



City of Middletown

**SANITARY DISPOSAL DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES REVISED**

Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Time: 4:34 PM

**Members Present:** John Porter, Commissioner  
Stephan Allison, Commissioner  
Edward McKeon, Commissioner  
Jen Kleindienst, Commissioner

**Staff Present:** Rohan Manning, Chief Management Analyst of Public Works  
Lisa Liesener, Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator  
Brian Gartner, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works  
Bobby Russo, Acting Public Works Director  
Jeanette Blackwell, President of the Common Council

- 1. Chair opens meeting:** Call to order at 4:34 PM by John Porter
- 2. Review of January 6, 2026, meeting minutes:** Edward McKeon moved to accept the minutes and seconded by Stephan Allison with typo corrections.  
Lorraine Panciera resigned to the commission and the Mayor's Office has to point somebody to replace her.
- 3. Outcome of public works & common counsel submission/adoption of resolution:** Ed McKeon explained that at the public works meeting, a single resolution was presented and voted to move forward unanimously, but the resolution from a legal standpoint has to be split. The Common Council cannot vote on contracts embedded in a single resolution, so it had to be split. He thinks that this commission was informed of that shortly from the common council meeting. Unfortunately, in the Finance and Governance meeting they passed the trash resolution forward but rejected the organic waste. For Ed McKeon it sounded as if it was implied that the cost of the organics pick up was going to cost taxpayers money in order to implement the program in addition of the \$240 that is being paid every 6 months in the Sanitation District.  
Brian Gartner talked about The Housing Authority multiple agreements since 1940, the city provides certain kind of service to them, and it is not limited to sanitation. Our staff had been working with The Housing Authority to come up with a more equitable solution for the city, which means that we are going to receive some additional revenue if the agreement goes through and it is going to be presented to The Common Council for their review and approval.  
The discussion of funding for the organics program, Ed McKeon mentioned the enterprise fund we have, Lisa Liesener mentioned funds we have from the small bottles fund and talked

about other options we may have for the organics collection. Brian Gartner advised that even though we have the enterprise funds using them to cover the cost of the sanitation district residents would be similar to what is happening currently with The Housing Authority, where the rest of the taxpayers are making up for it.

Ed McKeon asked who pays for the food scrap program for the restaurants. This was answered by Lisa and Rohan, they explained that the cost is shared between the City General Budget and the Sanitation Budget.

Ed McKeon also asked who pays for the commercial dumpsters. Rohan answered that they are paid through direct billing. The fee increase enacted recently was intended to close the funding gap and bring rates closer to commercial rates.

Rohan Manning clear up that the sanitation bill won't increase for residents of the sanitation district, the increment cost is to the sanitation budget not to the residents and the program would be opt in or opt out for the residents from the sanitation district.

There are different concerns across the board like losing momentum from people who are already use to separate their food scraps and having and the capacity and plan in place how to execute this properly, also as one of the challenges faced during the SAYT program was communication we would like to avoid the same mistake with future program we put in place.

John Porter asked Lisa to continue with her research to bring more information and keep this topic in the agenda. Lisa is requesting two weeks noticed for what this commission may need for the following meetings and please to send the invitation to the meetings so she knows in advance she should be present.

John Porter made a motion to wait until the commission gets more information on how to implement an organics collection program.

- 4. Review of termination of SAYT Program-continued bag availability:** John Porter went to stores and saw that there are stores that have bags still in stock. Lisa talked to WasteZero and she was told back in December that they were going to collect all the bags from the stores and take care of the balance in their accounts.
- 5. Receivables from DEEP – status:** We are currently waiting for three payments, one for the final subsidy reimbursement of \$78821.00, the others are for \$95000 of shortfall subsidy and a \$75000 that are under review if they give it to us or not.  
Additionally, there is a reimbursement for \$73000.00, which Lisa checked with our finance department about it and apparently was processed by DEEP but has not been received by the city yet.
- 6. Status of implementation of RFP bids/vendors:** This was already addressed earlier in the meeting within the number 3 topic of today's agenda.
- 7. Review of 2026 Budget:** This commission doesn't had a budget to talk about.
- 8. Discussion regarding implementation of city-wide organics collection implementation:** This commission doesn't had a budget to talk about.
- 9. Adjournment:** Stephan Allison made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ed McKeon. The motion carried.