☐ beyond the statutory period for submission.

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


Kaitlynn Flynn, Assistant County Counsel
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date: 12/20/2024

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

ATTACHMENTS: x Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

December 19, 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 - Zoom
Judy Ward	Member - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Maria Mento	Member - Zoom
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President Wastewater
Gary Conover	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Oren Thomas	Purchasing Manager
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Fredy Flores	Computer Analyst
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Kaitlynn Flynn, Esq.	County Counsel – Zoom
Darlene Engel	Certified Court Reporter, CSR Court Reporting

James Bertino, Liaison	Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - absent
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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 November 25, 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	present - Zoom
Frank Formica	present - Zoom
Judy Ward	present - Zoom
Laura Pfrommer	present
Maria Mento	present - Zoom

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024 – voted on and approved by all members.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 24-12-281: Adopting Wastewater Rates, Fees and Charges.

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2025.

Linda Bazemore testified that the treatment of wastewater charged to the 14 participants of the system will increase from \$2,508.97 to \$2,559.15 per million gallons, resulting in an increase of 2%. The 2024 rate increased by 2% and there was an increase of 8% to the 2023 rate. In 2021, the flows decreased resulting in a rate reduction of 6.50%. The total amount to be billed to the 14 participants in 2025 is \$26,136,604. The amount billed to the participants in 2024 was \$25,624,122. As part of the calculation, total system flows will remain at 10,213 million gallons in 2025, as they have been since 2021. Sludge Gate Rates: Sludge Cake > 24.1% - \$57.06 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 20.1 to 24% - \$73.36 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 18.1 to 20% - \$81.10 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake 16.0 to 18% - \$145.50 per Cubic Yd.; Sludge Cake less than 16% - \$193.52 per Cubic Yd. The 2025 Sludge Gate Rate increase is reflective of a 3.39% increase. Septage Disposal Rate will be \$.065 per gallon; Grease Recovery - Inspection fees \$131.80 for the first unit and \$21.20 for each additional unit.

The Laboratory Fee Schedule modifications included an average increase in rates that amounted to 2.66%. All other advertised fees, rates and charges will remain unchanged.

The total Wastewater Budget for 2025 is \$33,025,145, which represents an increase of 1.05% as compared to the 2024 budget.

Resolution 24-12-282: Adopting Solid Waste Rates, Fees and Charges.

Explanation: Rate hearing to set fees and charges effective January 1, 2025.

Linda Bazemore testified that the total budget for 2025 is \$49,380,777, which represents an increase of 2.66% as compared to the 2024 budget. The 2025 tip fee rate will be increasing by 2.75% resulting in projected tip fee revenue in the amount of \$31.4 million in 2025 as compared to \$31.2 million in 2024.

For the Solid Waste Division, the 2025 gate rates will be charged as follows:

Municipal Solid Waste will be \$88.13 per ton; construction & demolition waste and painted wood rate will be \$114.91 per ton; dry bulky waste rate will be \$114.91 per ton; dry industrial waste (non-hazardous) rate will be \$156.67 per ton; asbestos rate will be \$156.67 per ton; animal & food processing rate will be \$88.13 per ton; recycling processing fee rate will be \$43.50 per ton; and yard waste rate will be \$27.00 per ton. All other advertised fees, rates and charges remain unchanged.

Resolution 24-12-292: Authorizing an Inter-Local Shared Services Agreement between the ACUA and Egg Harbor Township for Recycling Collection Services.

Explanation: Renewal of agreement. The total annual revenue to the Authority will be \$740,302.24, for contract term January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Mrs. Pfrommer abstained from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-300: Authorizing a contract with Aqua-Tex Transport, Inc. for Marketing of Recyclable/Reusable Material.

Explanation: Renewal of contract for contract term January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$13.00 per ton. Amount of revenue to the Authority is approximately \$260,000.00.

Mr. Berenato abstained from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-318: Ratifies Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 68.

Explanation: Ratifies the Local 68 Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 3-year period, January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-319: Authorizing participation in the New Jersey State Health and Prescription Program for Active Employees. The 2025 annual cost is \$7,743,154.32. (This represents a 10% increase as compared to calendar year 2024.)

Explanation: Medical and prescription benefits for active employees for calendar year 2025.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-320: Authorizing participation in the New Jersey State Health and Prescription Program for Retirees. The 2025 annual cost is \$3,142,361.00. (This represents a 31% increase as compared to calendar year 2024.)

Explanation: Contract for health benefits for retired employees for calendar year 2025.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Chairman Embry asked if the increase in cost is actually 31%. Mrs. Bazemore responded by stating that this increase has to do with the fact that there were many active employees who retired, so the insurance premiums have gone up as well.

Resolution 24-12-321: Authorizing renewal of a contract for Employee Vision Care Plan to National Vision Administrators. Amount not to exceed \$28,009.00, for the contract term January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Explanation: Renewal of contract for active employee vision care plan.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-322: Authorizing renewal of a contract for administration of Employee Dental Insurance Program to Delta Dental of New Jersey. Amount not to exceed \$163,432.00, for the contract term January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Explanation: Renewal of contract for active employee Dental Premier and Preferred Plans.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-323: Authorizing renewal of a contract to Flagship Health Care Systems for employee dental insurance (DeltaCare). Amount not to exceed \$27,455.00 for the contract term January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

Explanation: Renewal of contract for active employee Dental Flagship HMO Plan.

Mr. Formica recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 24-12-329: Authorizing payment of certain expenditures: \$6,804,835.71

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 addressed the Board. The first item he discussed was the successful negotiations with the Union and thanked the staff involved. The second item was regarding the ACUA's Annual Budget Meetings that were held throughout November and December. Mr. DeNafo said the ACUA met with each municipality and MUA in the County and finished with the County Commissioners meeting; all of the meetings went well. The County Commissioners also included an update on the landfill. He thanked Mrs. Bazemore and her staff for all their help and assistance throughout the budget process. He also thanked Sonia Chowdhury, who scheduled the meetings. Lastly, Mr. DeNafo stated that landfill odor complaints are down considerably compared to last year at this time. Chairman Embry asked if the Authority asks for the addresses of the individuals who call in to complain about the odor. Mr. DeNafo replied that the Authority is not allowed to ask for the names and addresses of the individuals who call in to complain.

Mrs. Ward wished everyone a wonderful holiday. She asked how the annual ACUA Holiday Party went, since she was unable to attend, and Mr. DeNafo responded that it was very well attended, and everyone had a good time.

Chairman Embry asked if anyone had any further comments or questions. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary