Board Meeting of June 26, 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. Ramos, Krakoviak, Petrosky, Leneus and Florio; Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic. Absent: Ms. Collum, Ms. Romano and Ms. Hamlet

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

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Ramos, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

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

Director Johnson requests that the Board approve $1,000,000 of the $2,416,119 surplus as a reserve. The $1,416,119, which is approximately three times more than the municipalities received last year, remaining of the surplus will be distributed amongst the municipalities.

Mr. Ramos voiced concerns about the logic used to determine the amount of a reserve (amount in dollars or percentage of the overall surplus) being requested and Director Johnson agreed to meet with the Budget and Finance Committee to establish a criteria for future reserve request. Ms. Frederic, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, and Mr. Krakoviak recommended the 2024 Annual User Charge Apportionment and the 2024 Surplus (Schedule 5 & 6) be approved with the $1,000,000 reserve.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the staff for the following reports:

Staff Reports – 2024 Annual User Charge Apportionment Report, 2024 Surplus (Schedules 5 & 6), The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment, 403 Annual and Financial Reports.

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

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the professionals for the following reports:

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).

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

All agenda items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Board and will be approved by one motion. There was further discussion of (R-068/25) prior to the vote upon request of the Chairman. (R-068/25) was removed for further discussion and a separate roll call vote, and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

Chairman requested the approval for the following Resolutions (R-062/25 – R-067/25, and R-069/25 – R-070/25) to be a part of a consent agenda. On motion by Mr. Ramos, second by Mr. Petrosky & Ms. Frederic, the resolutions were approved. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

The following verbal report was given (A brief explanation of each resolution was provided by Director Johnson): Resolution (R-062/25) Third Quarter Assessment, Resolution (R-063/25) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials - Digester #2 Vacuum/pump out and disposal of materials in accordance with NJDEP, Resolution (R-064/25) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials - Replacement of Vessel 301, Resolution (R-065/25) Awarding a Contract to Eurofins Environmental Testing Philadelphia, LLC for Providing Certified Laboratory Services, Resolution (R-066/25) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co. for RAS Pump Parts under North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Contract No. B414-18, Resolution (R-067/25) Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to Michels Construction for Phase III Main Plant Site Wall – Additional Work – No Contract Price Increase, Resolution (R-069/25) Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to Anselmi & DeCicco, Inc for Effluent Pumping Station – No Contract Price Increase, Resolution (R-070/25) Awarding Contract to AlertMedia for Communication Services.

Chairman Florio then asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns for any of the above resolutions, hearing none, he proceeds and asked for motion and second.

On motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, Resolutions (R-061/25) – (R-067/25), (R-069/25 – R-070/25) were adopted. On Roll Call: On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Director Johnson provided information concerning the details of (R-068/25) Authorizing Change Order No. 2 to Michels Construction for Phase III Main Plant Site Wall – Landfill Modification – Price Increase. Discussion included Board members, General Counsel, and Engineering

On motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. Ramos, Resolution (R-068/25) was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Petrosky, Krakoviak and Florio; Ms. Frederic and Ms. Adams; nays, Mr. Leneus & Ms. Bonanno.

There was correspondence in the form of member appointment letter from South Orange.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Ms. Frederic, seconded by Mr. Krakoviak, 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 Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Frederic. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

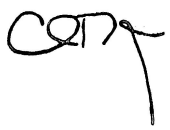
There was no closed session.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, a decision by the Board will be made to determine whether, or not monthly meetings for the months of July and August 2025 will be canceled. Director Johnson will follow up with the Board via email to determine meeting cancellation and provide appropriate notification to the public.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the meeting then adjourned at 5:12 pm. The next meeting scheduled is July 17, 2025, unless the Chair provides other notice. On motion all in favor to adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary
Anibal Ramos Jr.