

## Meeting Minutes of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 2023 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 December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

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

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. Bonaccorso, Phillips, Akinokun, Volpe, Barry, Kelly 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 LLC and Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, LLC.

On motion by Mr. Florio, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Petrosky, seconded by Ms. Romano, 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 for RFQs/RFPs for Professional Services (R-104/23), Resolution Authorization for Labor and Employment Counsel (R-105/23), Resolution Authorization Amending Contract for Furnishing and Delivering Potassium Permanganate (R-106/23), Resolution Authorization Amending Contract for Furnishing and Delivering No. 2 Fuel Oil (R-107/23), Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property (R-108/23)

On motion by Mr. Florio, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, Resolution (R-104/23) RFQs and RFPs for Professional Services was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Florio, Resolution (R-105/23) Amending Contract with Antonelli Kantor Rivera for Labor and Employment Counsel was adopted. On Roll

call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, Resolution (R-106/23) Amending a Contract with Carus Inc. for Furnishing and Delivering Potassium Permanganate was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Mr. Florio, Resolution (R-107/23) Amending a Contract with Royal Aquarium Consultancy Inc. for Furnishing and Delivering No. 2 Fuel Oil was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

On motion by Mr. Petrosky, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-108/23) Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

Under Finance and Budget, Director Johnson introduced and provided an overview of the 2024 draft budget to the Board Members. Mr. Kelly briefly explained how the structure of the budget is conducted at the JMEUC and Mr. Joe Bonaccorso explained the percentage breakdown of the budget.

Mr. Florio expressed to the Board Members that the Finance and Budget Committee met, reviewed in detail, and recommended various changes to the 2024 draft budget. The Committee approved of the changes made.

Ms. Column requested more information concerning the budget increase. The Executive Director to provided the following to the Board for clarity: major variations in budget items, the percent that \$1 million dollars adjusts the budget, and actual percent increase of the budget after estimated surplus allocations have been calculated.

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

On motion by Mr. Petrosky, seconded by Ms. Collum, 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 – No Report), the Engineering Report (CME Associates), the CSO Report (CDM Smith) and Grant Writing Services Reports (Aubrey Group, LLC) having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no correspondence.

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. Florio,

seconded by Ms. Romano. Hearing no one, the Public Comment Session was declared closed. On motion to close public comment by Ms. Frederic, seconded by Ms. Romano. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Florio, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, Resolution (R-103/23) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

In accordance with Section 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permitting the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances and as the Joint Meeting is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist as the general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is **Contracts/Litigation and Employees/Personnel** and it is anticipated at this time that this subject matter will be made public at a later date. On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Mr. Florio, the Board entered into close session at 4:47 pm. On motion all in favor, nays, none. On motion by Mr. Leneus seconded by Mr. Petrosky, the Board exited closed session at 5:18 pm and open back up meeting to the public.

On motion by Mr. Leneus, seconded by Ms. Romano, Resolution (R-109/23) Adopting Memorandum of Agreement from 1-1-2023 to 12-31-2026 was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Mr. Florio, Resolution (R-110/23, previously tabled Resolution R-101/23) Pay Increase for Non-Union Employees was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

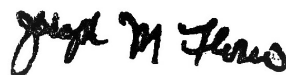
On motion by Ms. Romano, seconded by Ms. Frederic, Resolution (R-111/23, previously tabled Resolution R-102/23) Pay increase for Board Members was adopted. On Roll call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Florio, Leneus, and Ramos; Ms. Romano, Ms. Frederic, and Ms. Collum; nay, none.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, the next meeting date will be on December 21, 2023

There being no further business, on motion by, Mr. Florio, seconded by Ms. Romano, the meeting then adjourned at 5:23 pm to meet again on December 21, 2023, unless called earlier by the Chair. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Florio  
Secretary