

PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

**Minutes of a Board of Commissioners Re-Scheduled Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2013**

**127 Roosevelt Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey**

I. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW (STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE)

Commissioner Sanders 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 Carol Ann Brokaw
Commissioner Malcolm R. Dunn
Commissioner Harold Mitchell
Commissioner Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.
Commissioner Alex Toliver

Also Present

Mr. Daniel A. Williamson, Executive Director
Ms. Lisa Casey (Rep. Mr. Duane Young)
Ms. Leslie London, Board Attorney
Mrs. Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary
Staff and Public

Alt. Commissioner Charles Eke-absent

Mrs. Lana Carden, Manager of Human Resources-absent
Mr. Duane D. Young, Chief Financial Officer-absent

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brokaw moved that the Board approve the August 1, 2013 Committee Meeting Notes, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE August 1, 2013 Committee Meeting Notes

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.				X	
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, that the Board approves the Executive Session Notes of August 1, 2013. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE **August 1, 2013 Executive Session Notes**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.				X	
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the August 6, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with four members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE **August 6, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn				X	
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There was an Environmental Fair flyer included in the packets. Also, since Commissioner Brokaw and Commissioner Mitchell were unable to attend the Environmental Fair, they will each receive everything that was given to the Board members who were in attendance.

Mr. Williamson indicated that the PMUA had good sponsors and everyone did an outstanding job.

An observation from Commissioner Sanders was that when the children left, the audience left and there weren't many who remained for the rest of the program. Next time the awards should be given after everyone has given their speeches.

Mr. Williamson did speak to the chairperson of the committee for the Fair about that. The chairperson was concerned because they started so late and the children were getting restless.

Commissioner Brokaw commended the staff who worked very hard and volunteered their time for once again making the Environmental Fair what it was.

Mr. Williamson said not only the people who were physically there that day, but also those who helped leading up to that day, participating in the committee meetings and discussions, making sure everything was organized and appropriate; the committee understood their responsibilities and Mr. Williamson had a managers' meeting earlier and he shared his feelings with them as well. Mr. Williamson also plans to have a review with the Environmental Fair committee and critique the good and the not so good things and try to clean up some things for next year.

Mr. Williamson indicated that one of the biggest problems was the food line, giving away all the things they had, and how long the lines were. Instead of getting a helping only for them, they were getting food for other people and some of the Authority's help weren't able to do what needed to be done to keep the line moving. That is another area that will be addressed.

Mr. Williamson stated that almost every speaker, including himself, acknowledged the help of the people who were working putting on a great event.

Mr. Williamson was informed the amount of money spent this year for the event was the least since 2002. Most of the money was raised through the Authority's sponsors and friends. The PMUA received somewhere in the neighborhood of about \$10,000 from sponsors who helped and a little over \$7,000 was spent. There was a time when the Authority had spent as much as \$30,000 or more for the event.

Ms. Casey stated exactly \$9,725 was collected in donations. She indicated that donations continue to come in even after the event. Historically the Authority has received close to \$1,000 in the months of October and November. Ms. Casey stated they spent about \$18,000 that nets to about \$8,400 that the Authority spent.

Commissioner Toliver asked if in the brochure the PMUA requests that the public take out an ad; he felt that would be a big help, maybe they could take at least a \$100 full page ad.

Commissioner Brokaw inquired if the Authority receives grant money to fund the Environmental Fair, and if so, how much of the grant money was used.

Ms. Casey replied yes they do. This year the Authority received about \$65,000 and this is the first year the PMUA received it ahead of the Fair; usually they get the money afterwards.

Commissioner Brokaw stated between the grant money and vendors it didn't cost the Authority anything out of pocket.

Mr. Williamson replied exactly; this is grant money, not operational funds. It didn't cost the Authority any real dollars.

Commissioner Sanders inquired if the grant money had to be used.

Mr. Williamson replied yes.

Ms. Casey added it's Clean Communities funds, which is used in the different ways of educating the community about the environment, recycling, things in schools, and keeping the City clean. It's something the State does for all municipalities; it's prorated out for the different communities. Every year the Authority has received more and more. She wasn't sure if it's because they've been doing a better job with their recycling.

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Commissioner Dunn didn't have a report, but he and Commissioner Brokaw are dealing with some subjects they are going to contact Mrs. Carden about, per the Chairman's suggestion.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Attorney's Report

Ms. London updated the Board on the legislation that had been drafted by the Authority with Assemblyman Green, which was subsequently co-sponsored by several other legislators. The legislation is to provide a tax exemption or write-off for certain sewer fees from State taxes.

That draft legislation had been sent a while ago to the Association of Environmental Authorities and Ms. London just received an email from their Executive Director, apologized to Ms. London for not getting back to her sooner. The Executive Director asked that Ms. London come to their legislative committee meeting at the end of the month to talk about the bill and the AEA will take a position whether to accept or oppose the bill. Ms. London advised that she will have more information for the October meeting.

Mr. Williamson added that he talked with the Assemblyman's office regarding the status of the bill and was advised that it's in committee and will probably not be discussed before the beginning of next year. The Authority should not expect any movement out of the committee for several months.

Commissioner Dunn inquired who initiated this; he knows it was offered by Assemblyman Green and some others.

Ms. London responded it came up in discussion by the prior Board several years ago, and based on that, her office drafted a form of a bill, sent it to the Assemblyman, who then sent it to legislative services, who made some revisions to it, but the genesis came as a result of comments made by members of the public several years ago about the fact that since the sewer fee is not in their taxes they don't have the ability to write anything off, so the Board took the initiative to see if the Authority could change the law. The law doesn't allow any such exemption at this point.

Mr. Williamson stated that when he came on board he resurrected the issue because it had been on the back burner and he asked Ms. London to review it. They went to Assemblyman Green, who was agreeable to sponsor it and Senator Scutari and Linda Stender agreed to support it.

Ms. London indicated the meeting is going to be held on the 24th or the 25th, but it's not a big meeting, just a group of the authorities talking and looking at legislation that's currently pending and whether or not it makes sense for the Association as a body to support it or oppose it. It would be good if they back it because they would have the body of the Association and all of its members to support the legislation. Ms. London stated this is something that benefits their members so it would be good for them to support it.

Commissioner Dunn encouraged the administration by any means necessary to alert the public this is something the PMUA is acting on and they could help by writing to their legislators or the Governor to support the bill.

Lastly, Ms. London will give the Board an update regarding the lease situation with AST in Executive Session.

Mr. Williamson advised Commissioner Brokaw they do have the information she requested regarding Lerch, Vinci and Higgins in the bills list. He asked Ms. Casey to distribute that information to the Board.

Mr. Williamson indicated that at the last meeting there was a discussion raised by Commissioner Toliver with regard to the CDL drivers. Mr. Williamson had the staff research that issue. As long as these drivers have a permit, not unlike a regular driver, they cannot drive a truck without a licensed CDL driver in the cab with them. Once they get their license, there's no requirement that they have a monitor. Administration is also entertaining the way employees can get training, trying to find a way they could come to use the Authority's facility as practice ground, to have some of the licensed CDL drivers to sit with them while they practice. That was discussed earlier in the managers' meeting. Since they are busy down there during the week, maybe it could be done on a Saturday. Mr. Williamson said the Board will get a copy of the memorandum that was put together addressing that issue.

Mr. Williamson indicated there was some discussion about the issue of some kind of connection with money that the Authority pays and a commitment from the employee to remain in their employment for a period of time, and he thought Commissioner Toliver wanted to make that into a policy.

Mr. Williamson put together a draft of what he thought Commissioner Toliver wanted for his review and read it as follows:

“The Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority, in keeping with its desire to consistently improve efficiencies and the quality of services to the rate payers of the City of Plainfield, subject to the availability of funds shall make every effort to improve the employees’ contributions to its day to day operations. To that end, the PMUA, where and when appropriate, may provide funding for training and/or education for its employee that is related to its business and/or operational affairs. Provided however, that where the PMUA provides funding to the employees for the purposes herein described. Any and all such employees who accept funding for these purposes shall be committed to continue in the employ of the PMUA for a minimum period of one (1) year, to a maximum period of three (3) years. The time period determined shall be established by the Administration in its sole prerogative and agreed upon by the employee(s) written acknowledgement and approval thereof.”

Mr. Williamson indicated this is a global presentation and is open to Commissioner Toliver to make whatever changes he wanted.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested Mr. Williamson contact Ken Scott, he’s a teacher, CDL driver of trucks, and he’ll come in and help.

Mr. Williamson stated they will put the draft in the form of a resolution for the next meeting so the Board could adopt it as a policy document.

Mr. Williamson indicated this discussion is really part of the Executive Director’s Report. Another item that is also part of his report concerns the League of Municipalities. Mr. Williamson asked Ms. Jones to give the Board a document that simply says this is coming up soon and if the Commissioners want to go they should let administration know and if they have a preference for a hotel to let them know. Ms. Hamlin is going to have to reserve the rooms. They are aware of the popular hotels, but there is a time line.

Mr. Williamson is also talking to the administrative staff who to some extent the Authority is prepared to fund for them to go. He explained to the managers they may ask, he may have to decline their going with the Authority’s funding; doesn’t mean they can’t go; they would have to fund it themselves.

Commissioner Brokaw inquired how this ties in with the Authority having a booth.

Mr. Williamson responded that the monetary information is being shipped out on Monday; they will give them the list. However they do have information from the past; Mr. Griffin, Mr. Williamson and the public information people have set up a meeting this Friday, 10:45 am to talk about what they believe is available to the Authority, what the numbers could be and doing that in a large part to talk to finance to make sure the money is there.

Mr. Williamson talked with Mr. Griffin today and the outside number is \$2,500, maybe \$3,000, but they want a quality product. They should have a complete picture by the meeting in October.

Commissioner Brokaw inquired whether the booth is for the PMUA exclusively or will it include anything with respect to the City of Plainfield.

Mr. Williamson responded he didn't know of any marriage between the City and the Authority, to his knowledge no one from the City has contacted him or Mr. Griffin about joining the PMUA. As of right now it's just a PMUA booth.

Commissioner Mitchell indicated it's going to be some long hours; they have to have staff to sell the public.

Mr. Williamson agreed with Commissioner Mitchell in terms of having staff here in Plainfield and down there; they may have to shuttle staff, they may have to draft some people from other departments to come down and help.

Commissioner Toliver inquired if administration has reached out to some of the other municipalities regarding what it has cost them to have a booth. Paterson always seems to have a booth in the center.

Mr. Williamson replied this is their maiden voyage. Other towns have been doing it for some time and they may have some priority when it comes to making their arrangements.

Ms. Casey indicated the Authority sent a deposit back in April or May for approximately \$1,500 and Mr. Griffin has been in contact with the person responsible for selling the booth locations. He has picked a prime location. It's arranged so the PMUA could be next to Pierce Eagle; the Authority has the new truck, so Mr. Griffin wanted to be within that vicinity to try to get in that business with different towns.

Mr. Williamson stated the hope is they will accede to the PMUA's early request.

Ms. Casey stated that Mr. Griffin has requested four different locations. He's on top of that.

Mr. Williamson had one last thing. At the last meeting, Commissioner Mitchell raised an issue with regard to reimbursement to Mr. Williamson. Mr. Williamson has done some research and while there is no prohibition against it, what he has chosen to do is he will cease and desist from doing any of this (redecorating) and they will use the usual procedures. It may slow them down a bit, but they will use the normal procedure. After Mr. Williamson has been reimbursed for some of the things he has already done, the Commissioners won't see any further reimbursement for him.

B. Finance Report & Bills List Approval

Ms. Casey stated for the months of August and September the Authority spent \$682,717.69 on PARSA representing 29 percent; salary and wages, \$672,000, which represents 28 percent; disposal fees, \$285,000 which represents 12 percent; there was a truck purchase which represents 8 percent; and health benefits of \$147,000, 6 percent, representing 87 percent of the \$2.4 million the Authority spent this month. Year-to-date, salary and wages, \$4.8 million, 31 percent; disposal fees \$1.8 million, 12 percent; PARSA, \$1.9 million, 12 percent; debt service almost \$1 million, 6 percent; health benefits, \$1.3 million, 8 percent; that represents about 70 percent of the \$15.6 million spent so far.

Commissioner Dunn stated it should be noted they met with Mr. Young last week; the deficit that was shown going forward prior to these two months showed minuses in both categories.

Ms. Casey acknowledged sewer had a profit of \$71,000, solid waste, which has never happened since she has been here, has a profit of \$125,000 for the month ending July 31st.

Commissioner Dunn noted for the last two months those figures were minuses; the sewer is generally never minus, but Mr. Young assured the Board this is the latter months, August and September, that those deficits would go away. Mr. Young attributes a large part of that is from the money the Authority received regarding the FEMA money connected to the City.

Mr. Williamson has met with FEMA personnel a couple of times regarding the Authority's application along with Ms. London and staff. They have submitted all of the paper work, Ms. London put together a position paper, and hopefully after they have reviewed the numbers of approximately \$900,000 in expenses, the Authority's application will be resolved.

Mr. Williamson indicated the Authority's recycling is doing very well and that is due in large part to the citizens separating the recycling, which means the PMUA is getting more revenue from the recycling and decreasing the expense for solid waste. Mr. Williamson indicated there is roughly around \$75,000 to \$80,000 in fines. Mr. Williamson shared with the Commissioners the different concepts the Authority is putting in place to encourage the citizens to recycle.

Commissioner Toliver indicated he thought Mr. Williamson had some good ideas, but he would like to see the vendors, have them come in and make a presentation to the Board and let them know what they are doing for the money they are being paid.

Ms. London presented **resolution #84-2013 authorizing the payment of bills**. Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #84-2013 Payment of Bills

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

C. Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Renovations of Modular Office Furniture from DC Interiors

Mr. Williamson stated that this is furniture the Authority is purchasing for Front Street. They are also taking some of the existing furniture to the new location.

Ms. London presented **resolution #85-2013 authorizing the award of a contract with DC Interiors to purchase office furniture.** Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Brokaw, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #85-2013 DC Interiors

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

D. Resolution Authorizing the approval for the following State Contract Vendors:

- i. Home Depot**
- ii. Lowes Home Centers, Inc.**
- iii. Sanitation Truck Repairs – Heavy Duty Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs**

iv. Air Brake & Equipment – Heavy Duty Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs

Mr. Williamson indicated there was discussion in the committee meeting regarding ways of achieving the ability to move quickly in purchasing items for the day-to-day operations. What is being done is setting up a protocol to allow employees to go to Home Depot or Lowes where paperwork will be put in place to allow them to control the usual mechanism so the purchase could be tracked.

Commissioner Brokaw inquired if the purpose of this is so the Authority can get the State negotiated rates.

Mr. Williamson replied yes. All of these vendors have been pre-approved by the State of New Jersey. That's the reason they don't have to go out to bid.

Commissioner Sanders inquired if these are not to exceed annual amounts.

Mr. Williamson replied yes.

Commissioner Toliver is not in favor of Air Brake, he felt they have a way of shifting things they couldn't do onto someone else and with a third party. He inquired how well they are monitoring Air Brake.

Mr. Williamson replied one of the mechanisms is that they have a person who is in charge of the fleet, Dilip Akallo, who is very conscientious and stays on top of this. If he sees a situation where Air Brake can't get it done, he will transfer the responsibility to STR. The Authority is doing whatever is necessary to ensure that both STR and Air Brake are providing quality service.

Commissioner Toliver inquired when Mr. Akallo is going for training, since he is not a licensed CDL. Mr. Williamson responded they will be taking a look at him. The next two are Mr. Kearney and Mr. Akallo. However, Mr. Akallo is a mechanic. He is very aware of and involved with the repair work on the trucks. Mr. Williamson wasn't aware of that when he brought him on board, but he is very knowledgeable about trucks, about mechanic issues, and they will take another step in elevating him in the CDL.

Commissioner Sanders inquired if there is a line item related to truck repairs.

Ms. Casey replied yes. She didn't know what the budget is for this year, but in the past few years it has gone down based on the fact they are constantly upgrading the fleet.

Ms. London presented **resolution #86-2013 authorizing approval of certain State contract vendors**. Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, in a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #86-2013 State Contract Vendors

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

E. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement with the Tax Exempt Leasing Corp

Mr. Williamson indicated this is tied directly to the broom sweeper that the Authority will be leasing and then purchasing after a three-year lease purchasing agreement. There was specific language in the RFB documents that the Authority uses a leasing company for purposes of the monthly agreement. Instead of folding the lease agreement itself into one resolution, it was determined it should be separated, so administration is coming to the Board at this point to ask them to approve and allow them to sign off on the lease agreement with the specific leasing company involved and begin the process of paying the monthly charges.

Ms. London reminded the Board that at the July meeting, they passed a resolution authorizing the lease purchase of the broom sweeper from the lowest vendor to the RFB. The leasing company selected by the vendor, asked for a separate resolution with their name in it. The resolution in July just mentioned vendor. The vendor providing the broom street sweeper W.E. Timmerman did include the name of the leasing company in their bid submission, but the resolution didn't mention the name of the lease company. The lease company needs a specific resolution with their name in it and specific language, as part of the lease agreement.

Ms. London presented **resolution #87-2013 authorizing the execution of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement with Tax Exempt Leasing Corp.** Commissioner Brokaw moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE

Resolution #87-2013 Tax Exempt Leasing Corp.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

Mr. Williamson had another item he wanted to share with the Board; with regard to his no longer purchasing items and being reimbursed, when he first came on board he did buy several Keuric coffeemakers at his own expense and he did not ask for reimbursement and he won't, he just wants the record to be clear that was a donation from him to the Authority; about \$800, \$900.

The final item Mr. Williamson had concerned Commissioner Mitchell's question regarding salary adjustments and merit increases and the budget. Mr. Williamson asked Ms. London to do some research on that and she has an answer.

Ms. London advised the Board that this is not a legal issue, there is nothing in any statute that delineates the roles of Commissioners and the Executive Director what each is required or not required to do regarding salary or merit increases. Ms. London advised however that she had looked at various support guidelines, particularly those put out by the Association of Environmental Authorities; some of which may have been distributed to Board members when they first became Commissioners. There was a specific chart that she found that did do a delineation of responsibilities between Commissioners and administration; administration being Executive Director. Under that, staff salaries as the topic, mentions that the role of the Commissioner is to allocate line items for salary and budget, and under the Executive Director, approve salaries with recommendations from supervisory staff. In general, it appears the Commissioners approve the budget, and in approving the budget the Commissioners would be taking into consideration salaries and merit increases. The Executive Director takes the approved budget and has to operate within those budgetary constraints dealing with the staff. Also, because the Executive Director and supervisors deal directly with the staff members, they generally make the determination concerning salary increases, as long as they are within the budget.

Commissioner Mitchell just felt it should be brought to the Board's attention when it's done. He said the Executive Director can give people a salary adjustment, but he felt the Board should know about it and it should be a matter of policy. Commissioner Mitchell said anytime money is spent, the Commissioners should know about it; he wants to know about it.

Commissioner Sanders inquired whether it should be brought to the Commissioner's attention by way of committee, since there are two Commissioners who serve on the Personnel Committee and they are involved with staff. He felt it should be brought to the proper committee.

Commissioner Mitchell responded they could do it in the Committee meeting.

Commissioner Brokaw added that's not the way it's been handled over the years.

Mr. Williamson indicated he felt it's an issue of territory. He didn't believe there was anything like that set up in the past administration.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Brokaw advised that she had called the Authority today because it seemed that the collection of recyclables was taking a really long time. When she got through, they told her there was a problem with the truck breaking down twice today. Commissioner Brokaw's issue was not with the people and how diligently they work, but the fact that when they were making all of these upgrades to the equipment as well as the Transfer Station, this was being done so there would be less break downs with the equipment. Commissioner Brokaw said there seemed to be a pattern where the break down is increasing on certain days. Commissioner Brokaw is requesting that the Commissioners who are on the Facilities and Equipment Committee, do a more thorough evaluation regarding where the Authority stands with respect to equipment and whether or not the steps that have been taken so far, have helped in terms of improving the Authority's ability to keep its equipment in operation; if not, what steps should be taken to take care of that. Commissioner Brokaw knows the Committee needs to work with the staff to do that, but it's something that should be done. Commissioner Brokaw felt it was inappropriate to have two break downs within one day with respect to the collection of recyclables.

Commissioner Toliver indicated this is something he and the Chairman should be on top of. Commissioner Toliver asked again about the loaners. The Chairman has one end of things he does. Commissioner Toliver said if the Chairman has to, he could call him because he does have some free time to check things out.

Mr. Williamson said he would set up a meeting with the appropriate staff.

Commissioner Sanders responded how about the a.m. on Friday.

That was fine with Mr. Williamson.

Commissioner Dunn also had a concern about the status of the Authority's equipment and he is glad there is going to be Committee focus on this. Commissioner Dunn said the weatherman has predicted this is going to be a tough winter and knowing this in advance, the Authority needs to double their efforts to get these things in shape.

With regard to the approvals of the four companies, Commissioner Dunn recalled that in the committee meeting there were questions regarding two of the major repair companies; the question was asked about the use of two of the vendors and the Board was reassured that the other company was much quicker in responding, STR, they're getting the majority of the Authority's work, the PMUA is not just depending on one vendor.

Mr. Williamson said at one point the bill for repairs had been about \$300,000; the bill is now substantially less, approximately \$200,000. The Authority has made tremendous progress in getting some efficiency with STR.

Commissioner Brokaw's point is the Authority has made a lot of expensive improvements, they should have less maintenance.

Commissioner Mitchell is concerned about the money the Authority is spending in repairs. If they are spending this amount of money, they need to get some new trucks.

Mr. Williamson stated that when he came on board, he came with a program about improving the Authority's fleet. Mr. Williamson said some of those trucks, when you look at them, you can't imagine how they're still operating them, but that's what they have. It's been brought to Mr. Williamson's attention, but the idea is you've got to have money to improve the fleet, it's very expensive. If the Authority can get some substantial business outside of Plainfield, that would help, but the worse thing that could happen is the Authority would not be able to deliver and couldn't pick up the garbage.

Commissioner Toliver brought it up again that they need to have the vendors come in here.

Commissioner Sanders replied the Board couldn't have vendors come in here and take up the time at the board meeting; maybe they could come to a Committee meeting.

Commissioner Dunn inquired when the budget process starts.

Ms. Casey replied right about now.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Sanders invited any member of the public who would like to address the Board to stand, give their name and address and they will have an opportunity to speak.

Bernice Paglia, 124 E. 7th St. Ms. Paglia inquired of Ms. London what branch of government the Association is connected with so she could look it up on line.

Ms. London replied the Association is the Association of Environmental Authority, the AEA.

Ms. Paglia didn't quite understand whether it was a legislative committee that reviews the legislation.

Ms. London replied that the Association is a private organization that is made up of a number of authorities, including improvement authorities, municipal utility authorities, and any sewerage authorities, and any others dealing with solid waste, water and sewerage.

Ms. Paglia inquired whether basically the Authority needs the larger buy-in than just the PMUA, so that the law would be more effective.

Ms. London responded yes and stated that the AEA has a big website, and they monitor and support and lobby the Legislature on bills that affect its members. Before they make their decision on a bill, they meet as a group and decide whether or not to oppose or support the legislation.

Ms. Paglia said this effort was in the newsletter when it first came up. It could be brought up again, but if there's nothing further to report why do it until they do have something.

Mr. Williamson said one of the other blogs implied it was a political stunt. What Mr. Williamson asked Ms. London to do was to continue to investigate to see where it was. The Authority is really making an effort, not to just get the heat off of the PMUA, and they are going to continue to push it.

Ms. London added that one of the co-sponsors is from South Jersey. It goes beyond Union County; also there is a sponsor from Middlesex County too.

Ms. Paglia said regarding the schedule, she is usually up late and several times lately, just around 2:30 a.m. when she is trying to go to sleep, here comes the Tuesday pickup truck. They used to come after the early morning, there's a 24 hour thing going on over at the yard.

Mr. Williamson responded that one of the things the Authority is trying to do is to have everything completed by the time the kids roll out to school. The Superintendent begins at midnight and finishes by 8 a.m.

Ms. Paglia inquired if the Authority has a capital budget for the purchase of major equipment.

Ms. Casey replied it is in the budget that goes to the State, there is a budget that lets the State know how much the Authority is going to be spending for capital purchases.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved by the Board, to close the public session of the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. London presented **resolution #88-2013 authorizing a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.** Commissioner Toliver moved, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, approval of the resolution. The motion carried, on a roll-call vote, with five members in favor and none opposed.

RECORDED VOTE**Resolution #88-2013 Executive Session**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	PRESENT NOT VOTING	NOT PRESENT
Carol Ann Brokaw	X				
Malcolm R. Dunn	X				
Harold Mitchell	X				
Cecil H. Sanders, Jr.	X				
Alex Toliver	X				
<u>Alternate</u> Charles Eke					X

The Board returned to the public session of the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Commissioner Sanders summarized the Executive Session by stating it is the Board's understanding that because the new lease agreement does not allow the Authority to take certain actions with the landlord regarding delays, they are going to try to negotiate a per diem rate with the current landlord.

Commissioner Dunn said he is not voting for the lease. He believes they went about it the wrong way. They didn't get it signed until July and he wanted it on the record that they will not be in there by November 1st.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, seconded by Commissioner Toliver and unanimously approved by the Board, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Recorded by:

Roslyn Mathis, Board Secretary