

SOMERSET COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND
FUND COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2021

STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE READ BY JOHN TROJAN: Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the SCJIF held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 9:20 a.m. at the Somerville E.P.O. Elks Lodge #1068 located in Bridgewater, New Jersey, has been provided through posting of said notice to the Courier News, and the Hunterdon County Democrat in accordance with Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

SHANEL Y. ROBINSON	County of Somerset	Present
GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	Somerset County Park Commission	Present
JOHN TROJAN	Raritan Valley Community College	Present
RAELENE SIPPLE	Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools	Absent
GREGORY J. BONIN	Township of Branchburg	Absent
BRIAN K. AUGER	Somerset County Library Commission	Present
KELLY G. CUPIT	Township of Green Brook	Absent
KAREN GILBERT	Township of Raritan	Present
MICHAEL PAPPAS	Township of Bridgewater	Absent
VITA MEKOVETZ	Township of Clinton	Present
DIANE MC DANIEL	Township of Delaware	Absent

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS

YVONNE CHILDRESS	County of Somerset	Present
DONNA UMGELTER	Somerset County Park Commission	Absent
CHERYL WALLACE	Raritan Valley Community College	Absent
WILLIAM G. HYNICK, JR.	Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools	Absent
MARGUERITE SCHMITT	Township of Branchburg	Absent
BRIAN MORGAN	Somerset County Library Commission	Present
RAYMOND S. MURRAY	Township of Green Brook	Absent
CAROL BARBATI	Township of Raritan	Absent
THOMAS GENOVA	Township of Bridgewater	Absent
CARLA CONNER	Township of Clinton	Absent
JAMES WALTMAN	Township of Delaware	Absent

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS

EXECUTIVE DIR/ADMIN: NEW JERSEY RISK MANAGERS & CONSULTANTS, INC.
♦ Raymond L. Hughes ♦ Maryjane Hydro ♦ Javier B. Esparra
♦ Jim Griffith ♦ Ken Spiller ♦ Cindy Villagran ♦ Lucy Martins

FUND ATTY/CLAIMS MANAGEMENT/LITIGATION: DiFRANCESCO, BATEMAN, KUNZMAN, DAVIS, LEHRER & FLAUM, P.C.
♦ Stephen O. Davis, Esq.

FUND ATTY/REGULATORY COMPLIANCE/LEGISLATION: SAUL EWING ARNSTEIN & LEHR
♦ M. Paige Berry, Esq.

ADDITIONAL RISK MANAGERS:

ACRISURE, David Balken

- ◆ Township of Clinton

ACRISURE, Louis Beckerman

- ◆ Township of Green Brook

ACRISURE, Amy Pieroni

- ◆ Township of Bridgewater

LAFONTAINE & BUDD, James T. Rick, Jr.

- ◆ Township of Branchburg

RICHLAND KNOWLES AGENCY, Paul Joyce

- ◆ Township of Delaware

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR:

GUARDIAN PUBLIC ENTITY CLAIMS SERVICES

- ◆ Jacquelyn Fresco

GUESTS/PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS: Present at the meeting were Risk Manager for the Township of Clinton- David Balken, Risk Manager for the Township of Green Brook- Louis Beckerman, Risk Manager for the Township of Bridgewater- Amy Pieroni, The Richland Knowles Agency, Vice President- Diane Bellinger. Also in attendance were Guardian Public Entity Claims Services- Director of Claims-Jacquelyn Fresco, Workers' Compensation Examiner- Joy Smith, First Managed Care Option, Inc.'s Senior Vice President- Kelly Royce and Supervisor, Case Manager- Dina Forte.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 24TH, 2021 MEETING:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS

Executive Director/Administrator: In addition to the Report submitted, Mr. Raymond L. Hughes welcomed questions or comments from those in attendance. Ms. Maryjane Hydro thanked all of the 2021 signatories: Commissioners Chairman-John Trojan, Secretary- Brian Auger, and Alt. Commissioner/Custodian of Funds-Yvonne Childress. With the ongoing pandemic and the hybrid working conditions each of these Commissioners diligently worked to keep the Fund operating properly and efficiently as well all of the individual Committee Members.

In light of the ongoing health crisis, Fund Members received two proposed 2022 Meeting Schedules. Historically when the Fund does not meet in person, the Claims PAR Committee meets telephonically to conduct business. All Commissioners were asked to select between the two options: either seven (7) meetings or five (5) meetings.

The Fund's Re-organization Meeting is scheduled for January 26th, 2022 and Fund Members were asked to advise whether they would prefer an "in-person" meeting or Zoom Video Conference.

Additionally, Assessment Vouchers were mailed to the Member Entities in accordance with the Fund Year 2022 Operating Budget and assessment payments are due in January 2022.

Dividend checks were distributed to all Fund Members and Mr. Raymond L. Hughes congratulated and thanked all Members for their efforts and commitment to the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund philosophy which has made possible the ability to offer a Return of Surplus. He added that no other Joint Insurance Fund in the State of New Jersey offers return of surplus to its members. Since 2000 the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund has been in a position to extend dividends to the Members and what makes the surplus available for return is largely the Member's commitment to safety and bringing that safety culture back to their individual entities.

Fund Attorney - Claims Management / Litigation: No additions to the report submitted.

Fund Attorney – Regulatory Compliance / Legislation: Fund Attorney Berry provided an update of the Bills that are currently being reviewed by the Legislation regarding a Workers' Compensation Act. She also expanded on Daniel's Law which prohibits disclosure of homes addresses and contact information for judicial officers and prosecutors. She welcomed questions.

Third Party Administrator: No additions to the report submitted, however, Mr. Javier Esparra welcomed questions from participants.

Custodian of Funds: No additions to the report submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Safety Committee: On behalf of Committee Chairperson Sipple, Ms. Maryjane Hydro, NJRM, advised that the Safety Committee met on December 7th, 2021 and the Meeting Minutes were distributed electronically. New Jersey Risk Managers has also distributed information on Winter Storm Precautions to assist our Fund Members with preparations for emergencies during the winter months. All in attendance were reminded that New Jersey Risk Managers is available 24/7 to assist entities during emergencies. Should the need arise to report a claim after working hours, individuals are able to contact the answering service and a member of the team will be in touch as soon as practical. New Jersey Risk Manager is also able to provide recommendations to preferred vendors should it be necessary.

The Safety Committee will meet in person on January 11th, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. at the Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools TradeWins Restaurant. Committee Members who are not able to attend in person will be provided with instructions to connect to the meeting telephonically.

#21-037 RESOLUTION APPROVING SERVICE PROVIDER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MOTION:	Commissioner Auger
SECOND:	Commissioner Soriano
VOTE:	Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	SHANEL ROBINSON	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY J. BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER	X			
TOGB	KELLY G. CUPIT			X	
TOR	KAREN GILBERT	X			
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	VITA MEKOVETZ	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL			X	

OLD BUSINESS

#21-038 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CURRENT EXPENSES & CLAIMS REIMBURSEMENTS:

MOTION: Commissioner Soriano
SECOND: Commissioner Auger
VOTE: Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	SHANEL ROBINSON	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY J. BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER	X			
TOGB	KELLY G. CUPIT			X	
TOR	KAREN GILBERT	X			
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	VITA MEKOVETZ	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL			X	

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE BUDGET AT 9:40 A.M.:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:41 A.M.:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

#21-039 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE 2022 FUND YEAR:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	SHANEL ROBINSON	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY J. BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER	X			
TOGB	KELLY G. CUPIT			X	
TOR	KAREN GILBERT	X			
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	VITA MEKOVETZ	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL			X	

NEW BUSINESS

#21-040 RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION AT 9:42 TO DISCUSS:

Workers' Compensation Claims:

- 4.15724
- 4.17865
- 4.18415

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:45 A.M.:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

#21-041 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

MOTION: Commissioner Soriano
SECOND: Commissioner Auger
VOTE: Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	SHANEL ROBINSON	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY J. BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER	X			
TOGB	KELLY G. CUPIT			X	
TOR	KAREN GILBERT	X			
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	VITA MEKOVETZ	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL			X	

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 24, 2021 CLOSED SESSION MEETING:

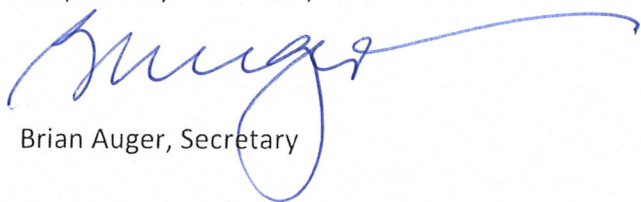
MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

Chairman Commissioner Trojan offered concluding remarks.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:50 A.M.:

MOTION: Commissioner Auger
SECOND: Commissioner Soriano
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Auger, Secretary