

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MINUTES - CAUCUS MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2017**

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 12, 2017.

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 Clerks of our member municipalities on February 22, 2016; and to the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star on February 25, 2016. 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 and Nicol.

Messrs. Bonello, Bujak, and Ruppel.

Absent:

Commissioner Dempsey

Prior to the Attorney's Report, Mr. Brian Valentino, Executive Director, Western Monmouth Utilities Authority presented an Official's Honor Medal Award to Michael Ruppel for a career of distinguished service spanning from his efforts in the formative years at Western Monmouth Utilities Authority to his leadership on behalf of the people of the State of New Jersey, in Environmental Protection, and as President of the Association of the Environmental Authorities.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Bonello reported that he had reviewed the items on the Executive Director's report with Mr. Ruppel and has been involved along with the Authority's Labor Counsel on the current Human Resource issues.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

SYSTEMS

Outfall Project

Mr. Ruppel reported the Ocean Outfall Rehabilitation Project contract has been signed, staff is currently reviewing shop drawings and a project kick-off meeting has been scheduled for mid-January 2017.

Cogeneration Resiliency Upgrades

Mr. Ruppel reported the Cogeneration Feasibility Study has been completed. Staff continues to work on the design with the expectation it will be completed by the first week of April 2017. As

this is a federal funded grant project the Economic Development Authority (EDA) will need to review the design as well. Staff expects to solicit for bids in June 2017.

Enterro-Cocci Pilot Program:

As the Board of Commissioners were already aware the State has changed its indicating organism, enterro-cocci, that is used to detect bacteria in its most recent permit. Mr. Ruppel stated the Authority uses this enterro-cocci organism to detect bacteria in its effluent. He further stated that he was a part of the collaboration with the AEA Ocean Discharge Group to negotiate these standards. However, when the time came to issue the permit, the Authority removed itself from the group due to site specific reasons and requested the State authorize a stay of the requirements in order to pursue additional study work. The Authority is currently conducting a pilot program which will determine if the Authority can effectively meet the new permit requirements without exception or modifications to its system.

ADMINISTRATION

2017 Income, Capital, and Appropriation Budgets

Mr. Ruppel reported a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners consideration and approval to adopt the 2017 Income, Capital, and Appropriation Budgets. He further stated these budgets are the same budgets that the Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved in October 2016.

Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Mr. Ruppel reported that Authority staff is currently in negotiations with the Collective Bargaining Union and believes them to be going well.

James Brennan, Superintendent's Retirement:

Mr. Ruppel reported a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners consideration and approval to congratulate Mr. James Brennan, current Superintendent upon his scheduled retirement on February 1, 2017. It recognizes the past four decades of Mr. Brennan's service to the citizenry of which the Authority serves and his exemplary dedication to his job and the application of implementing the management principles that were and are always in the best interest of the Authority.

Promotion – Barney Bigley – Shift Operator:

Mr. Ruppel reported a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners consideration and approval to appoint and promote Mr. Barney Bigley to the position of Shift Operator effective January 12, 2017. Mr. Bigley has been performing these duties satisfactorily for the past several months on a temporary basis.

2017 Nominating Committee:

Mr. Ruppel stated that in preparation for the Authority's February Reorganization Meeting, a Nominating Committee needs to be formed for the purpose of nominating its 2017 Authority

Officers. He reported the Nominating Committee will consist of Commissioner Farrell of Sea Girt assisted by Commissioners Dempsey of Manasquan and Commissioner Lynch of Lake Como.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session:

Mr. Ruppel, Executive Director recommended the Commissioners go into an Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel including actions specific to Employee Number 43482 who has been served Rice Notice of SMRSA's intent to take and ratify actions taken by the Executive Director and to discuss the status of Collective Bargaining negotiations.

Open Executive Session:

Commissioner Mattia made the motion to go into an Executive Session. Commissioner Burne seconded the motion. On voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye.

Close Executive Session:

A motion was made by Commissioner McLean, and seconded by Commissioner Farrell, to close the Executive Session portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye.

Re-open Caucus Meeting:

A motion was made by Commissioner Burne, and seconded by Commissioner Mattia, to re-open the Caucus Meeting. On voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye.

BUSINESS:

- Resolution to Adopt the 2017 Income, Capital, and Appropriation Budgets
- Proclamation to Congratulate Mr. James Brennan Upon His Retirement from the SMRSA.
- Resolution to Approve the Promotion of Barney Bigley from a Support Services Apprentice to Shift Operator
- Resolution Ratifying the Actions of the Executive Director in Severing the Employment Relationship Between the Authority and Employee Number 43482, effective December 20, 2016

PUBLIC PORTION:

It was moved by Commissioner Nicol and seconded by Commissioner Burne 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 Mattia made the motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Commissioner Burne seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye. The time was 7:45 pm.