

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MEETING - CAUCUS MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2016.

Moment of Silence and Salute:

Led by Chairman Thompson

Announcement:

This meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act in that an announcement of the same was mailed to the Asbury Park Press, the Coast Star; and to the Clerks of our member municipalities on February 13, 2015. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioners Burne, Cory, Farrell, Lynch, Mattia, McLean, Nicol, and Thompson.

Messrs. Bonello, Bujak, and Ruppel.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Mr. Bonello reported he worked with Mr. Ruppel on many of the items which will be reported during the Executive Director Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

SYSTEMS:

Pitney Avenue Pump Station:

Mr. Ruppel reported the Pitney Avenue Pump Station has been completed.

Belmar Pumping Station:

Mr. Ruppel reported that the Belmar Pump Station Rehabilitation project is on schedule.

Outfall Project:

Mr. Ruppel reported the outfall project continues to progress, designs are being reviewed and permits have been submitted and are awaiting approval. He stated that a portion of this project is being funded by FEMA and that the actual funds are now in Trenton and can be drawn against.

2016 Proposed Income, Appropriation & Capital Budgets:

Mr. Ruppel reported that a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board consideration and approval of the 2016 Income, Appropriations and Capital Budgets. He stated

this budget is the same budget that was proposed by the Board of Commissioner in October 2015.

2016 Nominating Committee:

Mr. Ruppel stated that in preparation for the February Reorganization Meeting, a Nominating Committee has been formed for the purpose of nominating its 2016 Authority Officers. The Committee consists of Commissioners McLean, Lynch and Farrell with Commissioner McLean as Chair. The Board of Commissioners approved the formation of the 2016 Nominating Committee.

Personnel Items:

Mr. Ruppel reported the Authority is still actively pursuing voids in staffing and has been successful in offering employment to two new individuals, Mr. Rafi Khatchikian for the Apprentice II vacancy; and Mr. Thomas Strong for the Operator Journeyman position with the condition he relocate within an agreed upon driving distance. Two resolutions have been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioner consideration and approval. The first is to ratify the hiring of Mr. Rafi Khatchikian as an Apprentice II and the second is to ratify an offer of employment to Mr. Thomas Strong as a Operator Journeyman.

Mr. Ruppel reported that there is an on-going personnel issue with a former employee who has filed for disability benefits, retirement benefits, a grievance, and has now filed for arbitration.

Mr. Bonello, Authority General Counsel stated there are inconsistent positions that the former employee has taken in each filing. The Authority's position remains unchanged regarding the severing of employment. At this time both the Authority's Labor and General Counsel believe there is no action required at this time.

S72 and A72 Bill – Regional Sewerage Authority Oversight Bill:

Last month, Mr. Ruppel reported what the effects of "S72 and A72 the Regional Sewerage Authority Oversight Bill" would have an effect on state-wide regional authorities. He reported this month that the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) has been successful in returning this bill to Committee, however, right before the scheduled Senate Meeting the Bill was placed back on the Agenda but was ultimately rejected by the Committee. There was no Assembly companion bill resulting in its non-passage.

Generators – Possible Pilot Program:

Last month Mr. Ruppel reported to the Commissioners a possible joint venture with Tech 3 Solutions. The hopes for this becoming a viable project are diminishing, even though many individuals speak of "island building" and getting out of the box thinking in the industry. He does not believe it is a dead concept, but it does not appear as being successful as it primarily deals with the power and control that the energy providers have in New Jersey. AEA plans to contact the providers to educate and explain that this is something they could benefit from.

SMRSA 2015 Year End Review & Planning Session:

Mr. Ruppel provided a 2015 SMRSA Year End Review and Planning Session presentation which included the following topics:

- 2015 Objectives to include the continued operational and financial recovery from Super Storm Sandy and Succession Planning
- Comparative Cash on Hand Analysis November 2012 to November 2015 to November 2018
- Sewer Use Charge History and projections through 2021
- Historical Capital Improvement Expenses
- Declining Debt Service Schedule
- Establishing a “set aside growth” fund utilizing declining Debt Service for the sole purpose of minimizing further borrowings
- Gas Blending System Cost Analysis
- Addition of Third Engine Cost Analysis
- Future Anticipated Authority Retirements and Succession Planning Program
- 2016 Authority Short Term Goals and Management Deliverables

BUSINESS:

- Adopt the 2016 Proposed Income, Capital, and Appropriation Budgets.
- Approve Change Order No. 2 for the Pitney Avenue Pumping Station Contract with Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co., Inc.
- Ratify the Hiring of Mr. Rafi Khatchikian for the Apprentice II Vacancy.
- Ratify an Offer of Employment to Mr. Thomas Strong as an Operator Journeyman.

PUBLIC PORTION:

It was moved by Commissioner Mattia and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to open the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye. A motion was made by Commissioner Mattia, and seconded by Commissioner Burne to close the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye.

ADJORNMENT:

Commissioner Lynch made the motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Commissioner Mattia seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye.