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# *Commission Meeting*

of

## NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

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**LOCATION:** Meeting via Conference Call

**DATE:** November 18, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:**

James M. Rutala, Chair  
Senator Samuel D. Thompson  
Assemblyman Harold 'Hal' J. Wirths  
Lisa Almeida  
Aaron Binder  
Patrick Brennan  
Leila Collins  
Dennis Zeveloff

**ALSO PRESENT:**

James Langsdorf  
*Executive Director*

David F. Patella  
*Assistant Executive Director*

Brian Onda  
Bartosz Zajac  
*Budget Specialists*



*Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by*  
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Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey

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**JAMES M. RUTALA (Chair):** OK, we'll call the meeting to order.

My name is Jim Rutala, the Chair of the New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commission has provided adequate notice of this meeting by giving written notice of the time, date, and location. A notice of meeting has been filed at least 48 hours in advance by email or by fax to the *Trenton Times*, *The Newark Star-Ledger*, and filed with the Secretary of State.

Roll call, please.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chairman.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes; present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins. (no response)

Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MS. COLLINS: Here.

Leila Collins is here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you very much.

Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Here.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Present.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff. (no response)

Chairman, we have a quorum.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, we have to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, and approval of the Executive Director.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chairman.

Good morning, everyone. First, I would like to recognize and welcome our new Commission members: Assemblyman Spearman, Mr. Aaron Binder, Ms. Lisa Almeida, Ms. Leila Collins, and Mr. Patrick Brennan.

Regarding the (indiscernible), this Commission position must be filled by a public member. Last year, Mr. James Rutala was approved as the Chair, and I understand that Mr. Rutala is still interested in this position.

Can someone put forth any other nominations for Chair at this time? (no response)

OK, thank you. Since there are no other Commission members interested or nominated for this Chair position, the first order of

business is to elect a Chair. Therefore, I ask that James Rutala be named as the Chair.

Can we have someone put forward a motion?

MR. BINDER: So moved.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Do we have a second?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thompson.

MR. LANGSDORF: We have a second.

Now, we'll go on to elect the Chair. Rutala, again, this year is the Chair.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Bind-er -- Bin-der, I'm sorry.

MR. BINDER: It's Bind-er; yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Bind-er. I'll get it right one of these days.

MR. BINDER: (laughter)

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff. (no response)

Thank you very much. Mr. James Rutala has been named  
Chair again this year.

Congratulations, Jim.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

MR. LANGSDORF: On the Vice Chair, this Commission  
position must also be filled by a public member who is present.

Since, at this time, Mr. Patrick Brennan is the only other  
public representative present, I am asking Mr. Brennan if he would accept  
the Vice Chair position if recommended and approved.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Sure.

MR. BRENNAN: I'll oblige.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Can someone make a motion for consideration of Mr.  
Patrick Brennan as the Vice Chair position?

MR. RUTALA: I'll make the motion.

MR. LANGSDORF: Do we have a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

Since there are no other Commission members interested or recommended, the second order of business is to elect the Vice Chair. Therefore, I ask that Mr. Patrick Brennan be named as the Vice Chair.

Can we have someone put forward a motion to vote?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Move it, Senator Thompson.

MR. LANGSDORF: Do we have a second?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

OK, now we'll vote on the election of Mr. Brennan as this year's Vice Chair.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Ms. Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff. (no response)

Thank you very much. Mr. Patrick Brennan has been named as the Vice Chair.

Congratulations, Patrick. Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, we'll have the approval of the Executive Director.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (indiscernible)

MR. LANGSDORF: I'm sorry, go ahead.

MR. RUTALA: Do we have a motion to approve James Langsdorf as the Executive Director?

SENATOR THOMPSON: So moved.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you. Second?

MR. BINDER: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Roll call, please.

MR. LANGSDORF: Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Luke Wolff. (no response)

OK, thank you very much.

I accept the position again this year as Executive Director.

Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Congratulations, James.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you.

MR. RUTALA: Our next order of business is approval of the minutes for July 13, 2022.

Do we have a motion?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Move it, Thompson.

MR. RUTALA: Second?

MR. ZEVELOFF: This is Dennis Zeveloff.

MR. RUTALA: Roll call, please.

MR. LANGSDORF: On the motion to approve the minutes from July 13, 2022.

Senator Sarlo. (no response)

Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Assemblyman Spearman. (no response)

Assemblyman Wirths.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Aaron Binder.

MR. BINDER: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Zeveloff. (no response)

Ms. Lisa Almeida.

MS. ALMEIDA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Leila Collins.

MS. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. Patrick Brennan.

MR. BRENNAN: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Mr. James Rutala.

MR. RUTALA: Yes.

MR. LANGSDORF: Luke Wolff. (no response)

Chairman, the motion moves.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Next, is the Executive Director's report.

MR. LANGSDORF: Thank you, Chairman.

For Fiscal Year 2023, the Commission recommended \$85.573 million of discretionary projects, all of which have been funded. Additionally, the Commission recommended \$1.86 billion for debt service and other capital appropriations.

The Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act included \$1.87 billion for these items.

Do you have any questions? (no response)

If there are no other questions, we can move to the Fiscal 2024 capital requests. Those who are representing your agencies, and Commission members, please state your name before making any comments.

Thank you.

MR. RUTALA: OK, going down the agenda, the first request is from the State Capitol Joint Management Commission. They request a total of \$12,290,000. The details are in the package. Does anyone have any questions? (no response)

Hearing none, we'll move on.

Next, we have the request from the Department of Agriculture: \$48,047,000.

**D O U G L A S F I S H E R:** This is Secretary Fisher. Do I make my comments now?

MR. RUTALA: Yes, please.

MR. FISHER: Thank you.

So, I'm here with folks from the Department of Agriculture, and we wanted to talk about -- I wanted to talk specifically about the animal health diagnostic lab, and the tissue digester.

This was a-- The digester, first of all, has been in the plan since the PHEAL was planned and built. And, we've been asking for that every year since I've been here, but the case is getting much more dire in terms of the economics of the disposing of animal carcasses, and, we think

it's a cost-saving measure at the same time to the State. But, it's also a very needed thing in terms of security for animal health.

And, the lab, we are asking for \$40 million because, as you know, the expansion -- they are considering the expansion and they are moving forward with the extension of PHEAL I think for \$78 million from Federal funds. Those funds were-- There was only one chance for an applicant to be considered, and so it was health. But, as they're doing the expansion, it is really critical that we be able to expand our unit and it was recommended in the studies -- I think you have the sheets in front of you (indiscernible) so I'm not going to read it, but I just wanted to come on personally to say that, in terms of the safety, human health, animal health, food safety, and of course the safety of zoonotic diseases -- those are diseases that pass from animals to humans -- it is a very critical time, as you know, with all these vectors -- HPAI, as you know, the avian flu that is happening with a little regularity, and some of the other things.

It's really critical, and when they expand -- when that expansion is occurring, which is now, we really, really consider it a public health and safety issues and are hopeful that we can get the \$40 million expenditure. And, not taken lightly; I mean, obviously, it's a big number.

But, as you know, lastly, when PHEAL was built, they knocked off some of this stuff. Originally it was about a \$200-something million project, I think, and it got knocked down to about \$150 million. And, so, we've been strained already, but, as you see in the abstract that we put in, with demand in the future it's going to be growing exponentially in some areas.

And, so, that's why I was asking and coming to you for your consideration.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you, Commissioner.

Are there any questions? (no response)

OK. We will move on.

Department of Children and Families, to request a total of \$1,995,000. Are there any questions? (no response)

OK, next is the Department of Education, to request a total of \$3,511,000. Any questions or comments? (no response)

Hearing none, I'll move on.

The Department of Law and Public Safety, 11 requests totaling \$33,210,000.

Are there any questions regarding the Department of Law and Public Safety? (no response)

Next is Juvenile Justice Commission, 17 requests totaling \$18,296,000. Any questions or comments? (no response)

Next is Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, 23 requests totaling \$19,991,000. Any questions? (no response)

Next is the Office of Information Technology, one request for \$7,011,000.

Next is a request from Public Broadcasting Authority, in the amount of \$1,200,000.

**RICHARD WILLIAMS:** Chairman, this is Richard Williams, the Executive Director for the NJ PBA.

I just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity to present our project to you this morning. You have the information in front of you.

We are the public side of the state's critical communications network. We have sites around the state that are powered by emergency generators. We also have State Police, Transit, and DEP are located at these sites. And, the running of the tower lights and the critical communications equipment is all part of this request to change out the emergency generators that are at their life expectancy.

So, any questions, I would be happy to answer them for you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many locations is this for?

MR. WILLIAMS: Four locations around the state. Running north to south we have Montclair, New Brunswick, Trenton, and Waterford Works.

MR. RUTALA: Thank you.

Any other questions? (no responses)

OK, thank you.

Next is Judiciary, three requests totaling \$14,422,000. Are there any comments or questions? (no response)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Someone tried to call in on a 973 number.

MR. RUTALA: OK. Is there any other business? (no response)

Mr. Langsdorf, when is our next meeting?

MR. LANGSDORF: Our next meeting, I believe, is already scheduled; let me check that out really quickly.

December 14. My apologies for the delay there.

MR. RUTALA: No problem. Thank you.

MR. LANGSDORF: OK, Chair, unless there are no other questions -- or if there are any other questions, comments, or business, please bring them up now.

Otherwise, can someone put forward a motion to adjourn?

SENATOR THOMPSON: So moved.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIRTHS: Second.

MR. LANGSDORF: OK, thank you everyone, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**(MEETING CONCLUDED)**