



**REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2015**

A Regular Board meeting of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 12:00 P.M., in the NJSEA Executive Offices in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

**Members in Attendance:**

Mike Ferguson, Chairman  
Joseph Buckelew, Vice Chairman  
Wayne Hasenbalg, Esq., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Steve Petrecca, NJ State Treasurer's Representative  
Richard Constable, Hackensack Meadowlands Commission Representative  
Armando Fontoura, Member  
Michael H. Glück, Esq., Member (present for start of meeting, telephonic participation for remainder)  
George Kolber, Member (telephonic participation)  
Steven Plofker, Member  
Andrew Scala, Member  
Anthony Scardino, Member (telephonic participation)  
Robert Yudin, Member  
John Ballantyne, Member  
LeRoy Jones, Member (telephonic participation)  
Michael Neglia, Member

**Members Absent:**

**Also Attending:**

Giuseppina Coppa, Vice President IT  
John Duffy, Vice President Engineering, Construction and Regulatory Affairs  
Amy Herbold, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit  
Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Esq. Sr. Vice President Legal and Governmental Affairs  
Jim Minish, Executive Vice President Facilities  
Lennon Register, Sr. Vice President Finance, CFO  
Helen Strus, Sr. Vice President Sales and Marketing  
Robert Weakley, Sr. Vice President Human Resources/Labor Relations  
George Zahn, Vice President Purchasing and Risk Management

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 12:21 P.M.

Chairman Ferguson stated that the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority gave notice of the time, place, and date of this meeting by providing such notice to the Secretary of State for the State of New Jersey, The Star-Ledger, The Record, and other newspapers and by posting the notice at the offices of the Authority.

I. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Ferguson presented the minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 20, 2014.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Plofker and seconded by Commissioner Yudin, the minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 20, 2014, were approved by a vote of 15-0.

II. **APPROVALS**

1. **Approval of Cash Disbursements Over \$100,000 and Professional Invoices**

Chairman Ferguson presented the report of cash disbursements over \$100,000 and Professional Invoices for the month of November, 2014.

Upon motion by Commissioner Scala and seconded by Commissioner Yudin, the cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of November 2014, and the professional invoices for the month of November were approved subject to the following recusals:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Recused as to</u>
Commissioner Fontoura	Connell Foley

Chairman Ferguson presented the report of cash disbursements over \$100,000 and Professional Invoices for the month of December, 2014.

Upon motion by Commissioner Plofker and seconded by Commissioner Scardino, the cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of December 2014, and the professional invoices for the month of December were approved subject to the following recusals:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Recused as to</u>
Chairman Ferguson	PSE&G
Commissioner Jones	PSE&G

III. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Review of Engineering Projects at the Meadowlands Sports Complex and Monmouth Park Racetrack**

Commissioner Neglia advised the members that there will be no action from the Board this month.

2. **Approval of Construction Committee Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2014**

Chairman Ferguson presented the minutes of the Construction Committee meeting held on December 8, 2014.

Upon motion by Commissioner Neglia and seconded by Commissioner Buckelew, the Construction Committee meeting minutes of December 8, 2014, were approved by a vote of 15-0.

**Approval of Construction Committee Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2014**

Chairman Ferguson presented the minutes of the Construction Committee meeting held on January 6, 2015.

Upon motion by Commissioner Neglia and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura, the Construction Committee meeting minutes of January 6, 2015, were approved by a vote of 15-0.

IV. **Awards and Contracts**

**1. RESOLUTION JANUARY 2015  
AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF  
LIABILITY & AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE**

Upon motion by Commissioner Buckelew and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura,

**RESOLUTION JANUARY 2015  
AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF  
LIABILITY & AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE**

**Was approved by a vote of 15-0**

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Ferguson stated that the Board will take action on Resolution 1 and Resolution 2 will be voted on after closed session. He then opened the floor to public comments, which are excerpted below:

Senator Sarlo commented: "We are counting on the Board members to make the right decisions. As Chairman of the budget committee, I understand the economic transformation over the years. What I do not understand is that we have an asset here that is worth something, not only to the State but to Bergen County. Why would you want to close the doors? Why would you want to shut it down for two years? IZOD has some of the best employees in the business." Senator Sarlo also questioned as to whether or not there was a discussion regarding other facilities to take over IZOD.

Chairman Ferguson briefly stated that there has been no decision about giving the building to anyone. Closing IZOD Center is strictly financial.

Senator Weinberg commented: "How can this be a good business decision? It can't be. I am also speaking on behalf of James Tedesco, who could not be here today because he was not given adequate notice that this was even being done today." She expressed her disappointment in the way that this is being handled and continued that "the agenda item 'consideration of agreements' in no way means take a vote of closing the IZOD Center. This is a complete travesty." She stated that she will be putting together an OPRA request that asks for all information, notes, etc., regarding any discussion on this matter. She pleaded with the Board to not do this without examining all alternatives.

Mayor James Cassella, East Rutherford- "Closing it and to let it sit here for two years is not a wise decision. I do not want to rehash a lot of the other comments but my main concern is the economics in Bergen County. This will put more people out of work. I am fully with those who think this decision needs to be slowed down. I am asking that this is looked at more realistically."

Jim Kirkos, Meadowlands Regional Chamber- "This is an extremely difficult day. Not only are the employees affected by this decision but the Bergen County economy will be as well. The Hilton is concerned about losing rooms they have already booked for events such as WWE Summer Slam. There needs to be a plan or a vision on how to keep this Complex running." Mr. Kirkos presented the members with a plan.

Kevin O' Brien, President, Local 632- " I want to know why and RFP has not been put out for this building. I know for a fact that there are certain events that will not be going to Newark because they will be leaving the State. We will lose Summer Slam and WrestleMania. I am here today on behalf of Angie Lenge, who is the widow of Steve Lenge, Ms. Lenge is now a member of our Union, I am fighting for her. Please do not shut this building down."

Joe Villani- Local 632- "We were told bigger and better things were to come. We all believed it until about a year ago. Now we are all sitting here contemplating unemployment. We're being asked to abandon ship. Please give this building a fighting chance."

Barbra, Local 100, Food Services- "A couple of years ago, our contract wages were frozen just to keep IZOD open. I am asking that you please consider these people when making the final decision."

Bob Glazer, Garfield, NJ- " To close this building and not have a plan, reminds me of Xanadu. Those buildings have been vacant for so many years, because they have been vacant there is so much damage to the buildings. How much money was lost because of that? The same thing will happen to IZOD. Keeping this building open is the best thing to do, shutting it down for two years does not benefit anyone.

Stacy, Local 100- "I started 21 years ago, the Arena has become a part of my life. IZOD Center was number 1 years ago until other Arenas came into this area. The workers here built this Arena; and it hurts to see all the smiles around the board table. How can you take this away from us? How can you take our benefits away? We can and we will make it successful once again. Please think before you make this decision."

Senator Weinberg read an e-mail message on behalf of Mr. Tedesco.

Sen. Weinberg also stated that she is still confused about the figures. She asked the Board to hold off on the decision until it can go out for an RFP.

## VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

### Resolution Authorizing the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to Conduct a Meeting to Which the General Public Shall Not Be Admitted

Chairman Ferguson stated a need for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters and litigation matters.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Plofker, and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura,

#### RESOLUTION 2015- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NJSEA TO ENTER INTO A MEETING TO WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHALL NOT BE ADMITTED

was approved by a vote of 15-0.

Executive Session commenced at 1:15 p.m.  
Public Session resumed at 2:56 p.m.

was approved by a vote of 15-0.

## **VII. AWARDS AND CONTRACTS**

Chairman Ferguson made a motion to discuss:

### **RESOLUTION 2015- [02]** **RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF** **CERTAIN SERVICES TO METLIFE STADIUM**

Commissioner Fontoura seconded the motion.

Mr. Marra presented the resolution to the members and a discussion among the members ensued.

### **RESOLUTION 2015- [02]** **RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF** **CERTAIN SERVICES TO METLIFE STADIUM**

Was approved by a vote of 13-0 subject to the following recusals, which recusals were related to their positions as union officials:

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Ballentyne  
Commissioner Scala

Chairman Ferguson made a motion to discuss:

### **RESOLUTION 2015- [01]** **RESOLUTION RELATING TO ARENA OPERATIONS**

Commissioner Fontoura seconded the motion.

Mr. Marra presented the resolution to the members and a discussion among the members ensued.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to table this resolution, which had no seconds.

## **Public Comments**

The Chairman opened the meeting to further public comments, which are excerpted below:

Sen. Weinberg thanked Commissioner Jones for saying no to this resolution. She addressed the Chairman and Commissioner Yudin by stating that closing the IZOD Center is not an option; Commissioner Yudin knows the significance the IZOD Center brings to Bergen County.

Joe Villani stated that he is appreciative for the Job Fair that the Prudential Center will host; he asked the Board members to be leaders and not followers.

Mayor Cassella- "We still have to pay for the Wildwood Convention Center, Atlantic City Convention Center, the Camden Aquarium, Rutgers Stadium... Closing IZOD is extremely hurtful to Bergen County."

Barbra, Local 100- "Nassau Coliseum will remain open, Madison Square Garden remained open during construction, when IZOD closes for two years, will the Board be willing to rehire all of the workers that will be laid off?"

Billy Thompson- "The Prudential Center is not going to hire us, they are already fully staffed. Why do we keep giving things away? I cannot see that you are fighting for us."

Mark Fastuca- " If you close this building, there is no plan. Every single one of you have failed us. You failed to take responsibility for this and that is giving up."

After all comments from the public were heard, all Commissioners were given an opportunity to be heard and extensive discussion and comments ensued.

Chairman Ferguson addressed the room: "There is no easy way around the fact that this is an awful thing that needs to be done. I am pleased that so many people came out to this meeting. I have deep appreciation and respect for the work our employees do and I hope that does not get lost in all of this. Operating this Authority is not easy; easy solutions do not exist."

At the conclusion of the Commissioners' deliberations, Chairman Ferguson requested a motion to approve

**RESOLUTION 2015- [01]**  
**RESOLUTION RELATING TO ARENA OPERATIONS**

By a vote of 10-2 the resolution was approved subject to the following recusals, which recusals were related to their positions as union officials:

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner Ballentyne  
Commissioner Scala

**Chairman Ferguson requested a motion to conclude the meeting. Upon motion made by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Commissioner Plofker, the public meeting was adjourned by a vote of 14-0 at 3:56 p.m.**

**I certify that this is a true and accurate transcript of the Regular Session Minutes of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority Board meeting of January 15, 2015.**

  
Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Esq.  
Assistant Secretary