



GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2026

Via – MS Teams

FOR PUBLIC ONLY 609-246-5765; Passcode 216 096 966#

THE MEETING OF THE GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:07 AM.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING IN OF NEW FUND COMMISSIONERS

- Jason Veres – (Alternate Commissioner) – Township of Aberdeen

ROLL CALL OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

Aberdeen, Township of – Absent
Berkeley Township – J. Delaney
Berkeley Heights, Township of – Absent
Bound Brook, Borough of – Absent
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – K. White
Englewood, City of – J. Birkner
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – Absent
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – Absent
Hamilton Township – R. Bates
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Hoboken, City of – D. Amado
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – Absent
Monroe Township – D. Racioppi
Montclair Township – S. Marks
Neptune, Township of – Absent
New Providence, Borough of – B. Cuccaro



North Bergen, Township of – S.Idrovo
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

APPROVAL OF 5/20/2026 MINUTES

MOTION: Commrs: Marks
SECOND: Commrs: Palazzo
ABSTAIN: Commrs. King

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS

MOTION: Commrs. Marks
SECOND: Commrs. Schubiger
VOTE: Unanimous: by voice

In accordance with Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public body is in Executive Session, as follows:

1. The Public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - Claims – Requests for Settlement Authority

APPROVAL REQUESTS FOR SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- Livingston Township – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- Town of Morristown – WC - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of of Cinnaminson – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- Neptune Township – AL Granted Settlement Authority
- City of Hoboken – GL Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of North Bergen – LEL - Granted Settlement Authority

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Marks
VOTE: Unanimous, by voice



MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS & CLAIMS REPORT

* Indicates Consent Agenda

- ***Resolution 22-26 – Approving Certain Disbursements - \$538,629.02**
- ***Resolution 23-26 – Approving Claims Payments – \$6,685,868**
- ***Approving Claims Committee Report and Requests for Settlement Authorization**

MOTION: Commrs: Palazzo

SECOND: Commrs: Marks

ABSTAIN: Commrs:

VOTE:

AYE:

Aberdeen, Township of – Absent
Berkeley Township – J. Delaney
Berkeley Heights, Township of – Absent
Bound Brook, Borough of – Absent
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – K. White
Englewood, City of – J. Birkner
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – Absent
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – Absent
Hamilton Township – Absent
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Hoboken, City of – D. Amado
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – Absent
Monroe Township – D. Racioppi
Montclair Township – S. Marks
Neptune, Township of – Absent
New Providence, Borough of – B. Cuccaro
North Bergen, Township of – S. Idrovo
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – J. Hall – NIP Management Services

- **March 2026 Financial Overview & FastTrack** – A presentation was provided explaining the purpose of a Joint Insurance Fund, emphasizing that the Fund operates as a shared self-insurance pooling arrangement rather than an insurance company. Members jointly share risk, purchase excess insurance, and benefit from collective purchasing power and professional services. The April Fast Track financial review showed deficits for 2025, while older years and 2026-to-date show an aggregate surplus.
- **Year-End Financial Audit Status** – The year-end financial audit was reported as complete and filed with the applicable state agencies. Presentation of the audit is scheduled for the next Board meeting.
- **Service Provider Agreements for 2026** – A handful of Risk Management Consultant and several service provider agreements remain outstanding. Members were reminded that payments cannot be made until required agreements are received.

TREASURER'S REPORT – P. DeBlasio – GSMJIF Fund Treasurer

- **Treasury Report** - All submitted bills and claims were paid. The Fund's cash position reflected an opening balance of approximately \$26.1 million, receipts of approximately \$7.8 million, disbursements of approximately \$10.7 million, and an ending balance of approximately \$23.2 million.
- **Accounts Receivable** - Accounts receivable remain in strong condition, with the majority reported as current. The Fund continues to follow up with former members for their past-due amounts.
- **Cash Flow Projections** - Operating cash flow projections were shared for June, July, and August. These months are currently projected to exceed the target threshold of two months of estimated claims payments.

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REPORT – B. LaJoie – NIP Management Services

- **Claims KPI Report for April 2026** – Claims Report Summary (Presented by Brian LaJoie)
 - The claims portfolio remains stable across key metrics, with 176 claims opened, 246 claims closed, and 1,835 claims currently open. Closure activity continues to outpace new intake, supporting controlled inventory levels. Loss activity is predominantly driven by Workers' Compensation, which accounts for the majority of open claims, followed by General Liability, with smaller contributions from Auto, Property, and other lines. This distribution remains consistent with prior periods and reflects the ongoing exposure mix. Trend analysis shows monthly open claim counts holding relatively steady in the 1,770–1,830 range, with only modest month-to-month fluctuations. There is no indication of material inventory creep, suggesting that claim handling pace and closure rates are effectively maintaining equilibrium. Overall, the portfolio reflects stable claim volume, consistent closure performance, and no emerging pressure points in inventory trends.



- **Claims Spotlight** – Bob Perisco presented the Claim Spotlight. Workers’ compensation costs continue to rise, driven by increased litigation, higher medical and legal expenses, and greater severity in permanent partial disability claims, including multi-body-part exposures and reopened claims. From 2021 to 2026, costs increased consistently across all PPD categories, with escalation ranging from approximately 23.7% to 24.0%. Specific examples include PPD at 12.5%, increasing from \$19,350 to \$24,000, 25% from \$44,154 to \$54,720, 35% from \$94,920 to \$117,600, and 50% from \$193,800 to \$239,700, reflecting significant upward pressure on indemnity costs and reinforcing the need for disciplined claims management and litigation control to mitigate ongoing exposure.

RISK CONTROL REPORT – K. Skeba – NIP Management

- **Distracted Driver Challenge Results** – How the challenge works was reviewed. We also discussed how many courses each member had completed. The importance of driver training was mentioned as AL claims totals continue to rise. Lastly, the winners of the competition were announced.
- **Upcoming Events in July** - First Amendment / Constitutional Audits, Title 59 Defense Best Practices.
- **Guest Speaker:** Ryan Bellinger from NJ Urban & Community Forestry Accreditation Program – Trees along streets and in parks provide a multitude of benefits, including summer cooling, stormwater retention, improved air quality, and more. The New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry (NJUCF) Program is a branch of the NJ Forest Service focused on helping New Jersey communities access these benefits. The NJUCF Accreditation Program is a voluntary program where municipalities and counties can qualify for urban forestry-related liability protection and grant funding for urban forestry projects.

UNDERWRITING REPORT – R. Smith - NIP Management Services

- **Renewal Initiatives for 2027** – Meetings are underway with excess carriers in hopes of a smooth and uneventful 2027 excess placement.
- **New Member Attestation Process** – Risk Managers and representatives from each municipality will be signing off on all applications as well as property, payroll and vehicle schedules as per the directives of the executive committee.
- **Property Audit & Valuation Review** – We continue to review the data and are working hand in hand with our property excess partners to determine any outliers or incorrectly valued locations. It is the risk manager's responsibility to adjust these values.
- **2027 Excess Renewal Strategy** – 2027 Renewal will kick off in July. Upon creation of the new fund year in the portal, and alongside continued trending values as we have done in the past, an email campaign will launch to alert risk managers that the new year has been created, and renewal season is open.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS



OPEN FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Palazzo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM, and Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by M. Delgado

M. Delgado

B. Russell

ALSO, PRESENT in PERSON:

M. Delgado
M. Sweisfort
G. Crosby
D. Cinelli
S. Edwards
R. Smith
J. Brown
D. Springer
L. Gallo
R. Nelms
R. Persico
K. Skeba
M. Bubka
K. Mitchell
M. McArow
A. Villari
V. Peluso
B. LaJoie
J. Cottell
J. Solomon
J. Hall
E. Bonanno
P. DeBlasio



**PRESENT over 40 minutes
VIA MS TEAMS:**

XXX-XXX-4492

A. Pieroni
A. Arevalo
B. Ergoz
B. Hanigan
D. Borden
D. Voda
D. Balken
D. Nunes
E. Peter
J. Pressley
J. Ramundt
J. Hall
J. Razzano
K. Waters
K. Walters
K. Guze
L. Klein
L. Hamm
M. Tufaro
D. Pursell
R. Smith
R. Hope
S. Sarfraz
S. Edwards
S. Gould
T. Merchel