



**MINUTES
Special Meeting – Public Hearing
May 19, 2015**

1. The Chairman called the special meeting to order at 7:46pm.
2. The Chairman read the statement in compliance with C. 231,PL 1975.
3. Roll Call: the following Commissioners were present: DaPuzzo, DePhillips, Kasparian, Kelaher, Plumley, Salazer and Chairman Chewcaskie. The following Commissioners were absent: Bonagura and Gabbert.
4. Salute to the Flag was led by the Chairman.
5. Chairman's Remarks.

Chairman Chewcaskie stated the purpose of this special meeting was to hold a public hearing to amend the Authority's Rules, Regulations and Standards. Currently, the Authority returns 15 percent of sewer connection fees to the applicable municipality with a maximum of \$10,000 per connection. There is a proposal to change the maximum of \$10,000 to \$5,000 per connection. This would mainly affect larger connections, such as those that involve more than 25 equivalent dwelling units in one connection fee.

6. Discussion on the proposed amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Standards.

Commissioner Kasparian asked what the purpose was of giving back a portion of the connection fees to the municipalities. Executive Director Hurwitz and Superintendent Genetelli explained that the money given back to the towns is an incentive for them to report to us connections happening in their municipality, it helps the Authority manage the connections to the system.

Commissioner Kasparian also asked who suggested we change the maximum give back to \$5,000. Executive Director Hurwitz said that this was his suggestion because the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) had changed their maximum amount to \$5,000.

Chairman Chewcaskie explained that this service fee policy was part of the implementation of the connection fee program several years ago. He raised the question if we are required to refund any portion of the fee to the municipalities. Executive Director Hurwitz answered no.

Commissioner Kasparian asked if the Bergen County Utilities Authority currently gives money back to the municipalities. Executive Director Hurwitz informed him that the

Authority's Sewer Connection Fee Program was mirrored to reflect that of the Bergen County Utilities Authority's Program.

Commissioner DePhillips inquired what the motive of the proposal to change the maximum give back per connection was, except for the fact to be consistent with the BCUA. Is the Authority putting itself at any disadvantage by doing this? Mr. Hurwitz explained that the Authority is putting itself at an advantage because then we would be saving \$5,000 on larger connection fees. Commissioner DePhillips clarified his question to mean is this a disadvantage for the Authority's relationships with the member municipalities? Mr. Hurwitz answered that it is not. Further Commissioner DePhillips asked if the give back of \$10,000 for larger connections is something that the municipalities are aware of and have become accustomed to? The response to this question is that it is not often that the Authority refunds that much back for a connection.

7. Public Hearing: Commissioner DaPuzzo made a motion to open the meeting to the public, Commissioner Kasparian seconded.

Public Comments:

Frank Palladino, resident of Waldwick: Mr. Palladino stated that he did not believe the proposed change was a good idea. The perception of this by the municipalities would be that the Authority is penny pinching for something that may not happen very often. The towns are going to think that the Authority is trying to get more money out of them.

The meeting was closed to public comments.

8. Vote on Resolution No. 50-2015 – Adoption of the revisions of the Rules, Regulations and Standards of the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority:

A motion was made to table Resolution No. 50-2015 to the Authority's next meeting date. Commissioner Kasparian made the motion to table. Commissioner DaPuzzo seconded the motion. All Commissioners were in favor of tabling the Resolution to the Authority's next meeting in June.

Chairman Chewcaskie said that the Resolution has been tabled to the Authority's June 16th meeting. The public hearing has not been closed. So if any amendments, additions, corrections, suggestions, etc. are made then the Board will reopen the public hearing at that time.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.


Alison Gordon, Secretary