GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2026
Via – MS Teams
FOR PUBLIC ONLY 609-246-5765; Passcode 421 036 128#

THE MEETING OF THE GARDEN STATE MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:02 AM.

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 – 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 – J. Moehlman
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 – Absent
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
Monroe Township – K. McGowan
Montclair Township – S. Marks
Neptune, Township of – Absent
New Providence, Borough of – B. Cuccaro
North Bergen, Township of – Absent
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – D. Nunes
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

APPROVAL OF 4/22/2026 MINUTES

MOTION: Commrs: Mark
SECOND: Commrs: Palazzo
ABSTAIN: Commrs.

MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS

MOTION: Commrs. Marks
SECOND: Commrs. McGowan
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

- Township of Monroe – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- Borough of Caldwell – POL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Borough of Highland Park – WC – Granted Settlement Authority
- City of Englewood – POL Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Ewing – WC Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Guttenberg – EPL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Monroe – EPL - Granted Settlement Authority
- Town of North Bergen – BI - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of West Orange – BI - Granted Settlement Authority
- Township of Morristown – EPL - Granted Settlement Authority

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS & CLAIMS REPORT

- ***Resolution 20-26 –** Approving Certain Disbursements - $2,865,497.82
- ***Resolution 21-26 –** Approving Claims Payments – $4,687,839
- ***Approving Claims Committee Report and Requests for Settlement Authorization**

MOTION: Commrs: Palazzo
SECOND: Commrs: McGowan
ABSTAIN: Commrs:

VOTE:
AYE:

Aberdeen, Township of – B. Russell
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 – J. Moehlman
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 – Absent
Lawrence, Township of – G. Whitehead
Linden, City of – W. Hasko
Monroe Township – K. McGowan
Montclair Township – S. Marks
Neptune, Township of – Absent
New Providence, Borough of – B. Cuccaro
North Bergen, Township of – Absent
North Plainfield, Borough of – A. Domizi
Union Township – D. Nunes
Warren, Township of – M. Krane

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

- **SPECIAL PRESENTATION (Stephen DiCenso, Milliman)**
  Year-End Actuarial Report Discussion - Mr. DiCenso reported that Workers' Compensation losses emerged materially higher than expected across both the JIF and excess layers, with development spanning accident years 2017–2025. Other lines showed favorable emergence, but WC severity and trend assumptions continue to rise, driving higher projected loss rates. The actuaries noted that adjustments to the retention structure and a targeted focus on WC loss drivers may be needed to counteract these trends.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Jonathan Hall)**
  March 2026 Financial Overview & FastTrack - The revised supplemental assessment adopted in March reduced the net deficit by $25.4 million, significantly improving the Fund's financial position. As of March 31, 2026, the net deficit stands at $2.4 million, reflecting the impact of the supplemental assessment and early-year claims activity. Fund Year 2026 projections will continue to rely on actuarial pricing assumptions until the June 30 mid-year analysis is completed.
- **Year-End Financial Audit Status -** The audit for the period ending December 31, 2025 is progressing on schedule toward the June 30 regulatory deadline. Members and service providers were reminded to respond promptly to auditor requests to avoid delays.
- **Service Provider Agreements for 2026 -** The Administrator reiterated the need for all Risk Managers and Service Providers to submit fully executed 2026 agreements. Payments cannot be issued until the Fund receives these documents, and several remain outstanding.

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

- **Treasury Report -** All bills have been paid, and the Fund ended April with an operating cash balance of $26.1 million. Cash flow remains stable, with receipts and disbursements tracking expected seasonal patterns.
- **Accounts Receivable -** As of April 30, 2026, current members owe $22.4 million in regular assessments and $1.4 million in SIRs, deductibles, and coinsurance. Of this amount, $0.9 million is over 90 days past due. Former member balances a total of $4.8 million, primarily supplemental assessments, with a significant portion aging beyond 90 days. Mr. Hall and Mr. Bonanno provided an update on discussions with former members to secure payment of past due amounts. Several Commissioners requested that Mr. Bonanno present, at the Executive Committee's next meeting and at the Board of Fund Commissioners' closed session at the June meeting, recommendations and an assessment of the feasibility of pursuing litigation against former members who have heretofore refused to make timely payments.
- **Cash Flow Projections -** Operating cash is projected to remain above the $8 million threshold, equivalent to two months of claims payments, with balances expected to reach $9.9M in May, $18.2M in June, and $14.6M in July. These projections reflect anticipated assessment inflows and normal claims activity.

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REPORT – B. LaJoie – NIP Management Services

- **Claims KPI Report for March 2026 – Brian** presented the monthly KPIs, noting that overall claim performance continues to reflect improving operational efficiency. During the month, claim closures (247) exceeded new claim reports (226), resulting in a modest reduction in overall inventory. While the total number of open claims remains elevated at 1,875, recent trends suggest stabilization following a period of sustained growth.

  The claim portfolio remains heavily concentrated in Workers' Compensation, which accounts for 65.3% of all open claims and continues to be the primary driver of overall exposure. General Liability and Automobile claims represent the next largest categories. From a financial perspective, subrogation efforts generated approximately $0.4 million in recoveries, helping to offset claim costs and improve overall program performance.

  Brian also highlighted a recent favorable employment-related court ruling, emphasizing the importance of thorough documentation, legitimate business justification, and evidence-based decision-making. The ruling reinforces effective defenses to claims brought under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD) and the Conscientious Employee Protection Act (CEPA), while underscoring the value of proactive risk management and sound employment practices.

RISK CONTROL REPORT – K. Skeba – NIP Management

- **Safety Monthly Meeting Recap –**
- **NAT Review-** A generalized overview of how members were progressing was provided. Each applicable line of coverage was compared using last year's loss data vs this year's. Who currently qualifies for awards was also discussed**.**
- **Risk Management Event Schedule Review – Dates for training,** Tree Care Safety Seminar- May 20th, 10 AM, Hamilton Township, Distracted Driving Awareness Challenge (April 1 to April 30), Safety Webinar: RTK Survey & Reporting (May 14th), OPRA for Professionals (April 30th, Ocean County Police Academy).
- **Summer Camp Orientation Discussion –** Online course offerings were reviewed. It was also stated that live training could be provided upon request.
- **Safety Webinar Recap will be provided (Completing your Right to Know Survey) –**was provided (Completing your Right to Know Survey). Steps to successfully complete a right-to-know survey were summarized.
- **Safety Short recap will be provided (Revive Your Safety Committee) –** recap was provided (How to Revive Your Safety Committee. Strategies to freshen up your safety committee were briefly reviewed.

UNDERWRITING REPORT – R. Smith - NIP Management Services

- **2027 Excess Renewal Preparation -** We have begun early discussions with our excess market partners and are evaluating market conditions, underwriting trends, and renewal expectations. In-person meetings with our excess property, liability, and workers' compensation partners are scheduled to help position the Fund for a successful 2027 renewal.

- **2027 Property Audit Preparation Initiative -** The underwriting department is partnering with our excess property carriers to begin preparing for the 2027 property audit. Our goal is to identify valuation concerns and schedule discrepancies early, giving members and Risk Manager Consultants time to address issues before renewal.
- **Current Underwriting Review Process -** The underwriting team is reviewing property schedules, valuations, and COPE data to identify locations that fall outside expected ranges. Any concerns identified by underwriting or our excess property partners will be reviewed directly with members and Risk Manager Consultants.
- **Member Outreach & Next Steps -** Over the coming weeks, underwriting will reach out regarding locations requiring additional review or clarification. This process will focus on validating property information and ensuring reported values accurately reflect exposures to avoid potential underinsurance.
- **Member Portal Enhancements & Feedback Initiative -** We continue to enhance the Member Portal by improving usability, streamlining renewal workflows, and expanding reporting capabilities. Member feedback remains critical to ensuring the portal evolves into a more valuable resource for day-to-day operations and renewal management.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Russell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 AM, and Commissioner Marks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by M. Delgado

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M. Delgado

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B. Russell

ALSO, PRESENT in PERSON:

M. Bubka
K. Mitchell
V. Peluso

K. Skeba
A. Villari
J. Pressley
S. DiCenso
J. Hall
E. Bonanno
B. LaJoie
M. Delgado
D. Springer
R. Persico
R. Nelms
L. Gallo
J. Brown
J. Solomon
K. Waters
E. Altamura
L. Hamm
D. Balken
A. Pieroni

PRESENT over 40 minutes
VIA MS TEAMS:

XXX-XXX-8676
A. Arevalo
A. Best
B. Ergoz
B. Hanigan
G. Crosby
J. Brown
J. McCoy
J. Ramundt
J. Razzano
L. Klein
M. Markulec
R. Parisi
R. Aldulaimi
R. Hope
R. Racioppi
S. Backe
S. Edwards
S. Gould
S. Kemp
S. Oppegaard

T. Merchel