

Board Meeting of January 18th, 2024

A telephone/zoom conference meeting of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties was held on the above date. Chairperson Ramos was in the chair.

The Executive Director read the following statement:

Pursuant to Section #5, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of the regular meetings of the Joint Meeting, on the bulletin board of the Maplewood Municipal Building, by mailing the annual notice of the regular meetings for 2024 to the Star Ledger, The Home News Tribune and to the offices of the Municipal Clerks of the 11 member municipalities of the Joint Meeting and to the City Clerk of the City of Elizabeth and to the County Clerks of the Counties of Essex and Union all on January 4th, 2024.

On roll call the following board members were present: Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno and Ms. Adams. Absent: Ms. Collum.

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. Bonaccorso, Phillips, Akinokun, Volpe, Barry, Kelly, Kairu and Berkeley Esq., of the Joint Meeting; E. Webster, Esq., and J. Noble, Esq. of Connell Foley LLP; J. Burke Esq. and R. Rivera Esq. of Antonelli Kantor Rivera; H. Johnsen, N. Towers and J. Bonaccorso of CME Associates; R. LaMendola of AVA Consulting; Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, LLC; Bob Butvilla of Suplee Clooney; Liam Fleming and Connor Schmiede of Aubrey Group; David Leun of CDM Smith; and Nathan Burroughs of Taurus Advisory Group.

Director Johnson introduced new board members, Nancy A. Adams (Maplewood) and Gregory Vartan (Summit).

Chairman Ramos led the nomination for new Chairperson. Mr. Ramos nominated Mr. Florio for Chairperson, seconded by Ms. Romano. All in favor of nomination, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Romano, nomination for Chairperson was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Director Johnson led the swearing-in of the newly elected Chairperson, Mr. Florio.

Chairman Florio led the nomination for Vice Chairperson/Secretary. Mr. Florio nominated Mr. Ramos, seconded by Messrs. Petrosky and Leneus. All in favor of nomination, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Florio, seconded by Mr. Petrosky and Mr. Leneus, nomination for Vice Chairperson/Secretary was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Director Johnson led the swearing-in of the newly elected Vice Chairperson/Secretary, Mr. Ramos.

Chairman Florio led the nomination for Treasurer. Mr. Rutherford nominated Ms. Frederic, seconded by Mr. Ramos. All in favor of nomination, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. Ramos, nomination of the newly elected Treasurer was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Director Johnson led the swearing-in of the newly elected Treasurer, Ms. Frederic.

Chairman Florio moved to do the following resolutions as a group: Designation of Official Newspaper(s) (R-004/24), Designation of Officials Banks (R-005/24), Bank Signatories (R-006/24) and Cash Management (R-007/24).

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Bonanno and Mr. Petrosky Resolution (R-004/24) Designation of Official Newspaper(s), Resolution (R-005/24) Designation of Official Banks, Resolution (R-006/24) Bank Signatories and Resolution (R-007/24) Cash Management was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Leneus, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none. Abstentions: Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Adams, and Mr. Vartan.

On motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the Treasurer's report was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

The following verbal report was given:

Personnel & Procurement Committee: Chair Florio stated that the Committee met, discussed, and recommends authorization of the following: Resolution Authorization to Award a Contract for the Purposes of Submitting a Grant Application to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education NJ Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program –(Aubrey Group) (R-011/24), Resolution Authorization to Award Professional Engineering Services in Connection with the Bill Credit Issue with the City of Elizabeth – (CDM Smith) (R-012/24), Resolution Authorization to Amend Contract for Digester Elevator Modernization – (H2M) (R-019/24), Resolution Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment and Materials (R-020/24), Resolution Authorization to Award Furnishing and Delivering of Bulk Dry Polymer (R-013/24), Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Office of Higher Education NJ Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program (R-014/24), Resolution Authorizing a Contract for Energy Agent and Procurement Consultant Services (Taurus Advisory Group, LLC) (R-015/24).

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Leneus, Resolution (R-011/24) Awarding Contract to Aubrey Group, LLC for Purposes of Submitting a Grant Application to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education NJ Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-012/24) Awarding a Contract to CDM Smith Inc. for Professional Engineering Services in Connection with the Bill Credit Issue with the City of Elizabeth was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, Resolution (R-019/24) Amending Contract with H2M Architects & Engineers for Planning & Design Engineering Services for Elevator Modernization was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. Ramos, Resolution (R-020/24) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials – P&O Building Elevator Modernization was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Bonanno, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-013/24) Awarding Contract to Polydyne Inc. for Furnishing and Delivering Dry Bulk Polymer was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, Resolution (R-014/24) Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to Office of the Secretary of Higher Education NJ Career Accelerator Internship Grant Program was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Bonanno, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-015/24) Authorizing a Contract to Taurus Advisory Group, LLC for Energy Agent and Procurement Consultant Services was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the Treatment Plant Report, the Industrial Pretreatment Report, the Financial Report and the Audit Report having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the General Counsel Report, (Connell Foley, LLP), the Labor and Employment Counsel Report (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Special Conflict and Pretreatment Violations Counsel Report(s) (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Engineering Report (CME Associates), and the CSO Report (CDM Smith) having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There were correspondences in the form of Board Member Appointment Letters from East

Orange, Maplewood, Millburn, Roselle Park, Summit and Union; and Elizabeth Fourth Quarter Adjustment.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on any Joint Meeting matter with a five-minute limit. On motion to open public comments by Mr. Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Frederic, the public comment portion of the meeting was opened. Hearing no one, the Public Comment Session was declared closed. On motion to close public comment by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Frederic. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Frederic, Resolution (R-008/24) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-009/24) Appreciation to Dean Dafis was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Vartan, seconded by Mr. Ramos, Resolution (R-010/24) Appreciation to Marjorie Fox was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Frederic, Resolution (R-016/24) Authorizing the Executive Director to sign Energy Supply Contracts with winning bidders in the Online Energy Auctions for 2024 was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Leneus, Rutherford, Petrosky, Vartan and Florio; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, and Ms. Adams; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-017/24), Pay Increase for Non-Union Employees was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Bonanno, seconded by Ms. Adams, Resolution (R-018/24) Pay Increase for Board Members was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, the next meeting date will be on February 15, 2024

There being no further business, on motion by, Ms. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, the meeting then adjourned at 4:52 pm to meet again on February 15, 2024, unless called earlier by the Chair. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary
Anibal Ramos Jr.