# ATLANTIC COUNTY INSURANCE COMMISSION OPEN MINUTES

## MEETING – May 14, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. MEETING HELD TELEPHONICALLY via ZOOM

In consideration of Executive Order No. 103 declaring a

Public Health Emergency in the State of New Jersey which was extended by Executive Orders 119, 138, 151, 162, 171, 180, 186, 200, 210, 215, 222, 231, and 235.

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Woods. Open Public Meetings notice read into record.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### **ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Jacqueline Woods Present
Tammi Robbins Present
Janette Kessler Present
Joseph Giralo Absent
Michael Fedorko Present

# **FUND PROFESSIONALS PRESENT:**

Executive Director PERMA Risk Management Services Brad Stokes

Claims Administrator Qual-Lynx

Karen Beatty Kathy Kissane

PERMA Claims
Jennifer Conicella
Brandon Tracy

CEL Underwriting Manager Conner Strong & Buckelew

**Ed Coonev** 

Jonathan Tavares

Attorney James F. Ferguson

Treasurer Bonnie Lindaw

Safety Director J.A. Montgomery Risk Control

**Glenn Prince** 

Jonathan Czarnecki

Risk Management Consultant Brown & Brown Insurance

**Bob Gemmell** 

#### ALSO PRESENT:

Rachel Chwastek, PERMA Risk Management Services James Dugan, Atlantic County

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OPEN MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2021.

### MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2021.

Motion: Commissioner Kessler Second: Commissioner Fedorko

Vote: 4 Ayes

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

Brad Stokes provided the Executive Director's report.

The amendment to the 2021 Plan of Risk Management was tabled last month for approving the increases for the self-insured retentions of POL/EPL coverage and equipment breakdown. After discussion, it was agreed for the current year the Commission entities would remain at the previous set deductibles and the Commission would cover the increase. Changes appear in appendix 2.

Ed Cooney recommended removing the cyber limits which previously appeared in the plan. Mr. Cooney explained there was an interview of a hacker and the hacker said he specifically targets insurance companies and insurance information because it is almost a guaranteed payout. In trying to be proactive, he believed it was a good idea to remove the cyber coverage information from the risk management plan. If the information is needed it can be provided upon request.

# MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 14-21 AMENDING THE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Motion: Commissioner Fedorko Second: Commissioner Woods

Vote: 4 Ayes

**CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE:** There were 31 certificates issued from March 1, 2021 through May 1, 2021.

#### MOTION TO APPROVE THE CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE REPORT.

Motion: Commissioner Kessler Second: Commissioner Robbins

Vote: 4 Ayes

The CEL finance subcommittee met on April 9, 2021 and discussed the budget delta that has developed in the CEL budget. The CEL also met on April 22, 2021 and reviewed the finance subcommittee's recommendation to declare an additional assessment for the premium portion of that delta in the amount of \$609,000. This will be an added assessment to the Commission entities. The Commission's share of the premium is about \$62,000 and will be billed after November. The next CEL meeting is on June 24, 2021 via Zoom.

The financial fast track report for the Commission shows that as of February 28, 2021 the surplus is \$5.2 million, an increase from the prior month. Cash on hand is over \$7.8 million.

The CEL's financial fast track report shows that as of February 28, 2021 the surplus is over \$15.3 million with over \$19 million in cash on hand.

The claims activity report shows that for February to March there were 18 more open claims from the prior month. 15 were workers' comp claims.

The MEL and the CEL educational seminar was held prior to this meeting and was very successful with over 200 people in attendance. All the speakers were well prepared and delivered very relevant information.

Property appraisals are coming up. Please submit your lists of properties soon. We are going into our sixth year of this process. Commissioner Kessler asked whether some of the properties that were assessed six years ago should now be reassessed. Brad indicated that is a good time frame to re-evaluate those properties. The costs for replacing and building items has been increasing.

Ed Cooney commented that once Origami is released to collect renewal information, there will be some more items to collect. We have been collecting building and structure information from the yearly appraisals, so we are ahead there. A new requirement is to provide the most recent inspection reports on all bridges and dams. This information can be provided by your engineers. The cyber task force is meeting on May 17, 2021 and will establish the cyber frame work for all the counties to utilize. He encourages technology specialists to attend.

There are a couple of resources offered by CHUBB, there are free trainings for public officials and a hot line to call for any questions.

We do not meet in June. The next meeting is on July 9, 2021. Mr. Stokes will be in touch with the Commissioners and professionals about when we can meet in person again. Jim Ferguson suggested perhaps we hold that meeting live. Commissioners Kessler and Fedorko support that idea.

#### **CLAIMS SERVICES:**

Jennifer Conicella provided the report. The Claims Committee met prior to this meeting. She has nothing else to report.

### **TREASURER:**

Bonnie Lindaw provided the monthly report. Resolution 16-21 is the May Bills List. Payments include the quarterly payments to the professionals and are in the amount of \$191,724 from fund year 2021.

There is no banking report for this meeting. One of the bank statements had not been received so the reports were not completed. Ms. Lindaw requested clarification on the budget delta and the financial fast track reports. With regard to the budget delta shortfall of \$609,000, if the CEL has a surplus of \$15 million, was consideration given to taking money out of the surplus to pay the shortfall? Mr. Stokes explained that was discussed and the CEL issued a \$1.5 million surplus just prior to this and while giving a dividend does help, we still have to make up for the delta. The finance subcommittee recommended that since we are aware of a delta it would be best to at least take action on the premium due rather than take no action. Two years ago there was a \$1 million delta and the CEL absorbed it. Mr. Stokes commented that if an entity could not make that payment due to budgeting, payment could be deferred to next year.

Ed Cooney also commented that with regard to the surplus, they go through best standards when using surplus, and not all \$15 million is usable when applying those standards. Commissioner Kessler asked if

there is a requirement as to how much you have to have as a statutory surplus. Mr. Cooney explained there are different requirements based upon history, predictive analytics, etc. Generally the previous five years are accessible in surplus. A certain portion of those years can be used for dividends. The calculation worksheet is submitted to the state seeking BCA approval every time they access the surplus.

#### MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 16-21 THE MAY BILLS LIST.

Motion: Commissioner Robbins Second: Commissioner Fedorko

Vote: 4 Ayes

#### CEL SAFETY DIRECTOR – JA MONTGOMERY RISK CONTROL:

Jonathan Czarnecki of JA Montgomery presented the safety report for April and May. He encouraged everyone to review the instructor lead training sheet for any classes of interest. The safety committee last met on March 11, 2021 and the next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. The agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting. If any Commissioners have any items they would like to add to the agenda, feel free to contact Glenn Prince.

## MANAGED CARE - QUAL-LYNX:

Karen Beatty presented the claims services report. The cumulative savings report reflects savings of 64% so far this year which she attributes to 98% of the care being in network. The intake reporting shows so far this year there are 94 claims, 17 indemnity, 64 medical only, and 13 lost time. There were 10 COVID-19 claims.

## **CLAIMS SERVICES – QUAL-LYNX:**

Kathy Kissane reported the Claims Committee met prior to the Commission meeting and reviewed 14 PARS. The PARS were recommended for approval by the Committee. Unless there are any other questions which would require a closed session, she requests a motion for approval of the PARS as reviewed and recommended by the Claims Committee.

# MOTION TO APPROVE THE 14 PARS AS REVIEWED AND APPROVED DURING THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 14, 2021.

Motion: Commissioner Kessler Second: Commissioner Robbins

Vote: 4 Ayes

#### **RISK MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Bob Gemmell provided the Risk Manager's report. The report covers all risk management actions completed in the past couple of months, including claims review, loss control and safety visits, and insurance requirement reviews. If anyone has any questions they are encouraged to contact him.

OLD BUSINESS: None. NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Commissioner Woods opened the meeting to public comment. Having heard no public comment the public session is closed. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2021 at 11:00 A.M. via Zoom.

# MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Motion: Commissioner Robbins Second: Commissioner Fedorko

Vote: 4 Ayes

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:24 P.M.** 

Minutes prepared by: Chandra Anderson, Secretary