

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:31 P.M. by Chairman Todd Hay.

Minute 2 - Open Public Meetings Announcement

The Open Public Meeting Announcement was read by the Executive Director, Ronald S. Anastasio.

Minute 3 - Roll Call

Robert Albano	Present (phone)	Steven Mlenak	Present (phone)
Louis Esposito, Jr	Present	Philip Petrone	Present (phone)
Michael Impellizeri	Present	Spencer Pierini	Present (phone)
Joseph Lifrieri	Present	Gail Quabeck	Present (phone)
Edward Machala	Present	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Present (phone)
		Todd Hay	Present (phone)

Authority Staff

Ronald Anastasio, P.E., Executive Director	Present
Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Facility Engineer	Present (phone)
Anthony Tambasco, Plant Superintendent	<i>Absent</i>
Michael Ingenito, Chief Plant Operator	<i>Absent</i>
Dennis Smith, Supervisor Liquid Division	<i>Absent</i>
Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer	<i>Absent</i>
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Present (phone)

Professional Staff

Thomas Schoettle, P.E., CDM Smith	Present
Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Present (phone)
Joseph Maraziti, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Present (phone)

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag

Minute 5 – Approval of Minutes

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – August 24, 2020

Chairman Hay asked each Commissioner if there were any questions or comments with respect to the Open Session Minutes and there were none. With the Motion of Mr. Lifrieri, Second of Ms. Quabeck, the Minutes of the August 24, 2020 Meeting (Open Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Abstain
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – August 24, 2020

Chairman Hay asked all Commissioners if there were any questions, amendments, or comments with respect to the Closed Session Minutes and there were none. With the Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Esposito, the Minutes of the August 24, 2020 (Closed Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Abstain
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Minute 6 – Public Participation – NONE

Minute 7 – Consent Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

- 1) **Res. No. 20-0928-1** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite to Kuehne Company (A-21-1)
- 2) **Res. No. 20-0928-2** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Liquid Sodium Hydroxide – 50% Solution to JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc. (A-21-4)
- 3) **Res. No. 20-0928-3** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Liquid Sodium Bisulfite to PVS Chemicals, Inc. (A-21-3)
- 4) **Res. No. 20-0928-4** – Sewer Extension Resolution - Arthur’s Self Storage; 3421 US Route 22 East, Block 9 Lots 3.01, 3.02, 4.01 And 5.01; Township of Branchburg
- 5) **Res. No. 20-0928-5** – Sewer Extension - Redwood Inn Subdivision; Block 653, Lots 36 And 37; Township of Bridgewater
- 6) **Res. No. 20-0928-6** – Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Shared Services Agreement for Sharing Somerset County Department of Public Works Equipment and Personnel Between the County of Somerset and the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
- 7) **Res. No. 20-0928-7** – Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Commodity Resale Agreement Between the County of Somerset and the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority

Upon Motion of Ms. Quabeck, Second of Mr. Lifrieri, the above Resolutions were approved by the following roll call vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Minute 8 - Board Committees - NONE

Minute 9 - Chairman - Nothing to report. Commended Ron and the entire staff for continuing with business as usual with no COVID related issues.

Minute 10 - Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

1. Update on Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that the project is moving along nicely. The contractor continued to make good progress. Many of us have not seen each other in person for a couple of months and we do not have the benefit of seeing the construction photos so I will send out an email with good construction photos. It is really starting to take shape. The plant contains a large clarifier on the site, and they poured the concrete into the clarified for the floor and the walls. The building construction continues at the surface and some of the subsurface piping and multiple trades going on now. Some plumbing and pipe connections and concrete work all going on. They are going to start laying the block for the building sometime in October. In the next few weeks, the walls are going to go up for the building. We continued to make good progress on the project and are very happy with it.

2. Update and Discussion of SCTF Easement Soils Issue (Closed Session – Contract Negotiations)

3. Update on the Plantwide Electrical Rehabilitation Project

This project is also progressing nicely. The contractor is working diligently. It is a lot of work and they are doing a good job. We are in the Administration Building and this is Group II of the project where they are installing new conduits and a motor control center in this building, which powers equipment in the basement and also some other equipment nearby including Primary Clarifiers 1 and 2. This job is also going as well. Tony and Sherwin are doing a good job in keeping tabs on this project. Sherwin is also keeping tabs on the Storm Control Treatment Facility as well. Not a lot of issues. Small things come up, but we deal with them in the field. Nothing big to report other than good progress. We are happy with this project.

4. Report on Thickened Liquid Sludge Line Failure and Emergency Repair

We had an issue at the end of August, and it is a work in progress. We are sitting in the Administration Building. In the basement of this building there are a series of pumps and as you know, there is a large cylindrical tank connected to this building that contains liquid sludge. The basement of this building needs pumps to pump the thickened liquid sludge underground, across the courtyard to the incinerator building where the sludge is pumped up to the belt filter presses and is further thickened and sludge cake is created. That then gets sent to the incinerator for disposal. On Sunday August 30th, we had a rupture of a sludge line where we had liquid sludge coming out of the surface. That obviously is a problem. These lines are about 50 years old and you will see that I go into detail in my memo. The bottom-line is that we knew at some point this project was coming. We planned on tackling this as part of a bundle for the incinerator R2 miscellaneous improvement project that we have coming up. This was going to be part of that as was the underground storage tank removal, which we decided

to do separately, and that project is getting underway. Now we cannot wait to this. If we lose the ability to make sludge cake which means we lose the ability to incinerate sludge, then we have to dispose of our sludge in liquid form entirely, which is 23 tanker trucks leaving the Authority every day and would cost us about \$12,000/day. There is a lot of risk. The pipes are 50 years old. They work in tandem, lines 1 and 2 are interconnected and they cannot be valved off. So, when one fails, that set of lines is out of service. We are operating on lines 3 and 4 right now and are having no problems now. There is an old 6" pipe going across the courtyard. It used to be used for another purpose called a "centrate" line. This was back in the day when we had centrifuges, back in the late 1960's. That, we can say, is a backup but I do not know if we can really rely on it. We did an air test on it and it did not hold in the 48-hour period. We are a little bit on thin ice with this. We also have a backup solution where we can lay pipe temporarily on the surface and pipe it over across the parking lot. But that then takes out of service our maintenance garage and disrupts our operations there. This project was always going to happen, and we were hoping to beat any rupture.

Sherwin prepared some engineering drawings so that we can get prices from contractors that we know, reliable contractors that have done work for the Authority over the years and we know can handle this job, such as Iron Hills Construction who did the incinerator work, people like that that can do mechanical contracting work. We are talking to four firms right now. We just started showing this job around late last week. Sherwin and Tony had two contractors come out today. It is going to take 2-3 weeks to prepare pricing for this. Also, we are planning on purchasing the piping directly, so we do not have to pay any markup. We can also purchase piping under the PVSC Co-Op, from Raritan Pipe which is a supplier that serves our industry a lot and we work with them all the time. A question arose as to what type of pipe is it. Ron explained that the sludge lines going across the parking lot are ductile iron pipes. They are 4" lines and there are four of them. In Sherwin's design, we modified it where we have three 6" lines. That would plan for future capacity. We could almost double the sludge that we are sending today and still have more than enough pipe capacity. A more modern alternative to this would-be high-density polyethylene pipe for the sludge lines in the basements of both buildings. There is a header system on both the pump end, where any pump can be used for any line. It is set up like that now with valves and such, probably around 20 valves. It all needs attention and we've made repairs over the years, but it has run its course. We are looking at like we would as if we had time to do this as part of the project. We want to make it fine for the next 50 years. It needs to be reliable. What is now ductile iron pipe in the basements, we would install stainless pipe because we have had to replace sections of ductal for the same reason, erosion. We are going to look at the pricing and see what our options are versus coated ductile iron pipe (epoxy coated). We are going to compare what is available. We will see what price is and the labor to install it.

Mr. Pierini raised a question about the drawings that Sherwin prepared. Would they be signed and sealed by the Authority? A discussion ensued and Ron indicated they don't necessarily have to be, but we are not submitting them for any permits and there is no regulatory agency that is going to look at this. The Bridgewater Township Building

Department does not get involved with process piping. In terms of liability, do we have PLI (Professional Liability Insurance) or government official's insurance that would cover it in case there was a mistake? In terms of protecting the Authority, does it make sense to have it reviewed by CDM and have them have their stamp on the drawings? Ron stated that through our JIF insurance policy, we do have insurance coverage for our staff, including our PE's. It seems that he is insured by the Authority so there should not be a problem. Usually that is covered under PLI and we want to make sure that we are covered from an insurance perspective. Ron stated that we are and the fact that the JIF policy covers any of the work that we do and any of the work our engineers would sign and seal, there is no issue there.

And, we do not need to add another layer of cost onto this project if its not needed. Mr. Pierini respectfully disagreed and thinks it should be reviewed by an engineer unless the insurance is there to cover us and if that is the case then I think it is fine. Ron stated that as part of our policy, the JIF covers all the Professional Liability for the staff members, so we are covered. It may be up to \$10 million because of what we do here. Sherwin indicated that he does not have any issues signing the drawings if that is required by the Board, just to make sure he is liable for this then it is not an issue for him. He can definitely sign them, but Ron indicated that there is no need as we are not submitting them to anyone. The liability is to us, for instance if we have a piping failure but there will not be an issue plus, we're covered through the JIF. In terms of any environmental spill, everything is contained within the two basements of the buildings, the Administration Building, and the Reactor Building. There is very little environmental exposure here plus the HDPE piping is going to be fused and we are going to require that the installation contractor or subcontractor for that portion, is certified in the fusing of HDPE. We will make sure we have all that covered.

Ms. Quabeck asked if Ron is looking for the Board to consider this Resolution which declares that it is an emergency, and we authorize you to proceed. Ron indicated that next month we will be able to reaffirm this and by that time, the cost should be known, we should have a contractor selected and we can issue a purchase order. I think right now we should have the Board to declare it an emergency. However, if it is not done by next month it wouldn't be an emergency. Ron stated we are doing some things concurrently, but we want to get it on the Board's radar. We want to get this Resolution passed now and then we will move from there.

Res. No. 20-0928-8 Resolution Declaring Emergency for the Repair/Replacement of the Thickened Liquid Sludge Piping System

Upon a Motion of Ms. Quabeck, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	No
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes

Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

5. Report on the Need to Rebuild Primary Clarifier Nos. 1 & 2 Steel Structures

So, it seems tonight the theme is deterioration because everything around here is getting old. Back in February or March, the Board authorized us to make a purchase under the PVSC Co-Op for the purchase and installation of two clarifier drives, which we have done. We have primary drive #1 installed and they are slated to install #2 on October 20th. What we discovered once the old drive was removed and the new one was being installed and we know that these clarifiers are old, P1 and P2 go back to the original contract #1 in 1958 for the Authority. The mechanism for the clarifiers, the rakes and the center columns, are original to the Authority and we got a long time out of these but what we realized is that the thing that holds the motor in place is in such poor shape that we we're worried that if we build up too much sludge in the clarifier, the motor had an over torque setting so it would shut off before it would burn itself out if it has to push too difficult of a load. What we realized is we're not certain that the steel structure will be able to hold the motor to that much load, meaning that it might rip apart and turn on itself inside before it would shut off due to too much load. Under the PVSC Co-Op there is a contractor, the one that we purchased the drives from, GMH Associates, this is their main line of what they do. They mainly rebuild clarifiers, and we are looking at having them do this work. We have obtained a quote from them, which I did not provide to you yet since we're not looking for any action tonight. We are going to try and assess or gauge their price based on quotes from other contractors plus we have also received a price quote for the original parts from the manufacturer. We will put that all together and bring that to the Board next month. We want to be able to make a recommendation to go one way or another. Hopefully, we can go the PVSC route because it's already been bid, and we can award it directly upon approval of a Resolution. I just wanted to get it on the Board's radar. We talked about doing some strengthening before the drive was installed and they don't think it will hold the weld. Tony has seen it personally and it is bad. Next week Tony and I are going to take a trip to Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA). They have GMH upgrading some works on their site right now and are slated to do a couple of clarifiers. From what I understand, that is why this contract was bid by PVSC, because this work is needed and you can't wait until it fails. There are a lot of old plants and clarifiers out there. It is a good option, and it is not cheap and may be close to \$460,000 for parts and labor for two clarifiers. We had Tom Schoettle and CDM Smith look at it to gauge it and they indicated that the price is within the zone. We are looking at a couple other things. We looked at the cost of what PKF (our Storm Control Treatment Facility contractor) is charging to install the metal mechanisms in their new clarifier that we're building, which is \$150,000. We want to back into that the number is good and we can feel good about it without feeling like we are getting gouged.

6. Report on the Need to Rebuild the Multimedia Filter System Hydraulic Components

This is a tertiary filter system, our third stage of treatment. We don't need it to meet permit requirements, but it is really nice to have. First, it is nice to treat the water to as high of a standard as we can, but other times it is nice to have that third level to help us, when the plant is not running as good as it could because of an upset, this is a nice added insurance for us. Peter

Wozniak and I have discussed that because we've had issues with the filters in the last few years, beyond what we've had previously, our BOD loadings to the Raritan River have been a little higher than in the past because the filter has not been able to perform. We call it our Multimedia Filter which is basically a large version of a sand filter for a pool. It is sand and anthracite coal, and it contains eight cells and each of the cells can go into backwash. This thing works great when it is good shape, but it is so leaky and in such poor condition that the cells are not hydraulically isolated from each other and they behave like two or three cells might perform like one cell. Not that that takes away from their treatment capability, but they get blinded at the same time. More of the filter is offline. You need it to be where only one cell is being backwashed at a time. We met with the original equipment manufacturer who did an upgrade for the Authority in the late 80's after the Authority purchased that filter and the rest of the downstream part of the treatment plant from American Cyanamid. We got thirty years from those upgrades and now it is time to upgrade it again.

The concrete structure looks good but the steel structures need to be replaced. They weren't replaced in the late 80's with stainless steel; they were carbon steel and their now shot. We have made patches upon patches and our guys have done a great job of keeping that thing running. We asked them for a quote for stainless so that in thirty years, that is not an issue. Engineer Schoettle pointed out that this is a sophisticated piece of equipment and it is millions of dollars to recreate that. It might cost a few million to rehab it but \$15 or \$20 million to build it.

It is a large concrete structure with eight square cells called a Scour Pack made by Graver Water Systems and a scour pack consists of four cells, so it is two of them sandwiched together. We are looking to epoxy line it to prevent any future deterioration of the concrete, but the steel needs to be stainless rather than carbon steel. Even the walkways shake when you are up on top of the structure, as everything is shot.

So, there is no action required tonight. We haven't even had a chance to bring it to the Planning Committee so we just wanted to get it on the radar and will come back when we have more facts.

Mr. Hay asked if these two items are in our Capital Plan that we put together a year ago? Ron stated that the thickened liquid sludge piping was envisioned to be part of the R2 improvements which is on the Capital Budget and the Multi-Media filters system has been on the budget list as well. The clarifier projects were not. We thought we had a little more time with them. Mr. Hay stated that we should get this to the Planning Committee right away, correct? And Ron stated as part of the budget process, we will be meeting with Personnel Committee, Finance Committee and Planning committee as we like to go over the capital list in the new budget.

We will get more facts and put it before all the Committees and see where we are at for the October meeting. We should have the sludge line project ready to launch and we will talk about the others as well. We also envision that the clarifiers may be ready to launch as well.

We have been busy the past six years with big items like the incinerator upgrade and the storm control treatment facility. The incinerator is done, and the storm control will be done next spring.

B. Engineer/Consultants – CDM Smith Engineer’s Report for August 2020

C. Attorney – Maraziti Falcon, LLP

D. Department Reports:

1. Operations
2. Regulatory Compliance
3. Laboratory
4. Maintenance/Electrical

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

1. Facility Engineer’s Monthly Report
2. Capacity Allocation
3. Capacity Assurance
4. Monthly Flow Report

Minute 11 - Communications

- A. Mercury Emission Control System – Submission of Presentation Board to the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York for an Engineering Excellence Award
- B. Letter from William Savo, Esq. on behalf of the Bridgewater Township Counsel Opposing the Connection of the Proposed Fox Hollow Development in Readington Township to the SRVSA
- C. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Residual Transfer Report; Reporting Period 7/1/20-7/31/20
- D. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Surface Water Discharge Monitoring Report; Reporting Period 7/1/20-7/31/20
- E. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Residuals Discharge Monitoring Report; Reporting Period 7/1/20-7/31/20

Minute 12 - Res. No. 20-0928-9 - Payroll

Upon Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Esposito, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Minute 13 - Res. No. 20-0928-10 - Cancellation of Checks

Upon Motion of Mr. Lifrieri, Second of Mr. Pierini, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Minute 14 - Res. No. 20-0928-11 - Bills

Upon Motion of Ms. Quabeck, Second of Mr. Impellizeri, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Minute 15 – Res. No. 20-0928-12 - Adjourn to Closed Session - Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for the Purposes of Discussions Regarding Contract Negotiations Relating to the Storm Control Treatment Facility Easement Soils Issue

At 8:07 p.m., upon Motion of Mr. Lifrieri, Second of Mr. Impellizeri, the above adopted Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Steven Mlenak	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	<i>Absent</i>
Richard Mathews	<i>Absent</i>	Peter Stires	Yes
		Todd Hay	Yes

Open Session reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

Minute 16 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Mr. Stires, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 26, 2020**