



**GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
MEETING MINUTES
January 28th, 2026
Via – MS Teams
FOR PUBLIC ONLY 609-246-5765; Passcode 888 745 564#**

**MEETING OF THE GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:10AM.**

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT READ INTO RECORD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

Aberdeen, Township of – B. Russell
Berkeley Township – J. Delaney
Berkeley Heights, Township of – B. Russo
Bound Brook, Borough of – Absent
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – Absent
Englewood, City of – J. Birkner
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – J. Moehlman
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – C. Cirillo
Hamilton Township – S. Gould
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Hoboken, City of – Absent
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
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 – Absent



Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

APPROVAL OF 12/17/2025 MINUTES

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo
SECOND: Commr. Marks
ABSTAIN: Commrs. Russo; Cirillo

ROLL CALL OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

ADJOURN SINE DIE MEETING

Secretary asked Executive Director to Chair meeting. Mr. Hall asked for nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Secretary and for the Executive Committee.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY

- Executive Director Hall presented the nominees for Chairperson, Secretary, and Executive Committee members that had been received before the meeting.
- Commr. Palazzo nominated the slate as presented. Commr. Russell seconded the nominations.
- Swearing in of Secretary and Executive Committee by Fund Attorney.

Executive Committee for 2026 consists of:

- Bryan Russell Chairperson – Township of Aberdeen
- Mark Krane, Secretary – Township of Warren
- Eric Schubiger – Cinnaminson Township
- Stephen Gould – Hamilton Township
- Louis Palazzo – Howell Township
- Greg Whitehead – Lawrence Township
- Stephen Marks – Montclair Township
- Don Travisano – Union Township

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS & CLAIMS REPORT

Chairperson Russell asked that Resolutions 01-26 through 08-26 and resolution 09-26, 10-26 and 11-26 be approved collectively.

- **Resolution 01-26** – Certifying the Election of Chairperson and Secretary*
- **Resolution 02-26** – Certifying the Election of Executive Committee*
- **Resolution 03-26** – Establishing Meeting Procedures*



- **Resolution 04-26** – Establishing Fiscal Management Plan*
- **Resolution 05-26** – Establishing Fund Records Program*
- **Resolution 06-26** – Establishing 2026 Plan of Risk Management*
- **Resolution 07-26** – Approving 2026 Fund Service Providers*
- **Resolution 08-26** – Appointing 2026 Approved Counsel*

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo

SECOND: Commr. Marks

VOTE: Unanimous

- **Resolution 09-26** – Approving Fund Budget for 2026

MOTION: Commr. Russell

SECOND: Commr. Schubiger

ABSTAIN: Moehlman; Birkner

VOTE: ROLL CALL

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Eastampton, Township of – Absent
Englewood, City of – J. Birkner
Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – J. Moehlman
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – C. Cirillo
Hamilton Township – S. Gould
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Hoboken, City of – Absent
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
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 – Absent
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane



- **Resolutions 10-26 and 11-26** were approved collectively.
- **Resolution 10-26** – Approving Certain Disbursements \$1,552,205.71
- **Resolution 11-26** – Approving Claims Payments \$3,323,612

MOTION: Commr. Cirillo
SECOND: Commr. Palazzo
ABSTAIN: Birkner

VOTE: ROLL CALL

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Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – Absent
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Ewing Township – Absent
Fanwood, Borough of – J. Moehlman
Freehold Borough – Absent
Guttenberg, Town of – C. Cirillo
Hamilton Township – S. Gould
Harrison, Town of – Absent
Hoboken, City of – Absent
Howell Township – L. Palazzo
Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
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 – Absent
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS

MOTION: Commr. Palazzo



SECOND: Commr. Marks
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

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVAL REQUESTS FOR SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

- Berkeley Township – WC - Granted Settlement Authority
- City of Hoboken – WC- Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Morris – WC - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Hamilton – WC Granted Settlement Authority

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE: ROLL CALL

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Bound Brook, Borough of – Absent
Cinnaminson Township – E. Schubiger
Eastampton, Township of – Absent
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Guttenberg, Town of – C. Cirillo
Hamilton Township – S. Gould
Harrison, Town of – Absent



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Jamesburg, Borough of – M. Capabianco
Kearny, Town of – G. King
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
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 – Absent
Union Township – Absent
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNDERWRITING & CLAIMS REPORT

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Jonathan Hall)**
 - **November 2025 Financial Overview & FastTrack** - The Executive Director reviewed the November 2025 financials and FastTrack performance indicators.
 - **Membership Update** - The Executive Director thanked those members who rejoined the Fund. He noted that over the past three years, seven of the ten highest loss-producing members have exited the Fund. The result is a much healthier Fund with significant expected claims savings. Commissioner Moehlman asked a series of questions related to the exited members, to which Mr. Hall provided answers.
 - **Supplemental Claims Assessment** - Based on the most recent actuarial analysis completed by Milliman through June 30, 2025, the Fund Administrator continues to recommend an increase to the Supplemental Assessment. Current members will continue to follow the installment plan with no planned acceleration of collections in 2026. The Executive Director has distributed installment schedules to each member, showing the flat installments for years 2026 through 2034. Commissioner Moehlman asked a series of questions about the revised installment plan with no acceleration, to which Mr. Hall explained the impact of cash flow improvements, thereby eliminating the need for such measures at this time. Commissioners Krane and Shubiger expressed concern about former members not paying their past-due obligations, to which Mr. Bonanno explained the efforts to date to secure collections, including regulatory reporting. Mr. Bonanno committed to providing a collections agreement and plan to the Fund’s Executive Committee.
 - **Year-End Actuarial Report Status** - The Administrator’s office has compiled the Loss Data as of December 31, 2025, and has transmitted the data to the Fund Actuary. Once data reconciliation is complete, we anticipate a first draft report within four to six weeks. Commissioner Moehlman also asked about the impact of the 2025 year-end reserve study, to which Mr. Hall reminded that the first draft of the study had not yet been received.



- **Indemnity & Trust Agreements for 2026** - The Administrator's office requests that renewing members please return the Indemnity & Trust Agreements as soon as they are executed.
- **Risk Manager & Services Provider Agreements for 2026** - The Administrator's office requests that all Risk Managers and Service Providers send copies of the fully executed agreements as soon as practicable. As a reminder, service providers cannot be paid by the Fund until the Fund receives the agreements.
- **TREASURERS REPORT (Patrick DeBlasio)**
 - **Treasury Report as of December 31, 2025** - The Treasurer presented the year-end financial position. All Bills have been paid, and our cash balance is secure.
 - **Investment Overview** - A summary of fund investments and performance was provided.
 - **Cashflow Projections** - Cashflow estimates for upcoming months were reviewed.
- **CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REPORT (Brian LaJoie)**
 - **November 2025 Claims KPI Report** –The November 2025 claims Key Performance Indicators. During this period, 148 new claims were reported and 204 claims were closed, resulting in a closing ratio in excess of 130%. The GSMJIF's total claim inventory is approximately 1,790 claims, consisting of roughly 700 liability claims and 1,100 workers' compensation claims. Year-to-date subrogation recoveries total \$1.6 million. In reviewing claim frequency trends, the Fund experienced a peak of 98 claims per member in 2021, followed by a steady decline through 2024 to 73 claims per member. While the 2025 year-end study is not yet complete, this downward trend in claims per member is expected to continue. Although claim frequency has declined, claim severity has increased consistently on a year-over-year basis since 2020. The average cost per claim rose from approximately \$7,800 in 2020 to \$13,200 in 2024, reflecting continued upward pressure on claim severity.
- **RISK CONTROL REPORT (Anthony Ven Graitis)**
 - **Safety Monthly Meeting Recap** – Mr. Ven Graitis provided a recap of the Fund Safety Committee, held on Thursday, January 21.
 - **No Accidents Today No Accidents Today!** – (GSMJIF) - No Accidents Today is more than just a fleeting trend—it's a philosophy and a way of life. Grounded in science and supported by extensive literature, it emphasizes the power of positive affirmations to drive behavioral change. The ultimate goal? To create a workplace where every employee returns home safely at the end of each day. The number of members eligible for awards as of 11/30/25 are Workers' Compensation: 9, Auto Liability and Physical Damage: 13, General Liability: 12, and Property: 9.
 - **Action Plans for 2026** – As a part of No Accidents Today, Action Plans for 2026 will be focused on improving safety and loss performance for each line of coverage by member, with 3-5 recommendations on risk interventions to address identified hazards. New and intuitive methods of sharing loss data will be shared at local meetings with members and in the aggregate for Fund Commissioners and other stakeholders.



- **Tailored Risk and Safety Interventions** – Efforts in 2026 will include a telematics pilot program, workplace impairment training, and a focus on PEOSH required programs.
- **UNDERWRITING REPORT (Robert Smith)**
 - **Renewal Summaries** – Renewal summaries are currently being prepared by the Underwriting team and are expected to be distributed within the next few weeks. Please coordinate with your risk managers to schedule time to review these important coverage documents once they are released.
 - **Member Portal** – The Member Portal is now open again and available for member viewing, with editing access restored for risk managers. We ask that it be reviewed regularly and updated promptly as vehicles are purchased or sold. Maintaining accurate and current information will help eliminate confusion, ensure coverage accuracy, and support a smoother budgeting and renewal process.
 - **Schedules** – BGIA will be presenting a State of the Industry overview along with a renewal wrap-up discussion at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Palazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:26pm and Commissioner Schubiger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by M. Delgado

M. Delgado

J. Hall

ALSO, PRESENT in PERSON:

M. Delgado
D. Springer
S. Edwards
P. DeBlasio
J. Hall
E. Bonano
M. Sweisfort
K. Larkin
L. Hamm



L. Klein
D. Balken
A. Ven Graitis
Alex Villar
E. Morrett
K. Mitchell
B. Hanigan
K. Bunin
E. Altamura
J. Drake
J. Leahy
K. Guze
L. D'Alessio
A. Pieroni
L. Gallo
R. Smith
J. Brown
V. Peluso
B. Cuccaro
J. Edmondson
J. Solomon
J. Cottell
B. LaJoie

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

A. Arevalo
A. Best
B. Ergoz
C. Clinton
C. Karp
D. Amado
D. Borden
D. Pursell
J. Brown
J. Hall
J. McCoy
J. Ramundt
K. Cavanaugh
K. Skeba
K. Waters
L. Alamo
M. Markulec
N. Hydock



R. Aldulaimi
R. Hope
R. Nelms
R. Persico
R. Racioppi
R. Smith
R. Walker
S. Oppegaard
S. Edwards
T. Merchel
W. Robinson