

**OCEAN COUNTY INSURANCE FUND COMMISSION
OPEN MINUTES
MEETING – November 17, 2023
1:30 PM**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Greitz. Chair Greitz read the Open Public Meetings notice into record.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS:

Robert A. Greitz	Present
Michael Fiure	Present (<i>arrived 1:42 pm</i>)
Michelle I. Gunther	Present
John P. Kelly (Alternate)	Excused

FUND PROFESSIONALS PRESENT:

Executive Director	PERMA Risk Management Services Joseph Hrubash
Claims Services	Qual-Lynx Claudia Acosta Karen Beatty
	PERMA Risk Management Services Shai McLeod
NJCE Underwriting Manager	Conner Strong & Buckelew
Risk Management Consultant	Conner Strong & Buckelew Mary Anne Sander Carole Mack
Treasurer	Julie Tarrant
Attorney	Berry, Sahradnik, Kotzas & Benson Laura Benson, Esq. Jack Sahradnik, Esq.
Safety Director	J.A. Montgomery Consulting Glenn Prince
Auditor	

ALSO PRESENT:

Jennifer Doderer, Ocean County Library
William Demand, Ocean Count Utility Authority
Brian E. Rumpf, Esq., Ocean County Board of Health
Tristin J. Collins, Ocean County
Antoinette DePaola, Ocean County
Cathy Dodd, PERMA Risk Management Services

CORRESPONDENCE: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OPEN MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

MOTION TO APPROVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

Moved: Commissioner Gunther
Second: Chair Greitz
Vote: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: Mr. Prince reported the Safety and Accident Review Committee last met on September 12 at 1:30 via zoom. Mr. Prince advised the next meeting was scheduled for December 12. Mr. Prince said he would discuss with Ms. DePaola the Safety and Accident Review Committee schedule for 2024. Mr. Prince noted that we were going to continue to schedule the meetings on a quarterly basis as opposed to monthly. Mr. Prince concluded his report unless there were any questions.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE: Mr. Hrubash said Ms. Conicella was on her way to the meeting and asked Ms. McLeod to provide the Claims Committee report. Ms. McLeod advised the Claims Committee met on November 9 and discussed the PARS. Ms. McLeod asked if anyone had any questions on the PARS and requested a motion to accept the Claims Committee’s recommendation to approve the PARS as presented during the Claims Committee Meeting on November 9, 2023.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PARS AS PRESENTED DURING THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Moved: Commissioner Gunther
Second: Chair Greitz
Roll Call Vote: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Executive Director said he did not have any action items for today and would go through his report.

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE ISSUANCE REPORT: Executive Director advised there were no certificates of insurance requested in the month of October.

NEW JERSEY COUNTIES EXCESS JOINT INSURANCE FUND (NJCE): Executive Director reported the NJCE met earlier this morning and introduced the 2024 budget. Executive Director the county's budget as of now was increased 13.7%. Executive director advised he walked through with the Board of Commissioners some of the issues that we were facing right now which led to that type of budget increase. Executive Director advised the primary reasons for the increase

was the continuation of the hard market property rates were still going up plus our primary carriers were not renewing this year. Executive Director said we would be looking for a replacement in the marketplace. Executive Director noted Ed Cooney's team was working very hard, they met with the London markets and also had some good meetings with domestic markets here in Atlanta just recently. Executive Director said Mr. Cooney was heading back to London again in November to finish up negotiations but he believed the overall property increase was about 19%. Executive Director said the casualty increase was also significant as the NJCE took the low range of loss funds provided by the actuary last year in order to keep the budget down. Executive Director said we tried to estimate for appraisals and noted Ocean County's appraisal were lot loaded yet. Executive director said he did not expect we need dividends as the state was not signing off on dividends due to the factors that we've talked about in previous meetings. However Executive Director explained we might be able to use some surplus and call it a premium offset. Executive Director pointed out that the Financial Fast Track included in the agenda did not reflect some recent property losses. There were three with one county and one with another county. Executive Director asked if anyone had any questions on the NJCE Budget.

OCIFC PROPERTY & CASUALTY FINANCIAL FAST TRACK: Executive Director reported the August Financial Fast Track was included in the agenda. Executive Director reported as of August 31, 2023 there was a deficit of \$5,643,509. Executive Director said the cash balance was \$13,816,390. Executive Director asked if anyone had any questions on the Financial Fast Track.

NJCE PROPERTY & CASUALTY FINANCIAL FAST TRACK: Executive Director reported the NJCE Financial Fast Track was not available and would appear in the next agenda.

CLAIMS TRACKING REPORTS: Executive Director reviewed the Expected Loss Ratio Analysis Report as of August 31, 2023 with the Commission.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Executive Director reported the Fund Office issued and advertised RFQ's for professional services for Fund Year 2024. The positions include Actuary, Auditor, Attorney, Treasurer, Executive Director, and Special Conflict Litigation Counsel. Executive Director advised the responses were due back today. Executive Director noted the responses would be sent to the Commissioners for review and recommendations would be made at the December meeting.

2024 MEETING PLATFORM: Executive Director reported in order to best streamline and leverage Microsoft 365 suite of applications, the Fund office will eliminate the use of the Zoom application for meetings and webinars. Microsoft Teams will become the default option for audio or video conferencing beginning January 2024.

PROPERTY APPRAISAL BILLS: Executive Director said he would like to have a discussion on the appraisal bills. Executive Director said the NJCE offered to reimburse the Commissions with the understanding that the appraisals would be in the area of 200 to \$250 per location. Unfortunately, the bills that we received for the county were much higher. Executive Director suggested having a conversation offline with the Treasurer.

Executive Director's Report Made Part of Minutes.

TREASURER REPORT: Ms. Tarrant advised she was requesting approval of the November Bills List in the amount of \$49,685.12, Resolution 34-23.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 34-23 NOVEMBER BILLS LIST

Moved: Commissioner Gunther
Second: Chair Greitz
Roll Call Vote: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Beatty referred to the 2023 Cumulative Savings Summary Report which was included in the agenda. Ms. Beatty advised there was a savings of 59% which is about a little over 2.5 million dollars. Ms. Beatty advised the penetration rate was at 92% so we rebounded from the beginning of the year when we had a little bit of a lower saving. Ms. Beatty then referred to the Legacy 2023 Cumulative Savings Summary and advised there were overall savings 73 which is a little over 1.5 million dollars. Ms. Beatty advised the penetration rate was low but that's because one or two months we had some exceedingly low numbers because there were some out of network bills and fortunately we were able to negotiate to obtain a good savings. Lastly, Ms. Beatty reviewed the Top 10 Providers and the Workers' Compensation Claims Report by Claim type. Ms. Beatty asked if there were any questions and concluded her report.

NJCE SAFETY DIRECTOR: Mr. Prince referred to a copy of the Safety Director's Report which was included in the agenda. Mr. Prince advised the report included Risk Control Activities and all training opportunities through January 31, 2024. Mr. Prince said they were formulating their calendar for 2024 so if any departments had a need for any specialized or customized training, or if there's something unavailable to reach out to his office. Mr. Prince said we've also included a flyer for the NJCE Leadership Academy. Mr. Prince noted this class would start on January 1st and there have been a lot of positive reviews and favorable comments on this class. Mr. Prince said he had a meeting last week with the underwriting team to talk about the 2024 coverage and the safety grant. As soon as Mr. Prince has information on the grant he would reach out to the counties. Mr. Prince concluded his report unless there were any questions.

RISK MANAGERS REPORT: Ms. Sander reported the renewal certificates should be issued shortly which she was monitoring. Ms. Sander said she was working with Ms. Fiore from the Board of Health on the Med Mal application. Ms. Sander advised she was working with PERMA and the BOSS to upload their values into the Origami System. Ms. Sander completed her report unless anyone had any questions.

ATTORNEY: Ms. Benson advised they did not have anything to report.

Correspondence Made Part of Minutes

OLD BUSINESS: None
NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC

Motion Chair Greitz
Second: Commissioner Gunther
Vote: 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Seeing no members of the public wishing to speak, Chair Greitz moved a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO PUBLIC

Motion	Chair Greitz
Second:	Commissioner Gunther
Vote:	3 Ayes, 0 Nays

There was no need for a closed session. Chair Greitz said the next meeting was scheduled for December 21, 2023 at 10:00 am asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Moved:	Chair Greitz
Second:	Commissioner Gunther
Vote:	3 Ayes, 0 Nays

MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:47 PM

Minutes prepared by: Cathy Dodd, Assisting Secretary