



**GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2024
Via – MS Teams
FOR PUBLIC ONLY 609-246-5765; Passcode 131 792 686#**

**MEETING OF THE GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:07AM.**

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING IN OF NEW FUND COMMISSIONERS

- Jacklyn Vazquez – (Alternate Commissioner) – Borough of Highland Park
- Jasmine McCoy – (Commissioner) – Borough of Bound Brook
- Jesse Moehlman – (Commissioner) - Borough of Fanwood

ROLL CALL OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

Aberdeen, Township of – B. Russell
Berkeley Township – Absent
Berkeley Heights, Township of – Absent
Bound Brook, Borough of – J. McCoy
Bloomfield, Township of – K. Duva
Caldwell, Borough of – Absent
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – Absent
Englewood, City of – (virtual)
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – J. Moehlman
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – C. Cirillo
Hamilton Township – Absent
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Highland Park, Borough of – J. Vazquez
Hoboken, City of – M. Kraus
Holmdel Township – J. Delaney
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capobianco



Kearny, Town of – Absent
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
Livingston, Township of – R. Jones
Monroe Township – Absent
Montclair Township – N. Tassy (Late)
Morris Township – T. Quinn
Morristown, Town of – J. Barrick (Late)
Neptune, Township of – S. Oppegaard
New Providence, Borough of – E. Mannion
North Bergen, Township of – Absent
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane
West Orange Township – Absent

APPROVAL OF 4/24/2024 MINUTES

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Russell
ABSTAIN: Commrs. Cirillo; Hoffman

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Russell
VOTE: Unanimous, by voice

In accordance with Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public body is in Executive Session, as follows:

1. The Public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - Claims – Requests for Settlement Authority

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Russell
VOTE: Unanimous, by voice



APPROVAL REQUESTS FOR SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- City of Linden – AL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Town of Morristown – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- City of Rahway – WC - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Union – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- Town Kearny – GL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of West Orange – EPL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Montclair – EPL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Town of Morristown – WC - Granted Settlement Authority

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Commr. Russell
SECOND: Commr. Palazzo
VOTE: Unanimous, by voice

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS & CLAIMS REPORT

- **Resolution 22-24** – Approving Certain Disbursements - \$287,118.55
- **Resolution 23-24** – Approving Claims Payments \$5,975,676
- **Resolution 24-24** – Approved Coverage Recovery Counsel - as noted below.

Anderson Kill
One Gateway Center Suite 1510
Newark, NJ 07102

Bates Carey
191 North Upper Wacker Drive #2400
Chicago IL 60606

- **Claims Report and Requests for Settlement Authority**

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Quinn
ABSTAIN: Commr.

VOTE: **ROLL CALL:**

Aberdeen, Township of – B. Russell
Berkeley Township – Absent
Berkeley Heights, Township of – Absent



Bound Brook, Borough of – Absent
Bloomfield, Township of – Absent
Caldwell, Borough of – B. Heun
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger (virtual)
Eastampton, Township of – Absent
Englewood, City of – J. Birkner
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – P. Celardo
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – Absent
Hamilton Township – J. Kerlin
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Highland Park, Borough of – J. Vazquez
Hoboken, City of – Absent
Holmdel Township – J. Delaney
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capobianco
Kearny, Town of – S. Marks
Lawrence, Township of – (virtual)
Linden, City of – Absent
Livingston, Township of – R. Jones
Monroe Township – D. Racioppi
Montclair Township – N. Tassy
Morris Township – T. Quinn
Morristown, Town of – J. Barrick
Neptune, Township of – S. Oppegaard (virtual)
New Providence, Borough of – Absent
North Bergen, Township of – Absent
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – K. Caulfield
Warren, Township of – M. Krane
West Orange Township – Absent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J. Hall (NIP Management Services)

- **Supplemental Assessment** – Mr. Hall presented the results of the 2023 year-end actuarial report, which provide the basis for the recommended supplemental assessment. Mr. Hall reminded members of previous presentations in June 2023 and February 2024 and recommended a supplemental assessment spread proportionately among 51 members. Payments will be spread over 10 years in 20 installments, and payments will not begin until July 1, 2025.

Commissioner Barrick asked for detailed calculations for each member. Mr. Hall said the calculations would be available for members at the next meeting.



Commissioner Barrick asked when members would see the audited financials. Mr Hall responded that the year-end financial audit was underway and would be completed before the June 30 filing deadline. The audit will be available for all members at the next meeting.

Commissioner Krane then asked if the Fund would release an unaudited 4th Quarter 2023 FastTrack report and suggested that the Administrator send all communications between the Fund and the Department. Mr. Hall committed to providing this to all members by the end of the week.

TREASURER'S REPORT – P. DeBlasio

- **Treasurer Report** – All Bills have been paid and our cash balance is secure.

Commissioner Moehlman asked Mr. Deblasio what was the Fund's audited net position. Mr. DeBlasio reiterated that the financial audit was underway and that his report pertained to the Treasury Report. Otherwise, Mr. DeBlasio referred back to Mr. Hall's comments.

UNDERWRITING REPORT – R. Smith (NIP Management Services)

- **Property Update** – 7/1 property renewal has been bound. We have bound a 6-month policy that will see us return to one renewal season. We are in talks to see if they will consider extending this out to 18 months.
- **Cyber Update** – We are currently negotiating with numerous carriers and will have an update on the cyber renewal at a future meeting. Please continue to schedule cyber interviews with Harbor Technology.
- **Guest Speaker: Mr. Michael Markulec of Harbor Technology** – Mr. Markulec spoke to the current environment of the cyber marketplace and highlighted several key areas we will be focusing on in the upcoming year.

RISK CONTROL REPORT (Anthony Ven Graitis)

- **Safety Monthly Meeting Recap:**
- **Distracted Driving Awareness Results** – The 3rd annual Distracted Driving Awareness challenge has officially ended and was a great success. The challenge took place from April 1st to April 30th , during which 4,377 courses were completed, and 21 municipalities participated. It could not have happened without the support of commissioners, department heads, command staff, and risk managers. Thank you and congratulations to all. Holmdel Township finished in first place, Monroe Township finished in second place, and Warren Township finished in third place. Morris Township , Borough of New Providence, Neptune Township, Aberdeen Township, Borough of North Plainfield, Town of Kearny and Borough of Jamesburg received honorable mention for their efforts.



- **No Accidents Today** – is more than just a fleeting trend—it’s a philosophy and a way of life. Grounded in science and supported by extensive literature, it emphasizes the power of positive affirmations to drive behavioral change. The ultimate goal? To create a workplace where every employee returns home safely at the end of each day. No Accidents Today will replace the current Safety Incentive Program, will reward members for their safety performance, but most importantly, will emphasis a safety culture where every loss is preventable.
- **Tree Care Safety** – Loss control discussed that PEOSH is following OSHA’s lead in inspecting tree care operations. As one of the most dangerous jobs in the Country, tree care work requires working with heavy equipment, objects with varying centers of gravity, hazards that are not always readily seen, and working from heights. Risk control staff have resources to assist members, and expert third party providers are available for consultation.
- **Lightning Safety** – PEOSH alert #38. Each municipality with outdoor workers must have a written plan in place to identify jobs that expose workers to lightning and addresses mandatory training. Risk control has distributed the PEOSH alert, OSHA Fact Sheet and USLA Lifeguard Guideline that references lightning and what to include in the plan.

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REPORT – P. Archangelli (NIP Management Services)

- **Claims KPI Report April 2024** –250 new claims in April and 303 closed claims in April which is a 121% closing ratio and \$568K in subrogation recoveries YTD

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Palazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by M. Delgado

M. Delgado

T. Quinn

ALSO, PRESENT in PERSON:



R. Persico
M. Delgado
J. Edmonson
K. Skeba
D. Springer
R. Smith
B. LaJoie
P. Archangeli
R. Nelms
M. Bascom
J. Geaney
E. Walker
M. O'Connell
J. Hall
P. DeBlasio
D. Voda
J. Solomon
D. Cinelli
A. Pieroni
T. Fitzpatrick
Z. Edelman
L. Klein
D. Balken
B. Baskay
M. Markulec
J. Brown
K. Larkin
M. McArrow

**PRESENT over 40 minutes
VIA MS TEAMS:**

xxx-xxx-5000
xxx-xxx-8296
xxx-xxx-0489
xxx-xxx-4562
xxx-xxx-5200
A. Kelly
B. Erlandsen
B. Hoffmann
D. Borden
Fireflies.ai Notetaker Lisa (Unverified)
J. Hanuscin
J. Hall
K. Connor



K. Guze
K. Walters
K. Waters
L. Hamm
R. Hope
R. Smith
R. Walker
S. Daveggia
S. Sandberg
T. Merchel
V. Peluso
W. Robinson