

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MINUTES - CAUCUS MEETING – MARCH 10, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:00 p. m. on Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Moment of Silence and Salute:

Led by Chairman Cory

Announcement:

This meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act in that an announcement of the same was mailed to the Asbury Park Press, the Coast Star, and to the Clerks of our member municipalities on February 11, 2011. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioners Blasi, Burne, Cory, Farrell, Lynch, Mattia, Nicol and Schmeling.

Mr. Bujak and Mr. Ruppel.

Excused:

Mr. Bonello and Mrs. Brophy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Ruppel's Executive Director Report included a review of the following Authority business related items:

Sea Girt Pump Station Rehabilitation:

The Sea Girt Pump Station Rehabilitation Project continues to be on schedule and within its budget.

SCADA System:

The SCADA System is currently operating and communicating efficiently. With its limitless technology and reporting capabilities, the system has been well received and embraced by SMRSA Staff.

Transparency in Public Authorities:

Recently the Star Ledger published a report by the State Controller's Office comparing transparencies within New Jersey's public Authorities and Commissions. One of the transparencies specified was the lack of public information on Authority's websites regarding financial information, meeting schedules and previous meeting minutes. The South Monmouth Regional Sewer Authority scored better than most of the environmental Authorities; however, SMRSA after reviewing this report took the initiative and added one year of previous meeting minutes, three years of audited financial statements including Management's Discussion and Analysis Reports and the current year state approved budget to its website.

AEA Spring Conference:

Commissioner Burne, Mr. Ruppel, Mr. Bujak and Mr. Brennan attended the Spring AEA Conference. Mr. Ruppel stated it was an informative conference and well worth the time.

Requests For Expressions of Interests (RFEI):

During the month, the Engineering Committee met to discuss the status of the RFEIs received by the Authority. Mr. Ruppel previously reviewed all responding engineering firms and presented to the Committee his recommendation of the firms to be short-listed and interviewed. The Committee accepted Mr. Ruppel's recommendations and interviews will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

Developing Rate Stabilization Through Efficiency Initiatives:

On March 3, 2011, Mr. Ruppel and Mr. Bujak presented at the WEA Spring Technology Transfer Seminar in Eatontown. Their presentation entitled "Developing Rate Stabilization Through Efficiency Initiatives" was well received and they will likely be asked to repeat this program for other affiliates.

Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority (MRRSA):

The Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority (MRRSA) approached the SMRSA with a proposed service area exchange between the two Authorities. Mr. Ruppel informed the Board that ten years ago there was a desire by several developers to develop the Belmar Blvd. section west of Route 34 in Wall Township. However, the MRRSA did not have the infrastructure to support this development nor were there any plans to put an infrastructure in since it did not have the density to support a capital project of this nature. In order to develop this area, the SMRSA entered into an agreement with the MRRSA and Wall Township annexing a section of the MRRSA's service area into the SMRSA service area. The SMRSA would provide service to this area through a 20-year agreement and would collect sewer connection fees based on the then current SMRSA connection fee rate in effect.

Assisted by a Power Point presentation Mr. Ruppel informed the Board of the newly proposed MRRSA service area exchange and that it includes the area remaining along Belmar Blvd. in Wall Township which would be given to the SMRSA (approximately 570 acres). In exchange for that area, the SMRSA would transfer to the MRRSA less than 200 acres along the northern side of the Route 34 corridor and both sides of Hurley Pond Road where it extends west from Route 34. Considerable discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Ruppel over the merits of the proposed transfer, potential build out within each area of the exchange and the potential impact of wetlands issues. The Board determined that there were no areas within the existing SMRSA Service Area where it could not provide service and that if the MRRSA were interested they would entertain structuring another temporary transfer agreement similar to what was done earlier.

At the direction of the Chairman, Mr. Ruppel acknowledged that he would inform the MRRSA that the SMRSA had evaluated their proposal and do not agree it would be advantageous for the SMRSA to accept the service area exchange. If the MRRSA desires to provide service to applicants in this section of their service area, then the SMRSA would consider an agreement that would either amend the current service agreement or entertain a new agreement of similar nature.

Collective Bargaining:

During the month, through the Human Resources Committee, Mr. Ruppel has been conducting negotiations with the Collective Bargaining Union regarding a new contract. A tentative settlement was reached between SMRSA and the Collective Bargaining Union. The Human Resource Committee reviewed this agreement with the Board of Commissioners and recommended its approval. A Resolution to approve a vote of confidence for a tentative agreement has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for approval.

BUSINESS:

- Resolution to approve a vote of confidence for a tentative agreement between the SMRSA and the Collective Bargaining Unit.

PUBLIC PORTION:

It was moved by Commissioner Mattia and seconded by Commissioner Nicol to open the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. As there was no public present a motion was made by Commissioner Mattia and seconded by Commissioner Nicol to close the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye.

ADJORNMENT:

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