Board Meeting of April 17th, 2025

A telephone/zoom conference meeting of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties was held on the above date. Chairperson Florio 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 2025 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, 2025.

On roll call the following board members were present: Messrs. Krakoviak, Florio, Petrosky (joined @ 4:05 pm) and Leneus (joined @ 4:07pm); Ms. Romano, Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Collum, Ms. Hamlet, Ms. Adams (joined @ 4:05pm) and Ms. Frederic (joined at 4:12pm).
Absent: Mr. Ramos

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. Bonaccorso, Akinokun, Kairu, Kelly, Phillips, Volpe and Berkeley Esq. of the Joint Meeting; J. Noble, Esq. of Connell Foley LLP; J. Burke, Esq. of Antonelli Kantor Rivera; N. Towers and J. Bonaccorso of CME Associates; R. LaMendola of AVA Consulting and Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Ms. Romano, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Ms. Adams, the Treasurer's report was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

The Chairman then asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the staff and professionals to the following reports:

Staff Reports – The Treatment Plant, Industrial Pretreatment and Financial.

Professionals Reports - 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).

Ms. Hamlet asked for an explanation in regard to the biosolids chemical oxygen demand and suspended solids – the actual removal frequency versus the permit requirement is significantly down and questions if this is a normal threshold and meets the state mandate thresholds. Mr. J. Bonaccorso explained that the change isn't normal and is looking into what contributed to deviation from the norm. This issue was reported to DEP and no responses were received as yet.

A follow-up with details will be given at the next board meeting.

Ms. Collum inquired about the FEMA and bonding reimbursement. Director Johnson and Ms. Needham gave clarification on the current status. Mr. LaMendola gave the Board an update of the total spent on the Flood Mitigation Project and reimbursed from FEMA to date.

On motion by Ms. Bonanno, second by Ms. Romano all Staff and Professional Reports having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

In the absence of P&P Committee Chair, Chairman Florio stated that the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-043/25 – R-050/25) have been reviewed by the Committee and are recommended for approval by the Board as a part of a consent agenda. A brief explanation of each resolution will be given before the conclusion of this meeting.

The Chairman read the following statement:

All items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Board and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for a separate roll call vote, in which case the item will be removed and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

The following verbal report was given (A brief explanation of each was provided by Director Johnson): Resolution (R-043/25) Authorizing Payment of Invoices from Certain Professionals in Connection with the 2019 CIP Long Term Bond Closing with the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, Resolution (R-044/25) Authorizing Reimbursement of Funds to Certain Member Municipalities, Resolution (R-045/25) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Longo Electrical-Mechanical Sales and Service for Digester, Secondary and Dewatering Facility Variable Frequency Drive Parts Under North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System, Resolution (R-046/25) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Motion Industries Inc. for Primary Tank Cross Collector Chain Under Sourcewell Contract # 091422-MII, Resolution (R-047/25), Authorizing a Change Order to Current Elevator Technology Inc. for Furnishing and Delivering P&O Building Elevator Modernization, Resolution (R-048/25) Authorizing the Extension of Contract with Environmental Protection & Improvement Company, LLC for the Hauling and Beneficial Use of Dewatered Biosolids, Resolution (R-049/25) Appreciation to Michael Phillips, Resolution (R-050/25) Amending Resolution (R-058/24) Appreciation to Carmine Cristiano.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Ms. Frederic, Resolutions (R-043/25) – (R-

050/25) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Leneus, Petrosky, Krakoviak and Florio; Ms. Collum, Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, Resolution (R-042/25) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Leneus, Petrosky, Krakoviak and Florio; Ms. Collum, Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none

There was correspondence for Elizabeth First Quarter Adjustment.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Collum, the public comment portion of the meeting was opened. The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on any Joint Meeting matters with a five-minute limit. Hearing no one, the public comment session was declared closed. The Chairperson asked for a motion to close public comment. On motion to close public comment by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Collum. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

Under unfinished business, Director Johnson expressed to the Board that she will be sending out an email with two dates to determine a new date for the June Board Meeting, since it falls on the Juneteenth holiday.

Under new business, the next meeting date will be May 15, 2025

There being no further business on motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the meeting then adjourned at 4:47 pm to meet again on May 15, 2025, unless called earlier by the Chair. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Anibal Ramos Jr.