

**SOMERSET COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND  
FUND COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES  
November 22, 2023**

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**STATEMENT OF PROPER NOTICE READ BY COMMISSIONER McDANIEL :** Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund held on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. 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.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS**

SHANEL Y. ROBINSON	County of Somerset	Absent
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	Absent
KELLY G. CUPIT	Township of Green Brook	Absent
KAREN GILBERT	Township of Raritan	Absent
MICHAEL PAPPAS	Township of Bridgewater	Absent
WILLIAM CLOSE	Township of Clinton	Present
DIANE MC DANIEL	Township of Delaware	Present
GLENN CULLEN	Borough of South Plainfield	Present

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS**

YVONNE CHILDRESS	County of Somerset	Present
JANINE ERICKSON	Somerset County Park Commission	Absent
CHERYL WALLACE	Raritan Valley Community College	Absent
NADINE WILKINS	Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools	Absent
DENISE PISKOWSKI	Township of Branchburg	Absent
BRIAN MORGAN	Somerset County Library Commission	Absent
RAYMOND S. MURRAY	Township of Green Brook	Present
CAROL BARBATI	Township of Raritan	Absent
THOMAS GENOVA	Township of Bridgewater	Absent
THOMAS DeROSA	Township of Clinton	Present
JAMES WALTMAN	Township of Delaware	Absent
AMY L. ANTONIDES	Borough of South Plainfield	Absent

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**EXECUTIVE DIR/ADMIN:**

**NEW JERSEY RISK MANAGERS & CONSULTANTS**

♦ Barbara Murphy      ♦ Maryjane Hydro      ♦ Cindy Villagran  
♦ Javier Esparra      ♦ Kenneth Spiller      ♦ 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

- ◆ 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 & Borough of South Plainfield

LAFONTAINE & BUDD, James T. Rick, Jr.

- ◆ Township of Branchburg

RICHLAND KNOWLES AGENCY, Diane Bellinger

- ◆ Township of Delaware

Fund Attorney Paige Berry, Esq., advised that due to unforeseen circumstances none of the Executive Committee Officers were able to attend the November Meeting. Therefore, she requested that a Motion be made to appoint an Acting Chair to preside over the Meeting.

**MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER McDANIEL AS ACTING CHAIR FOR THE NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2023 COMMISSIONER'S MEETING:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

Furthermore, Ms. Barbara Murphy, NJRM advised for medical reasons, Ms. Maryjane Hydro will be out of the office for an extended period of time.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Present at this meeting were: David Balken - Risk Manager for the Township of Clinton; Louis Beckerman- Risk Manager for the Township of Green Brook; Amy Pieroni-Risk Manager for the Township of Bridgewater and Borough of South Plainfield; and Diane Bellinger- Risk Manager for the Township of Delaware. Also, in attendance was Ms. Jackie Fresco from Guardian Public Entity Claims Services presented the Payment Authorization Requests during Closed Session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 MEETING:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Commissioner Murray- Abstains

**SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS:**

**Executive Director/Administrator:** Ms. Barbara Murphy, NJRM advised that the Report contained in the package reflects Fund Years 2019 through October 31, 2023. Also, as discussed during the September Meeting, documentation to obtain approval of the Return of Surplus has been filed with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. If the submission is deemed approved, distribution of the surplus will take place during the December Meeting.

Additionally, Ms. Murphy advised that 2024 Auto ID Cards, 2024 Workers' Compensation Posting Notices will be distributed to all Fund Members at the conclusion of the Meeting.

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

**Fund Attorney – Regulatory Compliance / Legislation:** Fund Attorney Berry provided additional information regarding case law cited in her Report.

**Third Party Administrator:** No additions to the report submitted.

**Custodian of Funds:** No additions to the report submitted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Safety Committee:** Ms. Barbara Murphy advised that the Safety Committee Minutes for the October 3 and November 6, 2023 meetings were included in the Meeting Package. She also advised that a second cyber security training targeted towards Information Systems Personnel and Computer Technicians was held on November 13, 2023 via Zoom videoconferencing. The presentation provided an additional opportunity to reinforce and protect current cyber programs as well as access to training at no cost available through Wizer, Inc. Approximately 35 attendees were present during the presentation.

Barbara also advised that a Fourth Quarter Safety Training Seminar was held on November 21, 2023, at the Somerset County Park Commission. The Fund's Safety Consultant, Mr. Mark Worthington, reviewed the contents of the Safety Manual with the approximately fifteen (15) employees who attended the training seminar. The information presented will also be posted on the Fund's website.

The next SCJIF Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the TradeWins Restaurant of the Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools.

**Claim PAR Committee:** Committee Chairperson Soriano stated that the Committee met on October 25, 2023, and the Meeting Minutes were submitted in the Meeting Package. Actions will be ratified during the Old Business portion of the Agenda.

**#23-043 RESOLUTION APPROVING SERVICE PROVIDER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	YVONNE CHILDRESS	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER			X	
TOGB	RAYMOND MURRAY	X			
TOR	KAREN GILBERT			X	
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	WILLIAM CLOSE	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL	X			
BSP	GLENN CULLEN	X			

# **OLD BUSINESS**

## **#23-042 RESOLUTION RATIFYING PAYMENT OF EXPENSES & CLAIMS REIMBURSEMENTS PAID IN OCTOBER 2023:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	YVONNE CHILDRESS	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER			X	
TOGB	RAYMOND MURRAY	X			
TOR	KAREN GILBERT			X	
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	WILLIAM CLOSE	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL	X			
BSP	GLENN CULLEN	X			

## **#23-044 RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF CURRENT EXPENSES & CLAIMS REIMBURSEMENTS:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	YVONNE CHILDRESS	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER			X	
TOGB	RAYMOND MURRAY	X			
TOR	KAREN GILBERT			X	
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	WILLIAM CLOSE	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL	X			
BSP	GLENN CULLEN	X			

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Barbara Murphy provided an overview of the Preliminary Budget for the 2024 Fund Year. Ms. Murphy advised that the Preliminary Budget denotes a 13.2% increase. This figure is significantly higher than previous years as insurance markets, particularly property carriers, are factoring significant rate increases which is reflected in the anticipated increase for 2024. In fact, some insurance carriers are no longer offering property coverage for 2024. She assured Fund Members that New Jersey Risk Managers is seeking quotes from other insurance carriers that may offer better pricing. Despite this, negotiations with insurance carriers are ongoing and she remains hopeful that this figure may improve.

### **#23-045 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE BUDGET FOR YEAR 2024 FUND YEAR:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	YVONNE CHILDRESS	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER			X	
TOGB	RAYMOND MURRAY	X			
TOR	KAREN GILBERT			X	
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	WILLIAM CLOSE	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL	X			
BSP	GLENN CULLEN	X			

**#22-046 RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION AT 9:28A.M. TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL MATTERS AND THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:**

Workers' Compensation Claims:

- 4.13448
- 4.16982
- 4.17578
- 4.19171
- 4.19589
- 4.19955

General Liability Claims:

- 4.19804

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:58 A.M.:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Murray  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Trojan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**#22-047 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Roll Call

ROLL CALL VOTE					
COMMISSIONER		YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
COS	YVONNE CHILDRESS	X			
SCPC	GEOFFREY D. SORIANO	X			
RVCC	JOHN TROJAN	X			
SCVT	RAELENE SIPPLE			X	
TOB	GREGORY BONIN			X	
SCLC	BRIAN AUGER			X	
TOGB	RAYMOND MURRAY	X			
TOR	KAREN GILBERT			X	
TOBW	MICHAEL PAPPAS			X	
TOC	WILLIAM CLOSE	X			
TOD	DIANE Mc DANIEL	X			
BSP	GLENN CULLEN	X			

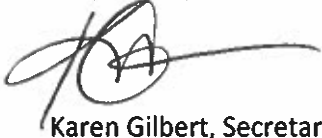
**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, CLOSED SESSION:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Commissioner Murray- Abstains

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 10:01 A.M.:**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Trojan  
**SECOND:** Commissioner Soriano  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KG' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen Gilbert, Secretary