

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MINUTES - CAUCUS MEETING – MARCH 8, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2018.

Moment of Silence and Salute:

Led by Chairman Burne

Announcement:

This meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act in that an announcement of the same has been mailed to the Clerks of our member municipalities; and to the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star on February 12, 2018. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioners Burne, Cory, Donovan, Farrell, Lynch, Mattia, May, and Nicol.

Messrs. Bonello, Bujak, Krause, and Timbrook.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Mr. Bonello stated during the month he met with Mr. Krause regarding neighbors encroaching on SMRSA property which will be covered in the Executive Director’s Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Outfall Access Chamber Project:

Mr. Krause reported that the Ocean Outfall Access Chamber Project was advertised on Thursday, March 1, 2018 with the schedule bid date of April 4, 2018.

New SMRSA Projects

Mr. Krause identified several new projects that he would like to have staff undertake going forward. The first would be a Force Main and Outfall Assessment which will coordinate well with the Outfall Access Chamber Project. One way to assess the condition of the Force Main & Outfall is to send down special “smart ball” or other similar technology into the pipe which will evaluate the condition of the pipe’s interior as a “non-destructive” condition assessment.

In addition to the above Condition Assessments, there are several Pump Station “upgrades” that have been sitting on the back burner since Superstorm Sandy. Brielle’s Pump Station wet well is deteriorated on the inside and is in need of repair. In addition, reconfiguring several wet-wells to help improve operations and upgrade of various pieces of equipment.

Each of these projects can be funded using the original 9.1 million dollar borrowing of which 3 million dollars remains. Staff will identify the appropriate SMRSA Consulting Engineering Firm(s) and to develop the scope of the project and then solicit proposals from multiple Engineering Firms for each project.

Encroachment of SMRSA Property:

Mr. Krause reported as Mr. Bonello stated in his Attorney Report staff has become aware of an adjacent property owner residing at the end of South M Street, between N and M Street, has created an access road across both SMRSA and Wall Township owned property in order to gain access to a garage on their property. Mr. Bonello stated that this neighbor maybe operating a business out of his garage and he has placed white barrels on SMRSA property storing materials that are unidentified and suspect. The subject property is adjacent to SMRSA's Headworks Building and there also appears to have made a dumping site for concrete and debris on SMRSA property. Due to this area being the most odor intense side of SMRSA property, both he and Mr. Bonello feel it will be sensitive to address this issues with this neighbor in order to avoid them from making odor complaints. Mr. Krause also stated concern with SMRSA's liability as some of this land has been identified as wetland. However, the first step that needs to be taken by both the SMRSA and Wall Township is to identify each property line and have these corners staked out. One suggestion was to request the neighbors clean up the debris and SMRSA would consider creating an access license agreement with both neighbors to be renewed on an annual basis. The Commissioners responded with concern with a license agreement as there could be a liability for SMRSA if there was a fire or the material stored were toxic or could cause damage to the environment and it is their recommendation to stake and fence the property to avoid any liability or dumping on SMRSA property. More discussion followed regarding installing a fence, surveying the property, etc. Mr. Krause will look into surveying the property and report back to the Commissioners.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

S848 Sewer Budget & Customer Billing 2% Cap Law Update:

During the month, Mr. Krause and three AEA Members met with Mr. Jason Martucci of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Mr. Martucci has been tasked with writing the Rules and Regulations regarding the sewer rate and customer billing 2% cap increase for all Regional Sewerage Authorities. The attending AEA Members were Mike Gianforte, Two Rivers WRA, Bob Fischer, Bayshore Regional SA and Peggy Gallos, Director of AEA. After some discussion regarding the regional authorities' issues with the law, Mr. Martucci requested that he be supplied with the language necessary to be put into the regulations which would not adversely affect regional sewerage authorities. A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2018 with AEA Members to begin developing the requested language necessary to mitigate damage from this law. He also informed the Board of Commissioners that concurrently Two Rivers Regional Sewerage Authority's Board of Commissioners is prepared to sue the State of New Jersey, as they believe the law is unconstitutional and will prevent regional sewerage authorities from honoring their existing service agreements. TRWRA has inquired about other authorities joining in the lawsuit. Mr. Krause recommended to continue work with AEA and the rule makers at DCA, and see how that evolves. Joining into lawsuit at a later date will continue to be an option.

Staffing:

A resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners consideration and approval to ratify the hire of Mr. Brian Mooneyhan from Howell, New Jersey as a Journeyman II.

BUSINESS:

- Resolution ratifying the actions of the Executive Director in hiring Mr. Brian Mooneyhan as a Journeyman II.

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 Nicol and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to close the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye.

ADJOURNMENT:

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