

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
JULY 22, 2024**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:01 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 (Teams)	John Murphy	Absent
Pamela Borek	Present	Michael Pappas	Present (Teams)
Daniel Croson	Present	Philip Petrone	Absent
Gary DiNardo	Present	Reinhard Pratt	Present
Vincent Dominach	Present (Teams)	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Edward Machala	Present	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	Present (Teams)
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Absent
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	Present
Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Present

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag.

Minute 5 – Approval of Minutes:

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – May 20, 2024

With the Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. DiNardo, the Minutes of the May 20, 2024 Meeting (Open Session) were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

2. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – June 24, 2024

With the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Ms. Borek, the Minutes of the June 24, 2024 Meeting were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

3. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – June 24, 2024

With the Motion of Mr. DiNardo, Second of Mr. Machala, the Minutes of the June 24, 2024 Meeting (Closed Session) were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 6 - Public Hearings - NONE

Minute 7 – Public Participation – Mr. Lifrieri indicated that there was a member of the public present at the meeting. In attendance was Glen Denys who is a Councilman from the Borough of Somerville

Minute 8 – Consent Agenda: Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

Mr. Lifrieri indicated that the Consent Agenda will have a change. He would like to remove Resolution No. 24-0722-1 from the Consent Agenda. There is a change in that resolution. Mr. Anastasio stated that near the bottom, where it states, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,” the citation should be N.J.A.C. 7:15-3-5, not N.J.A.C. 7:15-3.4 .

Ms. Borek asked if we should also remove “conditional” as it is no longer conditional. Mr. Anastasio stated that is a typographical error and that “conditional” should be removed from the last paragraph, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” and that “consent” is being submitted.

- 2) **Res. No. 24-0722-2 – Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to Become a Member for the Period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026**
- 3) **Res. No. 24-0722-3 – Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a New 2024 Ford F350 Utility Truck Through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council**

Upon Motion of Mr. Croson, Second of Mr. Albano the above two (2) Resolutions were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	John Murphy	Absent
Pamela Borek	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Gary DiNardo	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	No

Upon Motion of Mr. DiNardo, Second of Mr. Machala the following Resolution No. 24-0722-1, as amended, was approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

1. **Res. No. 24-0722-1** – Resolution Consenting to the Proposed Amendment to the Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan – Hillsborough Glen Gary Subdivision (Block 182, Lots 9 & 11.01 and Block 183, Lot 38.02), Hillsborough Township

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	John Murphy	Absent
Pamela Borek	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Daniel Croson	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Gary DiNardo	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	No

Minute 9 – Board Committees – NONE

Minute 10 – Chairman – Chairman Lifrieri has no further comments at this time.

Minute 11 – Reports

A. Executive Director’s Report

1. Report Providing a History and Analysis of the Sale of Public Utility Systems in Pennsylvania

Mr. Anastasio stated that before he was finalizing the agenda, a report came in, through the AEA, which told a story and compiled all the information regarding all the sales of public water and sewer systems in Pennsylvania. This was a report done by a non-profit organization that studies public policy and goods and services as it relates to consumers. I read the whole report and was an excellent compilation that told the whole back story of legislation was passed in Pennsylvania that fostered these sales and what seems to be the turning tide against them because people were starting to realize that the rates are going higher than anyone had envisioned. I am just passing it along for information and to read and refer to. It could be something that we talk about in the future as it becomes more germane. I plan to send this to all our participants just for their information as well. It is a good reference for them. It is a roadmap for New Jersey as well where the sales are starting to happen but then a few years go by, and people might realize that nothing is free, and the teaser rates get by the introductory rate schedule and the rates are elevated to whatever they need to be to make repairs. It is an interesting read.

Mr. Albano stated that he thought the report was a little light on economic analysis and financial analysis of the sales. It was nicely referenced in there. I’ve seen other ones not just in Pennsylvania, they also talked about Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina. It is more than just one place. Mr. Anastasio commented that it is more than one place. A lot of it starts in Pennsylvania but they reference these other states, including Kentucky.

2. Update on Main Interceptor & Forcemain Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that we recently had a meeting to discuss approaching Duke Farms and PSE&G about putting Mr. Carney in touch with the Duke Farms and PSE&G lawyers about crafting the easement that we would need. In a way, it is an easement swap on Duke Farms. We are looking to create a new easement along our existing pipeline easement and abandon the old one and vacate the easement. That is what sweetens the deal and makes it interesting to them. The Federal government is involved with this and I'm sure it is a very sticky process, but Duke Farms is, in essence, our partners in this. They are very interested in getting this because it would get our old 1958 pipeline away from the river and out of an existing grove of what are now historic sycamore trees that they want to preserve. We have the right to go in there and cut them down, but we don't want to do that to repair or replace the line. We would rather put a new line in, out of the way, and away from the river. Also, the survey map is completed now, and we are starting to get into the bones of the design and starting to look at pipe materials. We have a long way to go but we are starting to get the ball rolling.

Mr. Schoettle had nothing further to add. Mr. Ulep stated that he was told by CDM that we are supposed to get a 30% design in the next couple of weeks.

3. Update on the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that we are moving along with this, and we are also getting about 30% on this project. We are into the 30% design for the clarifier design. That project is done in chunks. We are looking at a variety of things. The pump selection for the influent pump station. We had a discussion about the pump for the return sludge pumps in the basement of the 600 building and how we are going to handle those. We have the 30% design for the clarifiers. Last week we had a meeting with a potential vendor for the multi-media filter rebuilding. We have a long way to go in that aspect of the job, but we are moving along on multiple fronts with that. The layout for the belt filter presses is finalized for the incinerator building. We are looking at configurations for the headworks building. We gave CDM a rough sketch of our brainstorming and what we envision what it should look like which really helps them because they don't have to invent the wheel and come up with options. They can take what we give them and improve on them as needed. We gave them a pretty good layout of what it would look like.

Mr. Schoettle stated that some aspects of the job are further along than others. In some areas, we are almost 60% of the way through, the less complicated areas like in-kind replacements of certain things. We are making progress across all fronts. We were a little concerned about the multi-media filters and the ability of vendors to be able to provide the equipment, we have reassured ourselves that we have at least 2 vendors that can actually do the project and we are looking at ways to most efficiently deliver that. We are making good progress on both projects.

4. Update on the Storm Control Pumping Station Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that he forgot to add “Flood Mitigation” or relocation project, as we have two names for this project. We are out to bid and the plans hit the street on July 12th. We have sold eight sets so far. We have a pre-bid meeting on August 9th. Sometimes we see contractors express interest at the meeting and see what it’s all about, then they buy the plans. We have got a good demand for plan holders.

However, we got turned down for the Federal BRIC grant. We are appealing it, but we think it was because of a lack of funds. We did not alter the contract. The contract was written around our wait for the brick grant, but we also have to wait for the pumps and the generator and the electrical switch gears. If there is a shot at getting it on appeal, we have that built into the contractor’s schedule. A question was raised about whether we got a reason or a memo. No, we are waiting for this. It is a couple of weeks out. We were very disappointed about because it seems like an ideal project for it. It is a total flood mitigation project, which is the driver for this project. PS&S is working with us on this and the engineer for PS&S said he’s never been turned down before so he’s willing to chase this one down. I would imagine it is a long shot, but we have the project structured in a way where it is structured around the waiting period to receive the grant before the contractor can break ground. Everything is left in place. If we determine there is no way it can be granted, and when the contractor receives all the materials, they can start. It was disappointing.

We look forward to getting questions from bidders and will see where things go. We are opening bids on September 27th and are probably looking at a November award. Once we receive the bids, the apparent low bidder’s documents have to be sent to the Office of the State Comptroller for their review and approval. Mr. Carney added that the contract is between \$2.5M and \$12.5M but that is just a reporting requirement. We don’t need their approval on anything, but we have to send them their Form A with all the submittals, proof of publication, resolution of award, etc. after we award the contract. Anything over \$12.5M, you would need authorization to advertise these bids.

5. Payoff of Interceptor Relief Sewer Debt

Mr. Anastasio stated that Peter Wozniak put together a memo which is the Reports section, behind the water system report. We are paying off the 2004 Interceptor Relief Sewer. Peter explains how that frees up some debt service that we are going to continue to pay ourselves. We will continue to make that payment but to ourselves and put it towards future debt. We did the same thing when we paid off our CSP Phase I plant upgrade from 1997 and paid that off in 2017. We continue to make those payments to ourselves. We build up some money we can service debt within the future, and we will do the same thing here. In this decade, we paid off two more

projects. In 2027 and 2029 we will pay off the outfall. That is more debt service that is freed up for a future debt for capital projects.

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

Mr. Schoettle stated that he had nothing further to add to his report.

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

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

Mr. Albano indicated that in Mr. Tambasco's report that our flow is down to 14mgd. Will that affect our revenue? Normally, we are up to 19-20mgd. Mr. Anastasio replied that it is. It ebbs and flows, as you know. Not too long ago, it was around 18 or 19 MGD. It has dried out a little bit since we're not getting a lot of rain. Table 3 in the Quarterly Flow Report, which you all have, is essentially a P&L Statement, where we are against the estimate. Is the Authority to-date, bringing in more or less revenue than estimated? We are still ahead but that will shrink the longer it stays dry.

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

Minute 13 - Res. No. 24-0722-4 – Payroll

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 14- Res. No. 24-0722-5 – Bills

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

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

Minute 15 – Adjournment of Meeting

Upon Motion of Mr. Croson, Second of Mr. Machala, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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