

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
JANUARY 22, 2024
(RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 5, 2024)**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chairman Joseph Lifrieri.

Minute 2 - Open Public Meetings Announcement

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

Minute 3 – Oaths of Office – Commissioners

- a. Robert Albano - Member – Re-Appointment (Bridgewater Township) – Term 1/4/24 through 1/31/28
- b. Daniel Croson – Member - New Member (Warren Township) – Louis Esposito’s Unexpired Term through 2/1/2027
- c. John F. Murphy – Member - New Member (Raritan Borough) – Nicolas Carra’s Unexpired Term through 12/31/2027

(Messrs. Albano, Croson and Murphy were sworn in as Commissioners by Mr. Brad Carney, Esq. prior to the opening of the meeting.)

Minute 4 - Roll Call

Robert Albano	Present (Teams)	Richard Mathews	Present
Pamela Borek	Present	John Murphy	Present
Daniel Croson	Present	Michael Pappas	Present
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Present	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Present	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Present

Authority Staff

Ronald Anastasio, P.E., Executive Director	Present
Anthony Tambasco, Plant Superintendent	Present (Teams)
Michael Ingenito, Chief Plant Operator	Present (Teams)
Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Manager of Engineering	Present
Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer	Absent
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Present
Christian Santiago, Staff Engineer	Present (Teams)

Gerry Zielonka, Maintenance Supervisor

Present (Teams)

Professional Staff

Thomas Schoettle, P.E., CDM Smith (Teams)

Present (Teams)

Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP

Present

Joseph Maraziti, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP

Present (Teams)

Minute 5 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag.

Minute 6 – Approval of Minutes:

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – December 18, 2023

With the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Machala, the Minutes of the December 18, 2023 Meeting (Open Session) were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Abstain
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Abstain
Daniel Corson	Abstain	Michael Pappas	Abstain
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

Minute 7 – Public Hearings - None

Minute 8 – Public Participation – Chairman Lifrieri noted that a member of the public was in attendance, being Mayor Nicolas Carra of Raritan Borough.

Minute 9 – Consent Agenda: Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

Mr. Lifrieri asked if anyone had any issues with or comments about any of the Resolution on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Albano asked if the three Consent Agenda items can be voted on separately so that Mr. Esposito and Mr. Carra can be properly acknowledged for their service to the SRVSA.

- 1) **Res. No. 24-0122-1** - Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Nestle Healthcare Nutrition, Inc.

Upon a Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Croson, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

- 2) **Res. No. 24-0122-2** – Resolution Thanking Former Commissioner Louis Esposito, Jr. for His Service and Dedication to The Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority

Mr. Lifrieri commended Mr. Esposito for putting in a lot of time and effort for the SRVSA over the years and wished to thank him for his service and dedication.

Upon a Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Mathews, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

- 3) **Res. No. 24-0122-3** – Resolution Thanking Former Commissioner Nicolas Carra for His Service and Dedication to The Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority

Again, Mr. Lifrieri thanked Mr. Carra for his service and dedication to the SRVSA. Mayor Carra is here tonight as a member of the public.

Upon a Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

Minute 10 – Board Committees – NONE

Minute 11 – Chairman – Chairman Lifrieri once again thanked the former Commissioners and welcome the new Commissioners, Mr. Croson and Mr. Murphy. Thank you for serving on our Board.

Minute 13 – Reports

A. Executive Director’s Report

1. Update on R2 Incinerator Emergency Repair – Completed

Mr. Anastasio stated that if everyone recalls, we have to do an emergency repair to the roof of the R2 incinerator. That repair has been completed and went very well. It looks like a new top to the incinerator. They did an excellent job with little disruption. Our staff did a great job working with the contractor and organizing everything and working out a schedule. They were able to do it during the day and we were able to burn sludge at night. It was done a few times a week and we stretched out our schedule and it all worked out.

2. Report on the Pursuing of Federal Community Project Grants – (See memo from Chief Financial Officer Peter Wozniak)

Mr. Anastasio stated that we are looking into pursuing some federal community grants for the Storm Control Pumping Station Relocation project. We are working with PS&S on applying for a BRIC Grant, which is a resiliency infrastructure grant. Mr. Wozniak has also found that there are community grants for sewer projects and other similar projects which we have that may fall into these categories. Our service area lies in two Congressional districts. We are represented by Bonnie Watson-Coleman and Tom Keane. One is a Republican, and one is a Democrat, so it is a bipartisan project. What we plan to do is, once we identify a project, Peter will reach out to both and see if we can get support from both Congresspeople and apply for those grants. Peter wrote a memo, and it is your Board book in the Reports section. It contains examples of a number of

project grants in each district. Mr. Wozniak indicated that his memo serves as an introduction. The community grants are for public entities, not private. It is a direct grant from the Federal government and not through the State. Berkeley Heights got some money for their sewer system so there may be a possibility there. We will look at it further. Mr. Lifrieri asked what kind of money we are looking at here? Mr. Wozniak stated that for a couple of projects, it was a couple million dollars, \$3M or 4M per project. Bridgewater got a \$4M grant to do rehabilitation at a community center. Mr. Anastasio stated that we will continue to explore those possibilities.

3. Update on Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project and
4. Update on Administration Building Addition Project

Mr. Anastasio explained that this ties into the next report too, which is on the Administration Building Addition Project. It was early December when we had our monthly progress meeting for this project with the staff and the engineers. Mr. Schoettle was also at that meeting, and we had a good discussion on the fate of our existing Headworks Building. Mr. Schoettle stated that this was a special summary report for our structural evaluation. Mr. Anastasio indicated that that building is structurally shot. CDM recommended that we provide some temporary shoring for the existing structure, in case we get a large snowfall. It is in very poor shape, and it is close to fifty years old. We had a good discussion about rather than trying to mitigate that building and reconstruct it in place,

We have also established that for the future expansion or plans of the Authority, the building is a little small and we would have to make it bigger to add a third grit collector channel. We discussed with the staff and engineers, why don't we relocate the building, to put the headworks facility in a new location. We all like the idea and Mike Ingenito suggested the idea of putting the new headworks building in the spot that we were talking about putting the new Administration Building addition. We have another meeting Thursday to discuss that further. We were all congratulating ourselves on coming up with that idea but decided to sleep on it for a few days and talk about it more at our February 8th meeting. That solves a few problems for us. It might be cheaper to build from scratch rather than rebuild that building and keeping it in service and safety is a concern as well. We like this location but then what do we do with the Administration Building. That is up in the air until we settle this Headworks building issue.

Onto the next report, the Administration Building addition was basically a new building that was attached to the existing building, but it was a new stand-alone building and what we envisioned to be a two-story structure about 7,000 sf. It would connect to this existing building, and you could walk from the old section to the new section. All the offices would be located over there, and this would remain and possibly be future office space or file storage space. Linda Hering's office we would repurpose to a maintenance office. But now that the Headworks building is in play to possibly to next door, and it would not be connected to this building, we are exploring other locations for the Administration Building. We are going to press pause on the

Administration Building project. Before Sherwin Ulep left for vacation, he issued an Addendum #5 as we are honing the prices for the architectural services. When we figure out what we are doing, there will be Addendum #6 but we don't know what that is yet so we are just going to wait and see if we can resolve the Headworks building location to the point that we can move forward.

A question arose, if we were to move the Headworks building, what are your constraints in terms of how far you would have to stay within the current footprint? Mr. Anastasio made a point of showing where we are going from, to where we are going to. Constraint wise, it looks very good. It is close to the original location. We have to extend the channels into the new building. Elevation-wise, it is still at the top of the plant so it can flow by gravity, and we don't have to pump into it. It would clean up, hydraulically, some things with the existing configuration, which are less ideal. It stands out as a really good solution. That is not to say that we aren't still going to talk about a couple of other locations. We have a septage receiving pad behind the Headworks building, which is a possibility, but then we have to relocate the septage receiving location. That doesn't seem to get us any more than if we put the building behind this wall. We are lucky we have a couple good location candidates that work for us, so that we don't have to pump higher. We currently sit at the high point of the plant.

A commissioner asked what do we lose by going there, as opposed to joining the two buildings together for a new Administration building? Mr. Anastasio responded what we lose is that the Administration building will not be right next door here, rather it would be a clean slate location. There are a couple of candidate locations for that. One is on the other side of the driveway where we park. It is an open area, and we have enough room to do what we need, and it would stand-alone. This current Administration Building has been adapted and utilized as an office. This conference room was once a meter room and a laboratory and also contained part of the sludge handling components. Two-thirds of this room was the lab/meter room the one-third was the sludge handling operation. Where my office and the bookkeeper's area are, that was an addition put on about 40 years ago. They worked with what they had, and it is not up to today's standards. Across the driveway, there are some relic concrete pads that housed an electrical substation. Twenty-five to thirty years ago, they located new substations around the plant and abandoned those locations. All the substations that distribute the incoming power to the plant are at established locations. There are conduits that go there. This relic location would not be used again. The slabs are at grade. Beyond that, we don't know any geotechnical information about them. With CAD, we moved and dragged the new building into the site plan. It seemed to fit pretty well. We would have to look at other scenarios, for instance, whether it would be a smaller footprint but taller or stay with the two-story plan. As for setbacks with the town, we still have to look at that, but we feel it may fall under the courtesy hearing. We may be exempt from those sorts of things because it is part of the existing facility. Mr. Carney stated that it is a capital review project with the Planning Board, but it could be a full hearing, like we did for other projects. We are not close to any property lines.

The other location is down off Polhemus Lane, in the area of the former carbon towers. It would be outside of the gate, off to the left. There used to be some facilities that were demolished. There may be some flood plain concerns there. It is a nice open spot, open to the road and outside the plant area. Would we need any other security? Right now, we are secure in that everyone has to go through the gate. We would have to decide that. That parking lot could also be gated off. Those decisions can be made later. It would not have to be open 24/7 like a police station or municipal building. The headworks building is the driving force behind this. It may go quicker since you don't have to marry the two buildings together. Dealing with old buildings can be messy and slow things down. This building would remain and could be used as a training room and put a maintenance office in here. We wouldn't really change anything here, just that where my office and our bookkeeper's location are, that would be demolished because that is where the Headworks building would possibly go.

There are detailed reports in your books from both Sherwin and Tom Schoettle about the projects. We will report back after our next meeting.

Mr. Albano asked if there was anything you could report on the sludge hauling or is that a Closed Session item. We are still in the process of working that out and we will have more to report at the next meeting once we nail down pricing.

The next two items are under Closed Session.

5. Discussion of Professional Staff Qualifications/Proposals for 2024 (**Closed Session – Personnel Matters**)
6. Discussion of the Raritan Borough Sanitary Collection System (**Closed Session – Contract Negotiations & Attorney-Client Privileged**)

B. Engineer/Consultants – Mr. Thomas Schoettle, P.E., (CDM Smith)

Mr. Schoettle stated that we are also making some steady progress on the Interceptor Rehabilitation Project. Surveys have been underway for a while. Wetlands delineations have taken place, and we are in the process of doing some assessments of small bridges that are in and around the site. Things are progressing on that project as well.

C. Attorney – Mr. Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP – No report this evening.

Mr. Carney stated he had nothing to report. Mr. Maraziti also had nothing to add.

D. Department Reports:

1. Operations
2. Regulatory Compliance
3. Laboratory

4. Maintenance
5. Special Projects

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

1. Facility Engineers Monthly Report
2. Capacity Allocation
3. Capacity Assurance
4. Monthly Flow Report

Minute 12 – Communications – Standard monthly communication submittals to the State are in the Board book.

Minute 13 - Res. No. 24-0122-4 – Payroll

Upon Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Mathews, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

Minute 14- Res. No. 24-0122-5 – Bills

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Albano the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

Minute 15 – Res. No. 24-0122-6 - Adjourn to Closed Session

Mr. Anastasio read the formal name of the Resolution to go into Closed Session.

Upon Motion of Mr. Croson, Second of Mr. Machala the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

Open Session reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

Minute 16 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Croson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Richard Mathews	Yes
Pamela Borek	Yes	John Murphy	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Gary DiNardo	Absent	Philip Petrone	Absent
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
		Joseph Lifrieri	Yes

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**