

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:00 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 - Roll Call

Robert Albano	Present	Philip Petrone	Present (Teams)
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent	Reinhard Pratt	Present (Teams)
Michael Impellizeri	Present	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Edward Machala	Present	Randy Smith	Absent
Richard Mathews	Present	Peter Stires	Present (Teams)
Michael Pappas	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)
Dennis Smith, Supervisor Liquid Division	Present
Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Manager of Engineering	Present (Teams)
Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer	Present (Teams)
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Present (Teams)
Christian Santiago, Staff Engineer	Present (Teams)
Joseph Loughlin, A/P Clerk	Present

Professional Staff

David Leun, P.E., CDM Smith	Present
Joseph Maraziti, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Present*

Mr. Maraziti arrived at the meeting at 7:04pm

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag.

Seeing no one from the public either in person or on the Teams meeting, Chairman Lifrieri asked for a Motion to close the Public Hearing.

A Motion was made by Mr. Albano and seconded by Mr. Impellizeri to close the public hearing.

All in Favor, none opposed.

Mr. Maraziti joined the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Minute 8 – Oaths of Office:

- a. Nicolas Carra – Member – New Member (Borough of Raritan) – Former Commissioner Richard Deluca’s Seat; New 5-Year Term through December 31, 2027
- b. Edward Machala – Member – Re-Appointment (Borough of Raritan) – Term 2/1/23 through 1/31/28

Mr. Carra and Mr. Machala were sworn in as Commissioners by Mr. Joseph J. Maraziti, Jr., Esq.

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

- 1) **Res. No. 23-0227-1** – Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Fisher Scientific
- 2) **Res. No. 23-0227-2** – Resolution Authorizing Permanent Status of George Bork as Assistant Operator in the Solid Division
- 3) **Res. No. 23-0227-3** – Treatment Works Approval Application Resolution - Roche Branchburg Campus Expansion; Branchburg Township; Block 58 Lots 28.02
- 4) **Res. No. 23-0227-4** – Resolution Accepting the Materials Transfer Agreement Between Verily Life Sciences, LLC and the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority to Participate in the Wastewater Scan Program to Monitor Diseases Through Wastewater Sampling
- 5) **Res. No. 23-0227-5** – Resolution Authorizing an Energy Agent Contract with Gabel Associates, Inc., and Authorizing the Executive Director and in his Absence the Chief Financial Officer to Award a Contract and/or Reject Bids in Response to the Request for Bids for Electric Generation Service Issued on Behalf of the New Jersey Sewerage and Municipal Utility Authority Electrical Supply Aggregation

Mr. Lifrieri asked if there were any questions or comments regarding any of the above resolutions. Mr. Anastasio indicated that he wanted to point out on Resolution #4, in the Second “WHEREAS” paragraph, there should be a dollar sign before “150”, making it \$150.

Hearing no other questions or comments, and upon the Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolutions were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

Minute 10 – Board Committees –

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE (ALBANO) Machala, Mathews, Impellizeri

1) Report on 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report & Audit

Chairman Lifrieri asked Mr. Albano, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, would like to comment on the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report & Audit. Mr. Albano stated that it is “2021 and 2020” and the reason that it was delayed is that it takes time for the State of New Jersey to let us know what we need to satisfy for the various pension and healthcare benefits. That is done and going through this, the conclusion is that it has been audited and the auditors find no recommendations or issues that need to be addressed by management. The Finance Committee agrees that we would recommend its adoption. Mr. Anastasio stated that he, along with the Finance Committee members that were present at the meeting, so I’ll give a brief rundown.

Upon a Motion by Mr. Mathews and Seconded by Mr. Albano the following Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

a) **Res. No. 23-0227-6** -Resolution Accepting the FY 2021 Comprehensive Audit Financial Report and Year-End Audit

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

Mr. Stires added that, as Gail would say, he commends the staff. Mr. Maraziti stated that it is not typical to see an Audit without recommendations. This is an excellent audit. Congratulations to all. Mr. Anastasio stated that our CFO, Peter Wozniak, puts together a management discussion in that report and I urge people to read it if they haven't fully read it. It gives a lot of detail and tells the story of the Authority for the year. It is a great piece of work and thanks go Peter for putting it all together. Mr. Wozniak indicated it is like a history book on the Authority, if you piece all the years together.

Minute 11 – Chairman –

Presentation of a Token of Our Appreciation to former Chairman Michael Impellizeri for his service as Chairman from February 2021 through February 2023.

Mr. Lifrieri stated that he would like to commend Mr. Michael Impellizeri for his outstanding Chairmanship from 2021 to 2023 and we, as an Authority, have a token of our appreciation for that outstanding service. A lovely wooden clock with engraving with the Authority's logo and the dates of his service. Mr. Impellizeri thanked everyone for the beautiful gift.

Minute 12 - Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

1. Update on the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that you will start to see on our agendas, the updates of these two large projects that we are kicking off, the first is the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project. This was awarded to CDM Smith for the design phase, at the February 6th, 2023 meeting, which was the January 23rd rescheduled meeting. We just signed the contracts and we are gathering dates to have a kickoff meeting with our staff and CDM's staff, and their electrical engineering subcontractors as well, to start discussing the project and talk about schedule and how things will flow, points of contact and establish the flow of information between the parties. It will be good to kick it off and we will have all of our people involved with the project there. We are honing dates and we'll pick a date and in the next week or so, we'll get together. We are eager to get together and kick it off. David Leun from CDM Smith, added that they are eager as well. Ron highlighted some of the typical matters that have to be hit on at the project kickoff; members of the team, protocols moving forward, and then we start digging in. Everyone is looking forward to is.

2. Update on the 1958 Main Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that we did not yet issue this RFP to solicit for engineering proposals. We are on the verge of doing that and we should get that out in the next week or two. Thinking ahead for the project, Sherwin Ulep, Christian Santiago and I had a meeting with Duke Farms to

give them a heads-up that this project is coming. There are some things that we need from them and it is a little of a symbolic relationship here. I wanted to show you all a graphic that we showed Duke Farms but instead, we will quickly take you through the short slide presentation we put together for Dukes. So, I will ask Sherwin Ulep to take us through this, we really don't need to get into the tech slides so much, but just pictures are worth a thousand words so skip to graphics.

Mr. Ulep indicated that we just wanted to meet with Duke Farms as soon as possible so that we can discuss some designs that we want to include in this project. Part of this project is working on the section of interceptor sewer in the Dukes Farm area. If you look at this aerial map of our interceptor sewer, the upper portion of the interceptor sewer runs through their property. The yellow line is the main interceptor sewer which was constructed in the 1950's and the green line is the interceptor sewer by the relief interceptor sewer that was constructed in the early 2000's. Ron stated that what is hard to see it to scale is that when the two lines come back together, they are running next to each other, but you can't really see it since the green really overshadows the yellow when they come back together. Everywhere there is two pipes next to each other and where they split, they are just separated. Towards the bottom of the screen, it is the Borough of Raritan.

Mr. Ulep continued, the main bulk of the work here is lining the most upper section of our interceptor sewer from GC3B up to manhole 48. What we are proposing to Duke Farms is to relocate that section from Manhole 48 to SC1B. We will abandon this section and then we will construct a section right next to the relief interceptor sewer. To give you a graphic of that, this is basically what we want to do. In order for us to maintain this sewer property in the future, we would like to get away from this section of the property since this is right next to the river and there are a lot of sycamore trees there, overgrown vegetation and its very muddy due to its proximity to the river. It would be very beneficial for the Authority to run this sewer right next to the relief interceptor sewer so that we would have better access and we can maintain it better.

Mr. Pratt asked if we are allowed to abandon that in place or does it need to be excavated. Mr. Ulep stated that we can abandon it in place. We can fill it with flowable fill and remove the top section of the manholes so we do not have to disturb the vegetation and the trees. Mr. Anastasio added that Duke Farms is a highly valued growth of sycamore trees that go back to when that 1958 line was built but now they are coming up on 70 years old and Duke Farms very much so, wants to preserve them. They wanted to preserve them 20 years ago, which drove us to construct the green line, working cooperatively with them. Now it is a little more complicated because all of that area that looks kind of brown, has been placed into a USDA conservation wetlands easement. There are two types of easements. Where the green and blue lines are, it is one type and where the yellow line is another type. It involves working the Federal government and we asked Duke Farms to be our partner in that and we go together to the USDA to work this out. I'm

sure there are ways that they provisions for such constructions. This is one thing we need do. We would abandon that line in-place and then we would vacate the easements for the yellow-line, and they would give us new easements for the blue lines so it's a tradeoff. They were very receptive to that. They liked the idea very much and so far they have no problems. Mr. Mathews asked didn't we try to remove our easement from their easement so we wouldn't have this problem? A discussion ensued between Mr. Mathews and Mr. Anastasio: they wouldn't let us do that. They took the whole thing and our easement is within their easement and we are looking to take an additional easement. That might be the hang up. We have to talk more about them. Mr. Mathews stated that is not an easy proposition. Their motivation is that they want us to not keep that old line in the Sycamore grove. They would like to have the line back out in the field. They have a stake in it too and they are very much on-board with our plan. Our fall back would be that we would just line the yellow line pipe and go on our way. We are going to try this but we are not going to get to that step until the engineers are on board, the plans are developed and we will approach the Federal government. We do have a backup plan. What sort of material do you fill the abandon line with? It would be a light-weight concrete that flows well, almost like a "nestle crunch" sort of material; very airy and lightweight, kind of like concrete with no stone in it. All the way to the top? Yes, to the top and we would take maybe the top 5 feet off the manholes. It would just fill up and we would cover the rest with earth, and no one will know its there. Nobody is ever going to build there? Correct. And the eagle is still there! We did see the eagle on the TV so we have to right all of the eagle restrictions into the construction contract. However, they are not endangered any longer, but they are still special, and we have to address it. The Contractor will know it going in so it shouldn't be what we went through 18 years ago.

In addition, when Sherwin showed us that line, the upper most portion of the line crosses the Raritan River for the 3rd time, where it has an inverted siphon. Inverted siphons need to be maintained. There is no good way to get to that. It is so difficult and over the past 20 years there hasn't been a time where we haven't gotten stuck taking equipment and flush trucks back there. We worked into the conversation, we are asking of them to grant us an access easement so what is shown in red would be an access easement. Some of it would run along the sewer easement but the portion to the left side of the screen would be purely an access easement and we would build a stone road or a porous paver-type of road. You can see these in housing developments where it is an alternative access for emergency vehicles. It is like a concrete x-block and they fill it with earth and the weather can percolate through it. The other options are more like a geocell with the stone. One would hold up better during floods. We showed them both of these and they were receptive to that too. We have to look at the federal restrictions. These easements would be on existing dirt roads and you are allowed to maintain roads under these federal easements. They thought it was doable.

We just wanted to show you what we have. We are still working on going out to get the engineering proposals and we will keep everyone posted. This will now be a regular update every month for several years.

3. Report on Notice of Arbitration Regarding a Terminated Employee (Closed Session – Personnel Matters)

B. Engineer/Consultants – Mr. Leun, P.E., (CDM Smith) had nothing further to add to Mr. Schoettle’s Report.

C. Attorney – Maraziti Falcon, LLP – Mr. Maraziti indicated he had nothing further to add, unless anyone had any other questions of him.

D. Department Reports:

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

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

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

Mr. Albano asked that, in Sherwin Ulep’s report about the main interceptor, it refers to the siphon crossing the “Dead River”. I know where the Dead River is in Warren, but I didn’t know there was another one. Mr. Anastasio explained that this is called “Dead Creek” or “Dead River”. It is part of the Raritan River that flows off of the Raritan and back on to the Raritan. It is just an offshoot tributary. There is a lake system on Duke Farms that they pump water up to and the water flows through these water features and then eventually down to the Dead Creek or Dead River and then works its way back to the Raritan. Where you the “SC2B” and SC2A”, that is an inverted siphon under the Dead Creek. Mr. Albano asked because when he saw this, he googled it, and it did not show any Dead Rivers in Hillsborough or Raritan. Mr. Mathews explained that it is just what they call it, it doesn’t have an actual name and it is dry most of the time anyhow. It is part of this artificial lake drainage system. It actually makes that portion an island. It is not on maps. We know it because we had to deal with it 20 years ago.

Mr. Albano also asked how we are doing with Storm Control facility and the UV bulbs. Have we figured that out yet? Mr. Anastasio stated that we have. We reported on it last month. We had a very good technician come out from Trojan UV, which is the company that makes that system, and we spent a day with that person. He gave us a good training and he also performed maintenance on it and worked on training our maintenance personnel. From that, we did a full cleaning on all 108 bulbs, cleaning each one. It is an automated cleaning system but because of the start and stop nature of our plant, when its off it doesn't clean anymore. But whatever is left on the bulb will dry and harden. We've learned that so we need to work into our routine a preventative maintenance to do a final wash of the bulbs. We are waiting until the next time we operate the plant and we'll try a few things. We expect the disinfection issue to go away, where the bulbs will work properly but we are not going to discharge to the river until we've operated the plant and discharged back into the interceptor system at least 3 times and know that we have a kill. We don't know until a week or so after when we get the final lab results back. We have to prove it to ourselves that we have it down pat. We came miles beyond where we were after this technician's visit. When we did factory start up, the contractor was very good but the factory start was adequate. But we learned nothing compared to what we learned from this technician. We were grateful for that and we have a very good contact if we have questions. We feel confident that we found our problems.

Mr. Albano asked if we divert water into the treatment facility to see how it works and put it back into the facility? Yes, but we are going wait for a storm so that we have the dilution conditions. But yes, that's what we are going to do. We are not going to discharge to the river until we know we have it down. Mr. Lifrieri mentioned that New Providence has a stormwater plant that is based on the same concept, to divert flow into the river in times of heavy precipitation and the biggest problem we had was the UV lights and keeping them from clean. We mentioned it and we got assurances from the designer and the manufacturer that they solved those problems. I hope, in fact, they did solve those problems.

So, it is just an extra step, and we have to wash them down. We have to figure out the ins and outs of this. Its not simple and you can just look down and see the bulbs. They are down deep in a chamber, and they are housed in a "cassette" bulb. We have a lot of good minds on it. Will this increase our costs of running this system? I don't believe so. It is mainly labor. The cleaning that they did, cleaning each bulb because they haven't been cleaned and the plant has been used several times, took time. we want to do a thorough cleaning on them and then after every storm, we'll do a thorough washdown but it won't be like a detailed cleaning of each bulb, taking it apart and going one-by-one. We envision it will be a simple washdown but we have to figure out the exact procedure, which I am confident we will be able to do.

Minute 13 – Communications – Standard monthly communication submittals to the State are in the Board book.

Minute 14 - Res. No. 23-0227-7– Payroll

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

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

Minute 15 - Res. No. 23-0227-8 – Bills

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

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

Minute 16 – Res. No. 22-0227-9 - Adjourn to Closed Session

Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for the Purposes of a Personnel Matters Discussion Regarding a Terminated Employee

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolution was approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:33 pm.

Open Session reconvened at 7:39

Minute 17 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Carra, Second of Mr. Machala, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito	Absent	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Absent		

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
MARCH 27, 2023**