

**NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
OPEN MINUTES
January 26, 2023
RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL HALL- 9:30 AM**

Meeting of Fund Commissioners called to order by Silvio Esposito, Chair. Open Public Meetings notice read into record.

ROLL CALL OF 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FUND COMMISSIONERS

2022 Executive Committee		
Silvio Esposito, Chair	Township of Hanover	Present
Scott Heck, Secretary	Borough of Ringwood	Present
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights	Present
Tom Russo	Town of Newton	Present
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE	Present
Executive Committee Alternates:		
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford	Present
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston	Present

Fund Commissioners		
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale	Present
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage	Present
Neil Spidaletto	Township of Sparta	Absent
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Absent
Rey Julve	Township of Dover	Present
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Present
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*	Absent
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Open	Borough of Mountain Lakes*	Absent
Open	Township of Prospect Park*	Absent
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*	Present
Open	Kinnelon	Absent
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock	Present
Greg Poff	Township of Randolph	Present
Fund Commissioner Alternates		

Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*	Absent
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton	Absent
Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*	Absent
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton	Absent
Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park	Present
Sherry Gallagher	Township of Bloomingdale	Absent
Sharon Hoeland	Township of Sparta	Present
Open	Township of Dover	Absent
Open	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*	Absent
Nancy VanHorn	Wantage	Absent
* Dental Only		

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director	PERMA Risk Management Services	Brandon Lodics Emily Koval Jordyn DeLorenzo
Program Manager	Vozza Agency	David Vozza Randi Gerber
Attorney	Dorsey & Semrau	Fred Semrau
Claims Administrator	Aetna	Jason Silverstein
Dental Administrator	Delta Dental	Brian Remlinger
Prescription Administrator	Express Scripts	Charles Yuk
Treasurer	Michael Soccio	Present
Auditor	Nisivoccia	Absent
Actuary	John Vataha	Absent
Wellness Coordinator	Cavitas	Absent

PRESENT FUND PROFESSIONALS:

Brittany Vozza, The Vozza Agency

Frank Covelli, World Insurance

Ernie Reigstad, Skylands Risk Management

Elizabeth Vastola, Dover

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF OPEN OCTOBER 27, 2022 MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2022:

MOTION:

Commissioner Brewer

SECOND:

Commissioner T. Russo

VOTE:

Unanimous

Chairman Esposito turned over the meeting to Emily Koval, Account Manager of the Executive Director's Office and thanked everyone for a great two years serving as the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER THE SINE DIE MEETING:

ROLL CALL OF THE 2023 FUND COMMISSIONERS

Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover
Scott Heck	Borough of Ringwood
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights
Tom Russo	Town of Newton
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston
Mike Sondermeyer	Borough of Bloomingdale
Michael Restel	Township of Wantage
Grant Rome	Township of Sparta
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park
Rey Julve	Township of Dover
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*
Joe Sabatini	Township of Byram*
James Burnett	Borough of Madison*
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*
Open	Township of Prospect Park*
John Shepherd	Township of Roxbury*
Debra Millikin	Township of Jefferson*
Open	Kinnelon
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock
Fund Commissioner Alternates	
Ashleigh Frueholz	Township of Byram*
Jennifer Dodd	Town of Newton

Lisa Spring	Township of Roxbury*
Gabby Evangelista	Borough of Wharton
Perry Mayers	Borough of Lincoln Park
Sherry Gallagher	Township of Bloomingdale
Sharon Hoeland	Township of Sparta
Open	Borough of Netcong*
Open	Township of Dover
Sandra Emmerich	Borough of Madison*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ALTERNATES

Executive Director asks for nominations. Attorney swears in Officers and Executive Committee.

Recommended Slate:

Executive Committee	
Scott Heck, Chair	Borough of Ringwood
Tom Russo, Secretary	Town of Newton
Barbara Russo	Township of Berkeley Heights
Dina Valente - Stoel	Borough of Lincoln Park
Tammy Smith	Knowlton BOE
Silvio Esposito	Township of Hanover
Carinne Piccolo- Kaufer	Township of Hardyston
Executive Committee Alternates:	
Cathy Shanahan	Township of West Milford
Adam Brewer	Township of Pequannock
Greg Poff	Borough of Randolph*

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECCOMENDED SLATE AS PRESENTED

MOTION: Commissioner Esposito

SECOND: Commissioner Kaufer

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL OF 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CORRESPONDENCE - Chairman Heck thanked Mr. Silvio Esposito for his time as chair and also thanked the rest of the committee for his nomination as Chair. He thanked the professionals for running the HIF and making it an easy transition for him.

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Koval complimented the former Chair Silvio Esposito stating that he was a pleasure to work with.

Fast Track Financial Reports as of November 30, 2022 – Mrs. Koval reviewed the financial fast track through November 30, 2022. She said the month of November is running in the red but has a statutory surplus of \$11 Million. She stated that at the next meeting there will be a year-end report to see how the fund preformed and get the final numbers.

REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS - Account Manager Emily Koval reviewed resolution 1 thru 11 with additional notes on the following:

#6-23 – The November meeting is not included as it has historically been canceled.

#8-23 – Current Signatories – has been revised for 2023.

#9-23 – RMP – There was a few changes, which is highlighted in the agenda showing the specific retention limit has gone up as well as updated with the Claims and Operations Audit through the Executive Directors contract that was approved at the October meeting.

#10-23 – MRHIF Commissioners need to be elected. The Commissioners agreed to continue with Silvio Esposito and Tammy Smith as the representatives.

MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND – Mrs. Koval stated that the MRHIF executive committee met on December 14 to adopt their 2023 budget. The Budget and assessments were adopted without amendment.

JANUARY MEMBER BILLS – Mrs. Koval stated that due to the rate update and audit process with the 1/1 renewal, the January bills were delayed. February bills should be back to the normal schedule.

2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Mrs. Koval stated that the subcommittees are somewhat full with the Executive Committee members but reminded everyone that it is open to any fund commissioner who is interested. Chair Heck stated that getting everyone's inputs and expanding the involvement with other commissioners is a goal that he would like to see in the new year.

PRORAM MANAGER REPORT Program Manager Dave Vozza reviewed the report included in the agenda. He welcomed the Township of Jefferson back into the HIF. He stated that there are a few new members that have been approved by the Committee including the Borough of Kinnelon and the Township of Vernon.

Borough of Madison update

Mr. Voza stated that the Borough of Madison's expansion of membership to include medical and dental was approved at the October 27th, 2022 meeting. Rates quoted by the actuary include at least a 3% margin which was the case for Madison which resulted in savings as compared to 2023 SHBP of 7%. Madison's administration advised that the union's didn't feel the savings were sufficient to warrant a change at this time and needed savings closer to 10%. Upon review by the operations committee of this request by Madison, it was agreed that the margin in the rates would be removed, and the difference would be a receivable due the fund from Madison for which the following was included in their resolution to expand membership. It should also be noted that Madison currently has about 25K in surplus in the fund and the amount of the receivable will be approximately 61K depending on enrollment. Further the operations committee is recommending that this special offer, if repeated, only be made to current fund members i.e., dental only members to accomplish similar savings if requested.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR RADIFICATION OF THIS ACTION BY THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

MOTION:	Commissioner Esposito
SECOND:	Commissioner Kaufer
VOTE:	10 Ayes, 0 Nays

WELLNESS PROGRAM - Ms Brittany Voza reviewed the wellness report included in the agenda. She stated that they are going into year 9 of the wellness program. She stated that the current skin cancer screening vendor dissolved in November 2022 and the Wellness Coordinator is working on finding a new vendor.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUND TO GO INTO YEAR NINE OF THE WELLNESS INITIATIVES AND ALLOW THE WELLNESS COMMITTEE TO RELEASE AN RFP FOR WELLNESS SERVICES TO REPLACE THE MAJOR COMPONENT OF SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS:

MOTION:	Commissioner Esposito
SECOND:	Commissioner Brewer
VOTE:	10 Ayes, 0 Nays

Mrs. Kaufer reviewed the wellness coordinator's report included in the agenda in her absence.

TREASURER: Mr. Soccio reviewed the bills list for the months of November and December 2022.

AETNA: Mr. Silverstein reviewed the claims report for the months of October and November 2022. He stated that there was 5 high cost claimants for the month of October over the threshold of \$50,000 and 1

for November. He reviewed the dashboard report included in the agenda stating that the metrics are performing well and are meeting the performance guarantees set in place. He reviewed the Covid report included in the agenda stating that the numbers have increase from previous months.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS: Mr. Yuk stated that there is a formulary update on Humira. He stated that the FDA has approved 10 new biosimilars for the drug humira. At this time ESI has decided to keep Humira as a preferred drug so that there will be no disruption in their treatments. Mr. Yuk stated that they are letting biosimilars to be prescribed. Mr. Lodics stated that in 2024 there is a possibility that Humira will no longer be on the national preferred formulary.

Mr. Yuk reviewed the November 2022 utilization reports in comparison to this time last year. He stated that the numbers are looking great for this month.

DELTA DENTAL: Brian Remlinger stated that there is no report this month

ATTORNEY: Fund Attorney had no report but asked if he would like to request a sit down with the claims committee to have a discussion about an out of network case that has not gone to litigation yet but wants to discuss that with the Claims Committee.

He also thanked the Executive Committee and all of the Commissioners for their attendance and participation in the monthly meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND AMENDMENTS DISCUSSED INCLUDING:

- Resolution 1-23: Appointment of Professionals and Contractors
- Resolution 2-23: Compensating Producers
- Resolution 3-23: Designation of Service of Process
- Resolution 4-23: Designation of Secretary as Custodian of Records
- Resolution 5-23: Designation of Official Newspaper
- Resolution 6-23: Designation of Regular Meeting Times and Place
- Resolution 7-23: Designation of Bank Depositories & CMP
- Resolution 8-23: Designation of Authorized Signatories
- Resolution 9-23: Approval of Risk Management Plan
- Resolution 10-23: Appointment of MRHIF Fund Commissioners
- Resolution 11-23: Authorizing Treasurer to Process Contracted Payments and Expenses
- Resolution 12-23: Offer New Membership
- Resolution 13-23: Approval of the November and December 2022 and Bills List

MOTION:

Commissioner Kaufer

SECOND:

Commissioner Esposito

VOTE:

10 ayes, 0 nays

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION TO ADJOURN :

MOTION:

Commissioner Brewer

SECOND:

Commissioner T. Russo

VOTE:

All in Favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:40 am

NEXT MEETING: February 23, 2023, 9:30 am

RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Jordyn DeLorenzo

For

Tom Russo, Secretary

Date Prepared: 2/14/2023

APPENDIX II

NJMEBF Ops Committee

February 8, 2023

9:00am

Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer

Adam Brewer

Scott Heck

David Vozza

Randi Gerber

Brandon Lodics

Emily Koval

Jordyn DeLorenzo

Mr. Brewer stated the meeting by talking about the first action item on the agenda which is the implementation of Boonton.

Boonton – Dave stated that Boonton submitted their request for a quote to join the NJHIF. They have 44 Actives and 44 Retirees. They are currently in the State Health Benefits Plan.

Adam stated that he has no objection to allowing Boonton to join. Mr. Lodics stated that it meets all the requirements and that it is a good member to join the fund.

Mrs. Kaufer stated that she agrees and doesn't see a reason we shouldn't extend the membership to them.

Dave touched on a healthy growth percentage and the groups that they have looked at in the past. The Committee discussed the surplus month over month. Mr. Heck suggested that a possibility could be tracking new member surplus separate from current member surplus.

Mr. Heck asked about contracts with Aetna and the TPAs asking if we were getting the best rates and how those contracts between the HIF and the Vendor was. Mr. Lodics stated that when we grow, we get better rates.

Adam Brewer asked if anyone studied a benchmark or statistical standpoint on the growth of the Funds. He also asked if there was a way to share with the Executive Committee the towns who have expressed their interest. He stated that even if they get declined to quote, he would like to be aware so that if he is approached, he wouldn't be caught off guard with no information.

Brandon talked about the actuaries' certifications and the underwriter experience. He suggested that he would be happy to set up a meeting with the actuary and underwriter to discuss the processes. This would benefit the Fund Commissioners and attract more participation and understanding in the processes.

He stated that we want to grow at a comfortable level and help these groups.

Mr. Heck requested that at our next meeting that we discuss the comparison to the SHBP and the benefits of the NJMEBF.

APPENDIX III

NJMEBF Wellness Committee

1/31/2023

1:00pm Zoom

Carrine Piccolo-Kaufer

Michael Sondermeyer

Greg Poff

Marianne Eskilson

Brittany Voza

Emily Koval

Jordyn DeLorenzo

Mrs. Kaufer brought up that the committee needs to come up with a new program to replace the Derm Detect that dissolved in 2022. She also stated that she would like to discuss the 2023 program as a whole and what Marianne has been working on. She gave the floor to allow Marianne Eskilson to go over the agenda and documents that she prepared for the meeting. She touched on the following items:

Education, Participation Year-to-Date and the Feedback from the members who participate in the program. Mrs. Kaufer complimented the program and stated that she agrees to continue with the contract renewal for Valley Health. Mrs. Sondermeyer agreed with Mrs. Kaufer.

Partnerships: Mrs. Eskilson recommended that we approve the contract renewal for Valley Health Services including the additional \$2,000 for the additional services. She also stated that she has been looking into Atlantic Health Systems as a new opportunity to take the place of the Skin Cancer Screenings that had dissolved in November 2022. She mentioned the NY/NJ Trails Conference is coming up and she has been promoting this Partnership Opportunities Early in 2023.

End of the Year Stats – Mrs. Eskilson stated that she would like to get everyone's end of year reports so that she is able to see the program as a whole. This way we can adjust the program the way that works for most. She is very interested in seeing everyone's challenges and how they engage with their members.

Fund Sponsored Components – DermDetect is no longer an option. Potential New Component could be Partnership for Sleep Health Component. Mrs. Eskilson is reviewing a proposal from Atlantic Health. She stated that another Potential New Component Idea is with Vision Health. They offer On-Site EyeCare Anywhere. Mrs. Voza reviewed the proposal and the abilities this program can bring.