

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

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 Edward Machala.

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	John Murphy	Present
Pamela Borek	Present	Michael Pappas	Present
Daniel Croson	Present (Teams)	Philip Petrone	Present
Gary DiNardo	Present (Teams)	Reinhard Pratt	Present (Teams)
Vincent Dominach	Present	Frank Scarantino	Present (Teams)
Joseph Lifrieri	Absent	Edward Machala	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	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Absent
Christian Santiago, Staff Engineer	Present (Teams)
Gerry Zielonka, Maintenance Supervisor	Absent

Professional Staff

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

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag.

Minute 5 – Oath of Office - Commissioner

- a. Mr. Carney then administered the Oath of Office to New (Restored) Member (Manville Borough) Mr. Michael Impellizeri. Unexpired Term through 12/31/2025

Minute 6 – Approval of Minutes:

- 1. **Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – January 27, 2025 (rescheduled to February 3, 2025)**

Ms. Borek asked of Brad Carney, Esq., shouldn't the Resolutions be "spread in full" in the Minutes? Mr. Carney indicated that there is not a legal requirement that the Resolutions in full be in the Minutes. The Minutes should accurately reflect what occurred in the meeting. So, they do not need to be spread in full in the Minutes? Some Municipalities do it that way because it is verbatim, but the minimum standard can still be met without printing them in full.

With the Motion of Ms. Borek, Second of Mr. Murphy, the Minutes of the December 16, 2024 Meeting (Open Session) were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

- 2. **Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – January 27, 2025 (rescheduled to February 3, 2025)**

With a Motion of Mr. Pappas, Second of Mr. Albano, the Minutes of the January 27, 2025 Meeting (Closed Session) were approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

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

3. Reorganization Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2025

With a Motion of Ms. Borek, Second of Mr. Albano, the Minutes of the February 3, 2025 Reorganization Meeting were approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 7 - Public Hearings - NONE

Minute 8 – Public Participation – Mr. Machala indicated that there was no one present from the public.

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

- 1) **Res. No. 25-0224-1** - Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director, Staff Engineer and Two Commissioners to Attend the AEA Utility Management Conference in Atlantic City – March 11th & 12th 2025
- 2) **Res. No. 25-0224-2** – Resolution Appointing Brown & Brown Metro, Inc. as Risk Management Consultant

Mr. Machala asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about either of the two (2) Resolutions in the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Anastasio stated that Res. No. 25-0224-1 should be amended to include Chairman Edward Machala to the list attendees at the AEA Utility Management Conference.

Upon a Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Ms. Borek, the Consent Agenda, with Resolution #25-0224-1 as amended, was approved by the following Roll Call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 10 – Board Committees – None

Mr. Anastasio indicated that he would email the Board Committees to the Board.

Minute 11 – Chairman – No Comments

Minute 12 – Reports

A. Executive Director’s Report

1. Update on New Administration Building Projects
 - a) Approval of Proposed Floor Plan
 - b) Approval of Rooftop Solar Panel System

Mr. Anastasio stated that he would like the Board to discuss the new proposed floor plan for the new Administration Building. Mr. Anastasio had the new building on the screen for everyone to see. The floor plan is in the Board books. This is the latest and what we would consider is the final floor plan ready for the Board to see. In discussions with the architects and working with the Authority staff, they came up with this layout. We made minor tweaks to it, working with the architects but they programmed the space, and this is what they came up with. We shuffled the order offices but no big changes. They had a couple of extra offices that we really didn’t need, and we feel that this meets our needs for the present and future needs as well. There are two offices designated for the Chief Plant Operator and the Assistant Chief Plant Operator. Mr. Ingenito and Mr. Wojcicki plan to remain in the 600 Building, to stay closer to the operations. Those two offices are available for future use. We talked about future proofing and whether we would need to put a second floor on it. But we really don’t see it. We have a fair amount of real estate left over. We have a large space in the 600 Building that was a former American Cyanamid Lab that has since been renovated and gutted. It is not a laboratory any longer. We are discussing moving our laboratory, someday, to build a new one down there. That would then free up the entire lab building for offices or storage. Plus, there are offices in the 600 Building that would be vacated, Mr. Tambasco and Mr. Ulep. We have a lot of space and we are finding that while we still generate paper records, we generate not as much as we used to. A lot of things are digitized, we write less letters because of emails. This would really be something that would fit our needs for decades. We are a relatively small organization and we don’t need to “over build”. This would meet our needs and we would have room for expansion, should the need arise. This is the best way to go. It is one story. We originally started out with a two-story concept so now we don’t need an elevator or stairs and it makes it simpler. The fire codes do not require it to be sprinklered as long as there is one-story and two exits. It is a nice simple building and we expect it to fit in the site area that we have designated for this. We talked about the site plan at the last Board meeting and we think this is a good solution. I wanted to run this by the Board to see if everyone agrees with this or has any comments. That said, a wall may shift a

little to the right or left but they are fixed walls. The mechanical and electrical engineers and HVAC have not had a chance to work on this yet. We think we may go with hot water baseboard heat with forced air conditioning, but we haven't gotten that far yet. There is going to be somewhat of an attic space, but we will see if that will only house the AC unit, the air handler or a boiler. We have a designated boiler room. It will be a slab, no basement area.

We would like to get an affirmation from the Board if they agree with this layout. The architects are moving fast, which is good. There are two things we are looking for tonight. We would like to get back to them with solid answers that they can hang their hat on. If the Board agrees with this floor plan, we will tell them, here's your floor plan, run with it. The other thing we want the Board to comment on and affirm, is the idea of solar panels on the roof top. It is an ideal roof for that. It is a large roof with a metal standing-seam roof and should last 50 years. It is a good application for solar as opposed to shingles which typically last about 25 years. Mr. Machala raised a question, with the metal roof and the solar panels, are there any chances of any issues with the metal conducting or causing something to go wrong with the electrical part of the panels? No, we don't believe so. The panels themselves, the housing aren't conductive, only the photovoltaic cells and it is connected to wires internally and is a sealed system. Is there a danger of anything eating the wire coating off the wires or having an effect on the metal roof? I've never heard of solar on metal. If we can't do it, we can't do it but the architects said we can. Mr. Dominach stated that they've had it installed in all different buildings in Franklin and there haven't been any issues. For instance, look at Somerset Patriots ballfield, they have the parking area covered by solar panels. It seems like a nice place to make that statement. In the lobby we would have a TV monitor that is on all the time, which would talk about the energy produced and how much it offsets, and other energy green statistics. What is the cost of the solar system? The system itself, I don't think we have an estimate yet. The design of it was in the RFP for the architects and we can look at that. Our electrical engineer installed it on his roof and the payoff was 4 ½ - 5 years. Are there any tax incentives? We cannot benefit from them. A long time ago we looked at this, 20 or so years ago, and public bodies would engage with third-party private entities to get the tax benefits but sell the energy to certain fixed costs. We can look at that and there are grants available for this, and that is in the RFP as well. We'll know more as we get into it but we wanted to get an idea if we should pursue it or not. Mr. Pappas stated that there is more than one option so we should make sure we look at all options because some look good, but they are not. We will get all the options but it comes down to do we want to pursue it or not. That was a line-item task in the RFP so if we chose not to, then we would take that out of their budget. Mr. Dominach stated that the payback for their Municipal Building was 4 to 4 ½ years. We will have the architects evaluate all that and come back to us with the terms of the arrangement. Mr. Pappas stated that Bridgewater has been exploring a couple of similar options. Mr. Albano stated that when they built a new municipal building in Bridgewater, we specifically looked at it and the payback was 22 years and the life expectancy of the solar cells was 22 years. This was around 2005. It is much better now. The cost has come down and the payback is faster. There is less of a chance of the wires being chewed up on a roof than on the ground in a solar field. If the Board is in favor of the concept, we will run that down.

Mr. Albano asked if there was a place for employees to eat lunch in this new building. Yes, there is a lunchroom and there is also a small outside space on the south side of the building for a picnic table. Mr. Anastasio asked Mr. Pappas if he and Mr. Ulep could have a call with him to learn about what they are finding out. Mr. Albano also asked, are we building above the 100-year flood plain or are we going higher? The 47' elevation is the 500 year. Mr. Ulep stated that we are adding a little bit more elevation so we should be about 52' elevation. We hope it is enough. If we go higher, it makes the ramps longer. However, this is the time to do it. We could go higher. Middlesex is putting up their flood walls, and Bound Brook already has them up, so where does it end? The ballfield flooded during Ida and we've never seen that before.

Mr. Machala asked if everyone was comfortable with these plans. The consensus was that we go above 52'. Right now, we're at 500 year plus 5'; 52' is plus 5'. A comment was suggested that if we're already going 5' above the 500, then that is enough. We hope. Mr. Ulep stated that the grading might be a little bit affected but the most important part is the ramp, the ADA ramps. They will have to evaluate the length of the ADA ramp. Just say we want to go to 55', we aren't going to add 3 more feet of dirt, we are going to have to build up the foundation. The difference between a 100 and a 200 is not a lot of water, but 1" is all it takes to be too much. A suggestion came up that maybe we could dry-fit the two main doors and have provisions for a stop gate in front of the doors. There are only two doors. The building is going to wood frame construction with sheathing so that wouldn't make a difference. Mr. Ulep stated that the elevation of 47' is actually the increase for the new 500 year. If we get too high, then we'll have a handicap lift versus a ramp, which is perfectly acceptable.

So, do we have an affirmation on the layout and the solar concept? And is everyone ok with the height concerns? Yes, and yes.

2. Update on Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that we are making progress. Mr. Ulep has a meeting on Wednesday with the CDM team and our staff to discuss the 30% design for the return-activated sludge pumps. Mr. Ulep stated it is a 60% design for the return activated sludge pumps and 30% design on the mechanical part of the 600 Building and RAS Building. Things are moving along well.

3. Update on Main Interceptor & Forcemain Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that we have been chasing Duke Farms down for a meeting to discuss this easement. The Assistant Director got back to me and assured us that they are trying to get some dates to us and will get back to us soon about the dates to get our respective staffs back together and to get Mr. Carney together with their attorney, who will handle the easement issues. If it is going to be a yes or no or a no-go or a go regarding obtaining a new sewer easement on the NRCS wetlands easements that are all over Duke Farms where our sewers run. It if a big if. If

not, then we will just revert to rehabilitating the original trunk interceptor line along the Raritan Riverbank. Hopefully, we have something to report next month. The wetlands surveys are done and we have the 30% design and are working on 60%. Mr. Ulep stated that hydraulic modeling is also complete. He has a meeting with them next week. Mr. Albano asked if we can't get the new easement and if we rehabilitate what's there, is it going to be the same size? Or do we have to put a bigger pipe in? Mr. Anastasio indicated that in that section of the line, we will just reline the existing 36" but it is a slightly smaller diameter but is more slippery. One offsets the other and typically it is a wash. Mr. Schoettle stated that maybe it is a little better hydraulics but it depends on the condition of the existing pipe. The new pipe will run from just across the river at the plant, up to the storm control pumping station, which will be the open cut construction.

4. Update on the Storm Control Pumping Station Flood Mitigation Project

Mr. Anastasio indicated that we have awarded it. The Contractor is off and running. They are working on getting in touch with their vendors and getting us submittals. We haven't seen anything yet. Mr. Ulep stated that Moorehouse Engineering and Coppola are corresponding with one another. Coppola was able to find a way to furnish the IPA without weakening the specification and complete this project by early next year. Mr. Anastasio stated that we had planned to buy a sea box built at the factory with all the switchgear in it. We have installed it here at the plant and it is nice. It is a factory built. It is not a deal breaker to not get that. We can have that structure delivered onsite and have the switchgear installed. That's how construction was done for decades and it's not a lesser alternative and it could be a lot quicker. The lead time on independent power assemblies is more than a year. It is almost 15 months or more. That's when they place the order. They have to get through the shop drawings first.

5. NJMEL – Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar (approximately 35 minutes) – flyer in binder front pocket

Mr. Anastasio indicated that the video is for the Commissioners. Let's finish the meeting and pay the bills without adjourning and let the staff and professionals go and the Commissioners will remain behind.

B. Engineer/Consultants – Thomas Schoettle, P.E. (CDM Smith) Engineer's Report for January 2025

Mr. Albano asked, in your report you mentioned the influent pump station discharge pressure design and something about whether they were within the operating curves. Mr. Schoettle stated that they are looking at the operating curves of the existing pumps. Based on where the pressure is, we're in the operating range for the best efficiency points on the pump operations. Also, is the headworks building going to fall down? It hasn't yet. Mr. Ulep stated that we just added structural shoring inside the headworks building, as per CDM's design. That is a very conservative design, a cautiously conservative design.

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

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

Minute 14 - Res. No. 25-0224-3 – Payroll

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Minute 15 - Res. No. 25-0224-4 – Cancellation of Checks

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

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

Minute 16- Res. No. 25-0224-5 – Bills

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

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

Mr. Anastasio excused the Staff and Professionals from the Meeting. With the exception of Mr. Murphy, who had viewed the video prior to the meeting, the Commissioners remained and watched the NJMEL Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar

Minute 17 – Adjournment of Meeting

Upon a Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Ms. Borek, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

All in Favor Voice Vote:

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

*Mr. Murphy indicated he had already watched the video and will forward his certificate to Mr. Anastasio.

NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
MARCH 24, 2025