

PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Board of Commissioners Re-Organization Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

**127 Roosevelt Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey**

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW (STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE)

Commissioner Mitchell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. by reading the Statement of Compliance.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

III ROLL CALL

Present

Commissioner Harold Mitchell
Commissioner Carol Ann Brokaw
Commissioner Tracey Brown
Commissioner Alex Toliver

Also Present

Mr. Eric Watson, Executive Director
Mr. David Ervin, Assistant Executive Director
Mr. Duane Young, Comptroller
Mrs. Lana Carden, Manager of Human Resources
Ms. Leslie London, Board Attorney
Mrs. Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary
Mr. Mike Dziubeck, CME Associates
Joseph Gemmell, T&M Associates
Bill Holbrook, T&M Associates
Paulette Brown, Esq.
Staff and Public

Alt. Commissioner Eugene Dudley absent Mr. James Perry, Chief Financial Officer absent

IV. AUTHORITY RE-ORGANIZATION

1. Seating of Temporary Chair for Purpose of Election

Commissioner Mitchell moved that Ms. Leslie London be appointed the temporary Chair for the purpose of the election, seconded by Commissioner Toliver.

Before the Board continued with the vote, Ms. London stated that Rev. Brown should be sworn in since she has been placed into a regular position by the City Council. Rev. Brown read the document and was officially sworn in as a regular Board member.

The motion to seat Ms. London as Temporary Chair carried, with four members in favor and none opposed.

2. Election of Officers

Ms. London asked if there are any nominations, either individually or as a slate.

Commissioner Brokaw nominated as a slate, Harold Mitchell as Chair; Tracey Brown as Vice Chair; Alex Toliver as Treasurer; and Carol Brokaw as Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Toliver. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

Commissioner Brown moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, to close the nominations.

Ms. London presented **resolution #05-2011 regarding the election of officers.**

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #05-2011 Slate of Officers

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

3. Seating of the Chairperson

Ms. London returned the Chair to Commissioner Mitchell.

4. Appointment of Professionals

Ms. London presented **resolution #06-2011 for the renewal and/or execution of certain professional service contracts.** All of the contracts are being awarded as non fair and open except for CME Associates and T & M Associates, which are fair and open. The appointments are as follows: CME Associates, sanitary sewer engineering services; T & M Associates, solid waste engineering services; McManimon & Scotland, L.L.C., general counsel legal services; Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, L.L.P., financial services; Widmer Associates, architectural services; ERA Reed Realty, real estate consulting services; Net Connect, Inc., service and maintenance of the Authority's network; Cartegraph Systems, Inc., licensing software; Britton Industries, Inc., vegetative waste disposal services; and Third Power Market Development, Inc., market consulting & survey analysis services. Commissioner Brokaw moved the appointments of the professionals as read, seconded by Commissioner Toliver. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #06-2011 Appointment of Professionals**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

5. Establishing the Date, Time and Place of the PMUA'S Regular Meetings for 2011

Ms. London presented resolution #07-2011, listing of various meetings for the regular meeting and also the committee meetings. These are required to be published and agreed upon pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act. Commissioner Brown moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #07-2011 Establishing Dates and Times of Regular and Committee Meetings**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

6. Designation of Official Newspapers of the Authority for 2011

Ms. London presented resolution #08-2011 designating two newspapers, the Courier News and the Star Ledger as the Authority's official newspapers to receive notices of Authority meetings and actions. Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #08-2011 Designation of Courier News and the Star Ledger as Official Newspapers**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

7. Designation of Official Depository & Cash Management Plan of the Authority for 2011

Ms. London presented **resolution #09-2011 designating official bank depository and Cash Management Plan**. Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Commissioner Brown, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #09-2011 Designation of Bank America and the New Jersey Cash Management Plan, the Federated Treasury Fund and Goldman Sachs Cash Management Funds as Official Bank Depository and Official Cash Management Plans**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

8. Appointment of Committee Assignments for 2011

Commissioner Mitchell said the committees will remain the same. They are the Facilities Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Maintenance Committee, Human Services and Resources Committee. He will be calling a Finance Committee Meeting.

9. Designation of a Public Agency Compliance Officer

Ms. London presented **resolution #10-2011 designating Dollie S. Hamlin as the Authority's Compliance Officer.** Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Commissioner Brown, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE Resolution #10-2011 Designation of Dollie S. Hamlin as the Authority's Compliance Officer

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

10. Designation of a NJUA-JIF Insurance Fund Commissioner

Ms. London presented **resolution #11-2011 designating a Commissioner to the New Jersey Utility Authorities – Joint Insurance Fund, who will be Reno Wilkins.** Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. Commissioner Mitchell asked if the Authority gets a deduction when they go to the League of Municipalities and attend certain meetings. Mr. Watson replied yes. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE Resolution #11-2011 Designation of Reno Wilkins as the Commissioner on behalf of the Authority on the NJUA-JIF

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

11. Designation of Custodians of Records

Ms. London presented **resolution #12-2011 designating Custodians of Records as Tracy Joseph as the official Custodian of Records for the Authority and also designates Dollie Hamlin and Bonnie Mills as Deputy Custodians of Records for the Authority to assist the Custodian for OPRA requests and issues.** Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #12-2011 Designations of Custodian and Deputy Custodians of Records

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 18, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes)

Commissioner Brokaw moved that the minutes be received as distributed, seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**A. Attorney's Report**

Ms. London indicated at one of the meetings it was mentioned that they were attempting to work with the City Health Department to have the Authority's inspectors assume some of the responsibility for enforcement of solid waste illegal dumping. She contacted DEP and they said it couldn't be done through the City. It has to be done through the County Health Department. Ms. London contacted the representative for the County Health agency. The City's Health Department isn't in that type of position to delegate its role to the Authority, only the County can do that. Ms. London will keep the Commissioners informed of their progress in this regard. Essentially the employees would be agents of the County to have the ability to conduct certain inspections, issue summonses, and to beef up the enforcement activities to help in the areas of illegal dumping and other issues.

Commissioner Mitchell asked Ms. London to share information regarding the sampling of other agencies that was done around the State. Ms. London stated that there is a report that came out today from the Comptroller's Office on the online transparencies of New Jersey's local Authorities and Commissions and she will make sure the Commissioners get a copy, but they did a random sampling of numerous local Authorities; Housing Authorities, Municipal Utilities Authorities, Redevelopment Agencies, there's a whole host of agencies that were looked at. Plainfield wasn't included in that random sampling; not its Housing Authority, not its PMUA. Essentially, most of these agencies if they do have a website they don't have a lot of information on it. The report is that these websites should be more informative. There is a Bill in the Legislature by Senator Weinberg to modify the Open Public Meetings Act to require that sufficient information be on the website. Ms. London felt they would see, probably before the end of the year, some form of legislation which will be very specific about what should be on websites and there was also a Bill that the Governor signed requiring municipalities and counties to post their budgets on the website and if they didn't have a website it's supposed to be on the DCA's website.

Commissioner Mitchell asked Ms. London to share information regarding Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority. Ms. London indicated that there have been several articles about the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission.

This is a multi Municipality Commission that deals with sewerage up in North Jersey and unfortunately the local newspapers have aligned the PMUA to what was happening at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. Ms. London went through some of the charges; three top level managers ordered PVSC employees to do work on their homes and those of relatives on company time while using PVSC vehicles and equipment; storage of personal vehicles on PVSC grounds, an example was there was a boat owned by one of those fired being stored at the PVSC warehouse in Newark; there was a Commissioner actively politicking on PVSC time while employed there; gifts were routinely accepted from vendors of the PVSC by employees there; there was active GOP strategizing and politicking in connection with the June 2009 primary in Passaic county that occurred at the PVSC treatment facilities in Newark; there were allegations of nepotism and political patronage; former Commissioners of the PVSC actually took turns ratifying each other's patronage nominees for various positions, commonly known as "Commissioners' rounds,"; Senator Girgenti received nearly \$30,000 in campaign contributions from PVSC employees in recent years and is now being investigated; 85 of PVSC's 567 employees were making more than \$100,000 annually, with 3 making over \$200,000 annually, one of the latter included a courtesy Ford Explorer valued at \$34,000. There are a lot of relatives in high level positions earning over \$100,000.

B. Finance Report and Bills List Approval

Mr. Duane Young was sitting in for Mr. Perry. By way of summary, the months of January ratification's list and February bills list is \$1.176 million. Salary and wage, health benefits, disposal fees and truck leases represent 77 percent of those expenditures; salary and wage, \$580,000; health benefits, \$153,000; disposal, \$110,000 and truck leases \$63,000. Those are expenses that are not really controllable; they are things that are needed in order to operate on a daily basis. Attached to the blue sheet are basically all of the reports, accounts receivables reports, disbursement reports, investment reports that will give the Commissioners a flavor for all of the financial activities of the PMUA. They also were discussed at length at the committee meeting and all of the questions resolved.

Mr. Perry wanted it known that an expense that was mentioned at the last meeting by a resident as being inaccurate; the expense report in itself was for Mr. Perry and it was \$81 and some change. It met the criteria as per the policy; it gave what the meeting was for, the purpose, who were the attendees, and where it was. Mr. Young didn't think it received a fair representation at the previous meeting. That document in itself was an expense report that had the check and the receipt attached to it.

Commissioner Brokaw had a comment. As someone who paid her property taxes last week for \$2,754 per quarter, she noticed in the newspaper that the City was going to probably be short a few million dollars in their budget, Commissioner Brokaw wanted to know if they anticipate, as they did last year, the City will be asking the PMUA for the money to be paid to the City for the leasing of the sewer to be paid in an earlier fashion? Mr. Watson replied that they have done it for the last three years so he wouldn't expect anything different this year.

Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Young to share the Powell Capital Markets report. Mr. Young replied that it basically gave a feel for the status of the bonds, how it affects the PMUA. It gave a brief analysis saying the PMUA is in good standing as per the bond market, they don't anticipate any major impact on their bond status.

Ms. London presented **resolution #13-2011 authorizing the payment of bills**. Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #13-2011 Authorizing Payment of Bills**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Rev. Tracey Brown	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Eugene Dudley					X

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners had a statement of response to recent misleading news coverage of the Authority which was read by Ms. London as follows:

“The local newspaper has once again turned its pen to unfairly criticize the Authority. This continued criticism has been relentless and mean spirited and tarnishes and impugns the respected reputations of the many hard working dedicated taxpaying residents of the City of Plainfield who work for the Authority. These employees work selflessly each day to provide a much needed service to keep the City clean. As Commissioners of the Authority, we are highly offended by the accusations, innuendos and slanted stories that continue to be presented about the Authority. We take our positions very seriously. Despite contentions to the contrary, we do exercise control and oversight over the activities of the Authority and we carefully and thoroughly review expenses and any potential actions that will result in an increase in rates. We do so because that is our charge and also because we too, together with our family and friends, must pay for the costs of service just like all other residents.

The local newspaper conveniently continues to outright ignore or simply gloss over the many positive contributions that the Authority has made and continues to make on a regular basis to the City of Plainfield, but rather chooses to dwell endlessly on past issues that have been addressed, greatly improved and in many cases totally rectified. Such actions do nothing more than to polarize the community, pitting one fraction against another, particularly when such critical issues continue to plague the City involving crime and increasing taxes.

The most recent news article took a very unfair and biased jab at the Authority in aligning it with the gross misconduct that has been reported about the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. We take offense to such sensationalism. The nature and extent of the issues uncovered at the Commission are not issues at the Authority and such attempt to draw such parallels is inaccurate and is sensationalism at its worst.

The article also contained half facts regarding the Authority's recent rate changes, again in what appears to be nothing more than a purposeful attempt to "grab headlines, despite glaring inaccuracies. The convenient facts omitted are as follows:

1. The Shared Services provided by the Authority have been trivialized to a characterization of "municipal beautification services." The Shared Services provided by the Authority are significantly much more than mere "beautification services." Shared Services encompasses numerous services, including collection and disposal services for all municipal buildings and properties and downtown street can collection and clean-up services. The City of Plainfield does not pay the Authority for these critical services. If the City paid for such services, the charge to the ratepayers would decrease by at least 34%. This fact is never mentioned.
2. The recent rate increase to the Shared Services component is continually portrayed in such a slanted manner that the public has been led to believe that everyone's bill was increased by 61%. The critical facts that are never mentioned or are conveniently placed several paragraphs into a story, are that only the Shared Service component of the total rate was increased AND together with that, there was an offset to the direct service component of the total rate, and that resulted in a DECREASE in that component. Importantly, but again, not stated by the newspaper, at least 90% of the solid waste ratepayers of the Authority SAW NO CHANGE in their 2011 rates AND those solid waste ratepayers with 2-9 family units, saw a DECREASE in their overall rate. These FACTS have not been given any prominence in any news article. One must ask why?
3. Most glaring and alarming in the recent article is the spin given to supposed facts regarding the costs incurred by two executives of the Authority at the 2010 League of Municipalities Convention. Under the Authority's policy, each of these executives was allotted a per diem amount of \$297 for their expenses. Each of these two executives DID NOT receive any funds from the Authority, other than this \$297 per diem amount. The employees chose to spend their own personal funds at the Convention. That is their right.

However a clear inference was made that the amounts they incurred at the Convention above the \$297 per diem amount, were paid by the Authority. This is not true. This is clearly false and is purposefully misleading. Again, one must ask why this information was omitted from the article.

It is time for the negative press to stop. There are critical issues confronting the City that need attention. More focus should and must be given in those areas to find ways to help the City move forward in a positive way.

The Board of Commissioners of the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority.”

Commissioner Mitchell stated that response will go to every household in the City and also in the newsletter.

The other New Business was a resolution to thank Commissioner Beck for his seven years of service. It will be **resolution #14-2011 Recognizing Commissioner David Beck for his commitment and dedicated service to the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority**. That resolution was read by David Ervin. Mr. Beck will also receive a plaque that was read by Bonnie Mills.

Before they went into the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, Commissioner Brown indicated that last month some people were offended by some comments she made. She wanted to apologize; she didn't mean to be offensive to anyone.

Commissioner Toliver wanted to ditto what Commissioner Brown said as well. It doesn't do anyone any good to go back and forth. They are here for the better quality of life for the City of Plainfield.

XI. PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Mitchell stated they are now going into to the public portion of the meeting. If you would like to be heard, please stand, give your name and address. He asked that no one would be insulting to anyone in the room. That will not be tolerated.

Robert Chanda, 915 Hillside Ave. He apologized too for his behavior at the last meeting. (With that Commissioner Brown came over and embraced him.)

Villa Sanchez, she came to express her frustration about the fees she is being charged. She has a one-family house and she has to pay \$460 every two months for sewer and garbage. No town in New Jersey has to pay those fees. When she tried to get a private provider she has been told she still has to pay a fee. She would like more people to involved, she would like Governor Christie to start an investigation because she is not 100 percent sure this is legal. She actually lives in Bridgewater and she does not have fees like this.

Commissioner Mitchell responded to Mr. Chanda that a report is being prepared about the facilities, that's something the Commissioners are working on now.

Bill Kruse, 1009 Hillside Ave. Mr. Kruse referred to the minutes of the Rate Hearing Meeting, page 62 and 63 of which he brought up and expressed doubt of the validity of the analysis that established 41 percent of the Shared Services how the miraculous result was arrived at that only those who opted out had to pay the extra \$124 per year and that that amount plus the commercial increases, most of the commercial companies don't use them either, made up the \$400,000. He asked if there was a calculation and Mr. Bliss answered yes. He then asked if they could produce the number and Mr. Bliss responded yes. He then said can he expect him to provide him with those numbers within the next three days or within the next month and some one said yes or no and Ms. London said yes. He waited two weeks, it hadn't come and he filed an OPRA request; and then commenced an odyssey. There have been 12 or 16 exchanges. They have hired a new in-house attorney, talk about spending money, Tracy Charles he thinks is her name, and she apparently is in charge of OPRA responses. A large part of her responsibility it seems to him is, he learned what the word redact means, which means to delete or take out. Whether she was uncertain of her ground or inexperienced or wanted to provide an additional layer of protection, avoiding therefore giving him any data how the calculation was reached, she hired a prodigious firm. Mr. Toliver told him his time was up. Mr. Kruse said the last thing he is going to say, they used to have three minutes but in the Authority's desire for openness they changed it to two minutes. Mr. Toliver responded that City Council gives them three minutes.

Phillip Charles, 965 Carnegie Ave. Mr. Charles asked for a copy of tonight's bills list because some of his questions are based on it. Commissioner Brown gave him her copy. Since the Board of Commissioners approve the bills list, can he expect that in 2011 there will be approval for more floral arrangements as personal gifts, for funerals, or as ordinations? He also questioned why they are sending executives to the Annual Chamber Walk with hotel accommodations ranging in the thousand dollar range. We also sent people to Borgota Casino for \$2,265. There's a catering event that was approved for \$1,200 and another for \$943, another for \$800 and the list goes on and on. So his question and concern is how are they saving money when everybody else has to cut in the State. They have increased their budget by \$400,000. They can nod their heads yes or no, but they approved all of this money; those floral arrangements, they will be held accountable at some point. His other question is in April they approved a pension back payment for 1995 for David Ervin for \$17,005. He tried to OPRA that as well as the \$16,000 payment for Eric Watson and he has been told he can't get a copy of those. How is it that in April they stood before them and approved these payments for the PMUA when it was created the end of 1995 yet they approved back payments for people? When the public is saying they want transparency and openness, they really want that. They're now limiting the time to two minutes; he asked if they have a resolution limiting that. Commissioner Toliver said his time is up. Commissioner Mitchell said they don't need a resolution for that.

Mr. Watson wanted to address some of this sensationalism that has come out tonight. The trip Mr. Ervin and Mr. Watson took the host hotel was the Wyndham Marriott where the rates were approved at \$285 per night by the Chamber of Commerce themselves. They chose to stay at a hotel for \$175. He doesn't know where that thousand dollar a night hotel is. It was no different than the expenses on his and Mr. Ervin's personal credit card in Atlantic City was \$800. The only thing the Board gave them was \$271 and yet they hear these stories of thousands of dollars. He has a credit card, a home, a job and what he does on his own credit card is his business. They need to start telling the truth and stop all of this sensationalism. They stayed at a hotel that was cheaper than the host hotel to save money.

Commissioner Toliver asked those present to give them the same respect at these meetings as they give when they go to the City Council meeting.

Tony Rucker, 825 Berkley Ave. Mr. Rucker's question concerned where would citizens be able to go on line to find information as far as the financials going forward. Next, the comparison between what the Authority's top executives are making in comparison to other municipalities. Also he found that having the meeting at 6 pm to be problematic. He felt that time is rather early. The Council meetings are more frequent and you can get there in the middle of the night and still talk.

Mr. Watson responded that the Authority is different than the City as far as the meetings. He also said to Mr. Rucker that he can't compare what he makes to for instance a person who works for public works. He would have to compare them to other MUA's, what they do. There is a State guide that would give him that information. What is so unique about this Authority is they are the only MUA in the State that does solid waste and waste water. Most people do one or the other. If he looks at that and the number of employees, he will see they are about mid range, they are not high. He can go online and get that information. In terms of the Authority's meeting, there are some Authority's who meet at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. because they're business meetings. With the Council they have a huge agenda with multi departments; with the Authority they deal with solid waste, recycling and waste water. Their meetings have been at 7 p.m., but they have to have staff that is paid overtime. They close at 5 p.m. they have the meeting at 6 p.m. they can cut down on some of that overtime.

Mr. Ervin added that as far as their website they have a small IT Department. It takes a significant amount of effort to pull that information. They are working on it. In three or four months they will probably see more information posted.

Mr. Rucker's next question concerned the Transfer Station. He went over there and he wanted to know what they are doing to create other revenue for the Authority such as with the leaves. Plainfield has a tremendous amount of leaves and leaves are highly profitable.

Mr. Watson responded that because Plainfield is a shade tree community the amount of tonnage they bring in DEP won't let them keep it there long enough to mulch, compost, they can't do that. What they are working on currently is to bring in private tonnage. The PMUA is a waste flow in Union County. That means all of their garbage has to go up to Linden to the burner. They are getting ready to look at their gate rates to come up with a competitive price to let the haulers from the surrounding Counties use the Authority's facility and take the garbage anywhere they want to increase their revenue. The Transfer Station was completed about six months ago. They are looking at creating a bubble down there to buy gas from the City.

Rev. Danielle Bush, 1439 Linbarger Ave. She has been attending the City Council meetings and because she works for the State Health Department and is an Executive Representative of the Northern New Jersey, Region of New Jersey her concerns are that everywhere you go in the State they are going to see increases. Instead of harping on the increases let's start pulling our resources together finding resolutions of what they can do. She is also a grant writer. She knows there is a lot of funding that is available in the area for urban/suburban communities. Maybe they can start looking at solutions to bring in more money to lower costs. She works for the Federal government as well. Even PSE&G'S rates went up. She doesn't see a line of people outside there protesting. She owns property in Newark and she lives here in Plainfield. If they saw the increases she has to pay in Newark, they wouldn't complain about the rates here so much. If it comes to travel for training, maybe they can bring the trainer here instead of going outside.

Commissioner Toliver responded that they have brought in trainers and they had complaints about that.

Jan Massey, 1014 Evergreen. Her question is about the sewer charge. She asked this question a year and a half ago. Her water usage is 54 percent of what she uses, actually going back into the sewer; 46 percent she uses on her grass. It doesn't seem right that she has to pay for 46 percent of the water usage that is not being reclaimed.

Joseph Gemmell, from T & M, gave a detailed explanation how the rate structure was set up and how the Authority looked at the various methods for billing sanitary sewer for the residents. After an analysis was done it was determined the most equitable way would be to use the water records and utilizing those as the calculation basis for the sewer rates. The City did the sewer billing prior to the formation of the Authority and they used that same methodology.

After the lengthy explanation Commissioner Brokaw said they did look at this about three years ago and it was a question whether or not they could draw separate meters. This got to be so complicated and expensive that it was not at all doable.

Mr. Chanda stated he gets his water bill four times a year. If they're talking about a period of time where usage is substantial what's so difficult about taking water bills for six months out of the year and that consumption is used to determine what the sewer bill is.

Mr. Gemmell said that was looked at during the development of the rates. The usage of the water meter records specifically as they come from the water company was determined as the way the Authority would proceed with the billing.

Commissioner Mitchell asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.; moved by Commissioner Toliver, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw, and unanimously approved by the Board to discuss a personnel matter.

(Commissioner Brown left the meeting at this time.)

The Board returned to the public session at 7:40 p.m.

Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Recorded by:

Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary