

NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
OPEN MINUTES
October 27, 2022
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	Absent
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	Absent
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	Absent
Neil Spidaletto	Township of Sparta	Present
Diana Francisco	Andover Township*	Absent
Ralph Blakeslee	Borough of Netcong*	Absent
Keith Kazmark	Borough of Woodland Park	Absent
Rey Julve	Township of Dover	Absent
Andrew Fiore	Borough of Harding	Absent
Katie Yanke	Borough of Montville*	Absent
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*	Absent
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	Present
* Dental Only		

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director	PERMA Risk Management Services	Emily Koval
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	Absent
Auditor	Nisivoccia	Absent
Actuary	John Vataha	
Wellness Coordinator	Cavitas	Absent

PRESENT FUND PROFESSIONALS:

Brittany Vozza
 Renee Gear
 Joe Rude
 Candy Bronco

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF OPEN September 22, 2022 MINUTES:

Commissioner Poff requested that his name be included on the attendance. Executive Director noted the change and asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF September 22, 2022:

MOTION:	Commissioner T. Russo
SECOND:	Commissioner Piccolo-Kaufer
VOTE:	Unanimous

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fast Track Financial Reports as of August 31, 2022 - Executive director reviewed the financial fast track through August 31, 2022. She said the month of August was poor performing across the State, and was 13% above claims budget for the NJHIF. Overall, 2022 is running at a deficit. Although, the Fund has over \$15 million in surplus, although the \$4.5 million dividend has not been reflected yet and will be posted in September when the dividend was declared.

2023 COASTAL BUDGET - ADOPTION - Executive Director said that the 2023 Budget was introduced at the last meeting and no changes have been made except a few members have chosen to include dividends towards rates. That is a billing amendment and does not impact the bottom line or other member's assessments. She said she was able to provide as much additional information regarding the budget or the Fund may choose to hold its public hearing.

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC FOR PURPOSES OF ADOPTING THE 2023 BUDGET

MOTION:	Commissioner T. Russo
SECOND:	Commissioner B. Russo
VOTE:	11 Ayes, 0 Nays

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

MOTION:	Commissioner Valente Stole
SECOND:	Commissioner T. Russo
VOTE:	Unanimous

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 NORTH JERSEY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,569,424

MOTION:	Commissioner T. Russo
SECOND:	Commissioner Piccolo-Kaufer
VOTE:	11 Ayes, 0 Nays

NEW MEMBERS

Executive Director said that we had been given authorization to the Operations Committee to review, approve or deny new members in light of the expectation of influx of applications due to the State's increase. She said the Operations Committee met last week to review Jefferson, Madison and Hawthorne. The meeting was beneficial for all to review the underwriting process. The Committee ultimately approved the members presented, but since then, Madison has declined as the savings was not enough. Program Manager reviewed each member in further detail. Resolution 26-22 was included in consent.

PRORAM MANAGER REPORT

Program Manager reviewed the report included in the agenda. He said that Madison is not seeing enough savings and Hawthorne is reviewing for dental only at this point. Netcong we reviewed but the Rx experience from the State is making the Fund uncompetitive. Kinnelon will be reviewed by the operations committee should it look competitive.

ESI – Ms. Gerber said that the gene therapy has been reviewed.

Adjusted rate sheets with the dividend usage for certain members. Exclusions included in ESI and will provide alternatives.

WELLNESS PROGRAM – Britany said that two items came up since the agenda was released. Fund Attorney has included language about retired members if they are employed through a certain portion of the year. She requested permission to allow new members coming in on 1/1 through the wellness committee going forward. Program Manager said these new members were very much asking for wellness.

MOTION:	Commissioner Smith
SECOND:	Commissioner Russo
VOTE:	Unanimous

In addition, Ms. Vozza said that if you need anything from the Wellness Coordinator to reach out as soon as possible..

TREASURER: Fund Treasurer was **not** in attendance but report is included and in consent

AETNA: Mr. Silverstein reviewed the claims report for the month of August and September. He stated that there was 4 high cost claimants for the month of August over the threshold of \$50,000 and zero for September. He reviewed the dashboard report included in the agenda stating that the metrics are performing well. He reviewed the Covid report included in the agenda stating that the numbers have increase from previous months.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS: Ms. Patel reviewed the August 2022 data included in the agenda.

DELTA DENTAL: Kim White stated there is no report for this month.

ATTORNEY: Fund Attorney requested closed session for Litigation

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000 TO THE CLAIM DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION:	Commissioner Russo
SECOND:	Commissioner Heck
VOTE:	Unanimous

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING:

Resolution 25-22: 2023 Budget Adoption

Resolution 26-22: New Member Approval

Resolution 27-22: October 2022 Bills List

MOTION:

Commissioner T Russo

SECOND:

Commissioner Valente - Stol

VOTE:

11 ayes, 0 nays

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION TO ADJOURN :

MOTION:

Commissioner T. Russo

SECOND:

Commissioner Valente - Stol

VOTE:

All in Favor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:03 am

NEXT MEETING: January 26, 2023, 9:30 am

RANDOLPH MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Jordyn DeLorenzo

For

Scott Heck, Secretary

Date Prepared: 1/20/2023

APPENDIX II

OATH OF OFFICE

State of New Jersey

County of Morris

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of New Jersey; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the governments established in the United States and in this state, under the authority of the people and that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly perform all the duties as a member of the Executive Committee of the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund according to the best of my ability. (so help me God).

Sworn and subscribed to

before me this (26th day of January 2023)

_____, Esquire

Attorney-at-law of New Jersey