

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 26, 2020**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Vice-Chairman Michael Impellizeri.

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	<i>Absent</i>	Philip Petrone	Present (phone)
Michael Impellizeri	Present	Spencer Pierini	<i>Absent</i>
Joseph Lifrieri	Present	Gail Quabeck	Present (phone)
Edward Machala	Present	Randy Smith	Present (phone)
Richard Mathews	Present (phone)	Peter Stires	Present (phone)
		Todd Hay	Present (phone)*

*Mr. Hay phoned in at 7:39pm

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)

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag

Minute 5 – Approval of Minutes

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – September 28, 2020

Vice-Chairman Impellizeri asked if anyone had any questions or comments with respect to the Open Session Minutes and there were none. With the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Petrone, the Minutes of the September 28, 2020 Meeting (Open Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – September 28, 2020

Vice-Chairman Impellizeri 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. Lifrieri, the Minutes of the September 28, 2020 (Closed Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Minute 6 – Public Hearing

Public Hearings:

A. Public Hearing Regarding the Establishment of the Authority’s 2020 Sewer Connection Fee.

Upon Motion of Ms. Quabeck, Second of Mr. Albano, the hearing was open to the public by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Vice Chairman Impellizeri noted that no one from the public was in attendance for this hearing.

Upon Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Albano, this public hearing was closed by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Res. No. 20-1026-1 – Resolution Establishing the 2020 Connection Fee

Upon motion of Mr. Stires, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

B. Public Hearing Regarding Recalculation of the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) Administration Fee

Upon Motion of Mr. Stires, Second of Mr. Machala, the hearing was open to the public by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Vice Chairman Impellizeri noted that no one from the public was in attendance for this hearing.

Upon Motion of Mr. Lifrieri, Second of Mr. Stires, this public hearing was closed by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Res. No. 20-1026-2 – Resolution Authorizing The 2019 Industrial Pretreatment Program Administration Fee

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 7 – Public Participation: No member of the public in attendance.

Minute 8 – Consent Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

Mr. Anastasio indicated that regarding Resolution No. 20-1026-8, we received the quotes and had the discussion internally. We sent out the resolution just before 5:00pm today, indicating that we are looking to award the emergency project (Res. No. 20-1026-8) to JVS Industrial and Commercial Contractors Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$378,318.32, as indicated in said Resolution.

Consent Agenda: Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action:

- 1) **Res. No. 20-1026-3** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Furnishing and Delivering Polymer to Polydyne, Inc. (A-21-5)
- 2) **Res. No. 20-1026-4** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Liquid Sludge Hauling Service to Russell Reid Waste Hauling and Disposal Service Co., Inc. (B-21-2)
- 3) **Res. No. 20-1026-5** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Sludge Cake Hauling Service to SpectraServe, Inc. (B-21-1)
- 4) **Res. No. 20-1026-6** – Resolution Awarding Contract for Sodium Chlorite Based Odor Control and Dosing System to Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC
- 5) **Res. No. 20-1026-7**– Resolution Awarding Removal and Replacement of Primary Clarifiers #1 & #2 Steel Mechanisms to GMH Associates Under the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Purchasing Contract
- 6) **Res. No. 20-1026-8** – Award of Emergency Contract for the Repair/Replacement of the Thickened Liquid Sludge Piping System to JVS Industrial & Commercial Contractors, Inc.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

*Mr. Hay phoned in at 7:39pm

Minute 9 - Board Committees –

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (PETRONE, Albano, Mathews, Quabeck)

- 1) Report on Proposed FY 2021 Salary Increases for Supervisory Personnel (**Closed Session – Personnel Matters**)
 - a) **Res. No. 20-1026-9** - Resolution Authorizing Salary and Wage Increases for Supervisory Employees for FY 2021

Mr. Anastasio mentioned that in addition to the raises listed in the Resolution, we want to add a provision that Mr. Dennis Smith be promoted to the position of Assistant Chief Plant Operator effective January 1, 2021. Mr. Albano asked if we must amend the Resolution through a Motion to indicate that this is a promotion for Mr. Smith, or can we just go with it as it is? Mr. Carney indicated that we could move the Resolution as amended. Therefore, the Resolution authorizing the salary and wage increases for Supervisory personnel for the year 2021, and its amendment for Mr. Smith’s promotion is put forth to the Board. Upon motion of Mr. Petrone, Second of Mr. Machala, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

- 2) Report and Discussion - Supervisory Personnel Outlook (**Closed Session – Personnel Matters**)

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE (QUABECK, Impellizeri, Machala, Mathews, Albano, Mlenak)

- (1) Report and Recommendation of Proposed (Introduced) FY 2021 Budget (see front cover of binder)

Ms. Quabeck reported that the first item under the Finance Committee is the report and recommendation of the budget for 2021. Everyone was sent the information on the budget as well as a copy in the binder. We had a meeting with Mr. Anastasio, and we went over the budget in detail. I think they did a very good job, as they always do. Peter Wozniak, the Chief Financial Officer, gives us a lot of detail and a lot of explanation. I am very pleased to introduce the budget which calls for no increase in our rates and it provides everything that we are going to need to operate soundly and can move ahead with our capital budget.

- a. **Res. No. 20-1026-10** – Resolution Introducing the FY 2021 Budget

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

- (2) Renewal of Storm Control Pumping Station Flood Insurance Policy

- a. **Res. No. 20-1026-11** - Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of a Flood Insurance Policy for the Storm Control Pumping Station

Ms. Quabeck reports that as some of you may recall from past years, we are required to carry this flood insurance policy if we have any hopes at all getting FEMA money. We were fortunate in getting a good amount from the past storms but one of the requirements is

that we carry this flood insurance. If we do not carry it, FEMA will not reimburse us for any damages in the future. We are authorizing the renewal of this policy as the resolution says, at the best price that we can obtain, in an amount not to exceed \$82,000. Mr. Anastasio stated that we are trying to get the best rate. Due to such a crazy year with the pandemic and social unrest, the insurance companies are nervous and do not want to write new business. Our risk manager is making some progress. The policy expires on the 7th of November. We will take it right up to the limit and get the best rate we can and will strike and bind the policy. Ms. Quabeck indicated that this resolution authorized Mr. Anastasio to approve a policy at the best possible rate that we can get, not to exceed \$82,000.

Mr. Albano stated that the premiums that we are paying, just about equal to the settlement we got but is still in favor of approving this resolution.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 10 - Chairman - Nothing to report.

Minute 11 - Reports

A. Executive Director’s Report

1. Update on Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

Mr. Anastasio indicated that very good progress continues. The construction continues and we will get updated photos out to the Board via email soon. Mr. Ulep flies the drone regularly and we get some amazing photos from that.

We made a lot of progress in the easement soils issue. We were able to get a revised proposal from the contractor. As the Board will recall, we have been talking about this over the past couple months and we have had some closed session discussions about this as well. The bottom-line is that we changed our approach on how we would execute or have the contractor execute handling the soils on the installation of the

influent and effluent pipes in the easement areas. The different approach is to minimize the handling and the labor for the removal of excess soils and the disposal of those soils. The bottom-line is that we have a change order that is mostly the cost of the disposal of the soils with very little else in there. The County has bought into the approach and their LSRP as well as our LSRP, and the DEP as well. We feel good about the savings that we are going to yield from this new approach and the contractor is eager to start and get this done. We are risking getting into a delay situation, which we have discussed in the past. We are at the point where we really need to do this now. One other thing to point out, not related to the easement soils, is that Somerville is doing a lot of work in their collection system which only goes to enhance the entire sewer system. They have been in the process of borrowing \$4,000,000 from the NJ Infrastructure Bank towards repairs in their municipal sewer system. This is good; however, I do not think it will fix all the problems, but it is a step in the right direction. They can get a lot done with that and it cannot hurt. Every leak they stop is a little less water coming into our system. This is all good to hear and I would like to congratulate them on that.

There is nothing else to add on the Storm Control Treatment Facility unless there are any questions on the proposal for the change order. There were none.

- a. **Res. No. 20-1026-12** - Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the Trucking and Disposal of Excess Soils Within the Offsite Easement Areas - Contract C-17-1 – Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Update on the Plantwide Electrical Rehabilitation Project

We are also making very good progress with this project. Mr. Tambasco and Mr. Ulep are doing a terrific job managing that project, along with CDM. We are seeing a lot of good things happen. They are almost done with the phase that involved the Administration Building (called Work Group II) and they are moving into the next work group which has a little bit of overlap. We are very happy with the progress.

3. Update on USEPA/NJDEP Consent Decree Status

This litigation is now concluded. The Judge has signed off on the Consent Decree on October 5, 2020. Now it is just a matter of carrying out the remaining parts of the Consent Decree. We are waiting on an invoice from the NJDEP and USEPA in order to pay the \$225,000. We are hoping to get that done this fiscal year because we have it budgeted. It would be nice not to have to carry that over.

Also, regarding the Mercury Clean-Sweep Project, it is no surprise that that project is getting delayed due to the pandemic. Through our consultant, we have been in touch with the Somerset County Superintendent of Schools and they asked us to hold off and contact them next March and see if we can pick it up then. We are in the process of asking NJDEP for more time on this. It is clearly a force majeure situation where it is through no fault of anyone that this project is going to take a little longer. Diane Alexander, Esq., is having those discussions with the Deputy Attorney General on the matter and we will report on that later. We want to dot all the i's and cross all the t's with the paperwork. We want to ask now because we have the delay now.

B. Engineer/Consultants – CDM Smith Engineer's Report for September 2020. Unless there are any questions, I have nothing further to add.

C. Attorney – Maraziti Falcon, LLP – No report this evening.

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 12 – Communications – nothing to add.

Minute 13 - Res. No. 20-1026-13 - Payroll

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 14 - Res. No. 20-1026-14 - Bills

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 15 – Res. No. 20-1026-15 - Adjourn to Closed Session - Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for the Purposes of Personnel Matters Discussion Regarding the 2021 Supervisory Personnel Salary Increases and Staffing Discussions

At 7:54 p.m., upon Motion of Mr. Lifrieri, Second of Mr. Petrone, the above adopted Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Open Session reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

Minute 16 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Stires, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
NOVEMBER 23, 2020**