

**NEW JERSEY COUNTIES EXCESS JOINT INSURANCE FUND
OPEN MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
VIA TELECONFERENCE
10:30 AM**

MEETING OF THE FUND CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:30 A.M. BY ACTING CHAIRMAN SHEEHAN

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT READ INTO RECORD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BOARD OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

Ross Angilella, Chairman	Camden County	Absent
Tim Sheehan, Secretary	Gloucester County	Present
Janette Kessler, Commissioner	Atlantic County	Present
Ashley Buono, Commissioner	Burlington County	Present
Kevin Smaniotto, Commissioner	Cumberland County	Present
Frank Sadeghi, Commissioner	Ocean County	Absent
Edmund Shea, Commissioner	Hudson County	Present
Chris Marion, Commissioner	Mercer County	Present
Laura Scutari, Commissioner	Union County	Present
Teri O'Connor, Commissioner	Monmouth County	Absent

ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONERS

Anna Marie Wright	Camden County	Present
Michael Fiure	Ocean County	Present
Nicola Trasente	Mercer County	Absent
Eugenio Esquivel	Union County	Present
Theresa Vitale	Monmouth County	Absent

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director/Administrator	PERMA Risk Management Services Joseph Hrubash, Nancy A. Ghani, Brandon Tracy
	Perma Claims Robyn Walcoff, Kerin Drumheiser, Zareena Majeed, Shai McLeod
Attorney	Laura Paffenroth
Safety Director	JA Montgomery Risk Control Glenn Prince
Treasurer	David McPeak
Underwriting Manager	Conner Strong & Buckelew Edward Cooney, Jonathon Tavares
WC Claims Administrator	Claims Resolution Corporation Monette Galello, Lauren Joseph, Linda Tinsley-Page, Tracy Ware

ALSO PRESENT:

Stephen Peacock, Safety National
Edward Hill, Camden County Board of Social Services
Elaine Flacco, Camden County College
Toni DePaola, Ocean County
Bradford Stokes, PERMA
Pauline Kontomanolis, PERMA
Cathy Dodd, PERMA
Emalee Cronwell, PERMA
Jason Thorpe, PERMA
Karen Read, PERMA
Elisabeth Chipman, PERMA
Keith Humell, J.A. Montgomery Consulting – Law Enforcement
Natalie Dougherty, J.A. Montgomery Consulting
Thomas Merchel, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Jaclyn Lindsey, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Carole Mack, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Mary Anne Sander, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Justin Gallo, Scirocco Group
Christina Violetti, Hardenbergh Insurance Group
Peter Soriero, Allied Risk Management Services
Spiro Molfetas, Polaris Galaxy Group
Sean Obeirne, Alliant Americas
Robin Racioppi, North American Insurance Management
Kelly Guerriero, Inservco Insurance Services
Veronica George, Inservco Insurance Services
Prudence Higbee, Capehart & Scatchard

MINUTES: Open Minutes as of November 21, 2025 and January 6, 2026 were included in agenda and Closed Minutes as of November 21, 2025 and January 6, 2026, were distributed via email separately for review.

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN AND CLOSED MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2025 AND JANUARY 6, 2026 AND JANUARY 6, 2026 AS PRESENTED:

Moved: Commissioner Smaniotto
Second: Commissioner Kessler
All in favor: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

WELCOME: Executive Director welcomed Commissioner Frank Sadeghi who was named as Ocean County’s representative to the NJCE JIF Board in place of Commissioner John “Jack” Kelly for his time on the NJCE Board of Fund Commissioners and NJCE Finance Sub Committee.

2026 REORGANIZATION:

2026 CHAIR & SECRETARY NOMINATION: Executive Director said it would be appropriate to conduct nominations for Chair and Secretary as part of the reorganization process and adopt Resolution 4-26, enclosed in the agenda certifying the election. Commissioners Angilella and Sheehan served as the Chair and Secretary respectively for 2025 and have indicated their availability to serve again for this year. Executive Director asked the Board of Commissioners if there were any other nominations; there were

none. Fund Attorney requested the Commissioners to have their signed Oath of Office’s notarized at their respective County offices.

MOTION TO ELECT ROSS ANGILELLA AS CHAIR AND TIM SHEEHAN AS SECRETARY AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 4-26

Moved: Commissioner Shea
Second: Commissioner Kessler
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

Fund Attorney will administer a written oath separately to the Chairman and Secretary which will be filed with the minutes. Executive Director asked the Oath to be signed by the remainder of the Fund Commissioners of the NJCE Board of Fund Commissioners and returned to the Fund Office.

2026 REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS: Executive Director reviewed the resolutions in detail and requested amending resolution 8-26 to reflect the new meeting time and location recommended. Underwriting Manager confirmed the changes in the 2026 Plan of Risk Management are accurate.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 5-26 TO 16-26

Moved: Acting Chairman Sheehan
Second: Commissioner Shea
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

2026 RENEWAL WEBINAR: Executive Director said the NJCE Underwriting Manager held a webinar on Tuesday, February 24th at 11 a.m.; it was well attended and said a recording of the webinar will be posted to njce.org. A copy of the presentation was included in appendix II. Mr. Cooney said any questions can be directed to his team.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

NJCE CLAIMS REVIEW COMMITTEE: Executive Committee said the Claims Review Committee met prior to the Fund’s meeting and are recommending closed session to discuss several claims not discussed at the Claims Review Committee meeting. Closed Session will be entered at the appropriate time; enclosed in the agenda was a resolution authorizing closed session that will be acted upon at the appropriate time.

There were no questions and it would be appropriate to accept the Committee’s recommendations.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS.

Moved: Commissioner Kessler
Second: Commissioner Smaniotto
Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes – 0 Nays

BOWMAN & COMPANY, LLP: Executive Director said the Fund Office was informed that Bowman & Company, LLP announced they are joining PFK O’Connor Davies, a top-tier Accounting and Advisory practice. Included in the agenda was Resolution 17-26, authorizing the amendment of a motion made on October 23, 2025, appointing certain professionals for Fund Year 2026. This amendment was provided by the Fund Attorney and revises the motion to reflect PFK O’Connor Davies as the appointed firm for auditing services.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 17-26, AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND MOTION AUTHORIZED ON OCTOBER 23, 2025 APPOINTING CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS FOR FUND YEAR 2026

Moved: Commissioner Smaniotto
Second: Commissioner Kessler
All in favor: Unanimous

CLAIMS UPDATE:

FUNDING FOR PROPERTY CLAIMS ADJUSTING: Executive Director proposed a change, that was discussed with the Fund Chairperson, Secretary and Fund Attorney in advance of the meeting, in the funding for the property claims adjustment (not including Auto Physical Damage) which currently is handled from dollar one by Vanguard Claims Administrator. To keep financials separate for the underlying insurance commission and the County the local third-party administrator sets up separate files for the bill back system creating duplication.

To resolve this, the Fund Office is recommending that any funding by the underlying insurance commission in 2025 and 2026 be transferred to the County JIF and the County JIF will handle these claims from \$1. The Commission will be fully responsible for the funding thus resolving the issue of the duplication of claims records. Executive Director said the Fund Office will have reserves at the commission level and paid amounts. The actuary will review again to ensure the proper dollar amount is transferred to reflect what we think those claims are going to cost. Included in the agenda was a memorandum explaining the proposed change and reasoning further.

Fund Office will provide updates as this task progresses.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHANGE IN FUNDING FOR PROPERTY CLAIMS ADJUSTING (NOT INCLUDING AUTO PHYSICAL DAMAGE) TO ELIMINATE THE DUPLICATION OF THESE CLAIMS RECORDS THAT THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS TRANSFER THE LIABILITY OF THESE PROPERTY CLAIMS FROM THE LOCAL COMMISSION TO THE NJCE FOR FUND YEAR 2025 AND FUND YEAR 2026.

Moved: Acting Chairman Sheehan
Second: Commissioner Shea
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

RISK MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (RMIS) & THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS (TPA) DATA TRANSFERS: Executive Director said as authorized by the Board in June 2018, this office directly contracted with Origami Risk to provide NJCE members with an online RMIS platform. In addition to managing exposure data, Origami manages each member’s historical and current claims data, which is imported by the TPAs contracted by this JIF as well as the local Commission and stand-alone County members. This data is used by PERMA to generate financial and claims-related tracking reports.

There were two changes to TPAs – one at the NJCE level for Excess Property and one at the County level for Union County – resulting in additional fees to Origami to facilitate the transfer of claims data. The fee for each data transfer is estimated at \$19,750 or a total of \$39,500, which can be allocated against 2026 Miscellaneous Expense & Contingency line of the budget. This information is being provided for information only and no action is required currently.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION CORPORATION (CRC): The Board previously authorized the contract transfer of CRC to take over AmeriHealth’s TPA services effective September 1, 2024 with the data transition expected to be completed by August 2025. Initially, there were issues with the data transition between the two vendors as well as CRC importing data into Origami to produce tracking reports. Last summer, the Fund office set up bi-weekly meetings with Origami and CRC to address this issue, which was last reported to the Board in September 2025. As of early January, CRC and Origami resolved the issue committing dedicated staff to get this accomplished; the Fund Office will continue to monitor and provide any updates if needed.

2026 NJCE CLAIMS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Executive Director said PERMA Claims is finalizing the 2026 claims reporting requirements to distribute to Third-Party Administrators via email.

NJCE COMMITTEES:

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Safety Director said the committee last met on December 10, 2025, discussing many topics such as PEOSH most commonly cited citations, safety training and opportunities. Included in the agenda, as part of the Safety Director report, is a list of the current members. Please reach out to J.A. Montgomery for any committee membership changes. The Committee is scheduled to meet in 2026 as follows: *Monday, March 9th, Monday June 8th, Monday September 14th and Monday December 14th via Zoom at 10am.*

2026 SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM: In 2025, the excess carriers Safety National and Munich RE contributed a total grant in the amount of \$90,000 and the Board of Fund Commissioners authorized a “one-time” supplement in the amount of \$33,782.12 for a total Safety Grant of \$123,782.12.

Safety Director said the 2026 grant program will have contributions from Safety National, Munich RE, Old Republic and Metis in the amounts of \$100,000, \$17,000, \$6,000 and \$7,500, respectively, for a total grant amount of \$130,500. J.A. Montgomery provided a verbal recap of the 2025 successes and an update on the 2026 Grant Program. Executive Director said supplemental funding from NJCE may not be necessary for the 2026 grant, but J.A. Montgomery will keep the Fund Office updated on whether additional funding will be necessary. Included in the agenda was a memo from the Safety Director along with a list from Safety National on common purchases with the safety grant.

LANDFILL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Executive Director said based on the NJCE Board of Fund Commissioner’s request, Executive Director and Underwriting Manager are putting together a virtual round-table discussion with member Counties and other Counties in New Jersey that operate a landfill to brainstorm on best practices and potential legislation. An initial meeting has been scheduled for March 25th at 1pm.

APRIL MEETING: The Fund Office had secured a venue – Forsgate Country Club in Monroe, NJ - to hold the February Reorganization meeting scheduled for February 26th. Due to the inclement weather, Fund Office moved the February meeting to virtual. Fund Office suggests considering moving the in-person meeting to April 23rd at 11:00 AM; Claims Review Committee will meet at 10:30 AM.

MOTION TO CHANGE THE APRIL 23RD MEETING LOCATION TO FORSGATE COUNTRY CLUB AND MOVE THE MEETING TIME TO 10:30 AM

- Moved: Acting Chairman Sheehan
- Second: Commissioner Shea
- All in favor: Unanimous

DUE DILIGENCE REPORTS

FINANCIAL FAST TRACK: Included in the agenda was the Financial Fast Track as of December 31, 2025. Executive Director said the statutory surplus was \$18,861,922, which is an increase of \$6.8 million in 2025.

CLAIMS MANAGEMENT REPORT: Included in the agenda was the Expected Loss Ratio as of December 31, 2025 showing challenging times in 2021 and 2023.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST – AS OF 2/24/2026: Included in the agenda is a checklist that tracks contracts, compliance and other Fund business.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Deputy Executive Director reported on the following items:

MEMBERSHIP CHART: Included in the agenda was the NJCE JIF membership chart and there are no changes to 2026. Deputy Executive Director said there were no changes in membership.

2026 MEL, MRHIF & NJCE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Deputy Executive Director said the 16th Annual Educational Seminar will be held virtually again this year. There will be two sessions, Friday, April 24th and May 1st, 9:00 AM to 12:00PM. The seminar is expected to qualify for Continuing Education Credits including CFO/CMFO, Public Works, Clerks, Insurance Producers and Purchasing Agents. Included in the agenda was more information on the seminar. Deputy Executive Director added an email with a link to register will be distributed shortly.

2026 NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE: The 75th Annual Conference is scheduled from May 6th to May 8th at Caesar’s in Atlantic City. Deputy Executive Director said the New Jersey Counties Excess Joint Insurance Fund will be exhibiting at the conference.

In addition, J.A. Montgomery and Conner Strong & Buckelew both submitted workshop proposals with topics focusing on *Active Shooter and Hostile Events – Critical Considerations for Organizational Leaders (CEUs pending)* and *Today’s Cybersecurity Strategy for County Government: Practical Planning, Smart Budgeting, and Efficient Resources*, respectively. Deputy Executive Director said if selected, the Fund office will distribute additional details on the workshops.

2026 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES: Board members should anticipate the online filing of the Financial Disclosure forms as both an NJCE Commissioner, as well as any County-related positions that require filing. Based on last year, it is expected the Division of Local Government Services will distribute a notice in March.

TREASURER REPORT:

Included in the agenda was the confirmation of bills lists, approval of payments and the Treasurer’s reports for November and December 2025.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS (BILL LIST) –

Resolution 18-26 Confirmation of Supplemental January 2026 Payments	\$24,771,349.93
Resolution 19-26 February 2026 Payments	\$369,784.18
Resolution 20-26 Supplemental February 2026 Payments	\$70,270.48

CONFIRMATION OF NOVEMBER 2025 CLAIMS PAYMENTS/CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS TRANSFERS:

2010	0.00
2011	0.00
2012	2,721.20
2013	86.97
2014	13,400.79
2015	115.05
2016	3,484.00
2017	0.00
2018	1,550.00
2019	6,931.58
2020	249,513.25
2021	6,121.20
2022	617.86
2023	767.00
2024	68,300.32
2025	226,328.72
TOTAL	\$579,937.94

CONFIRMATION OF DECEMBER 2025 CLAIMS PAYMENTS/CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS TRANSFERS:

2010	0.00
2011	0.00
2012	4,081.80
2013	0.00
2014	0.00
2015	0.00
2016	5,226.00
2017	606.00
2018	790.00
2019	6,140.17
2020	0.00
2021	7,761.80
2022	2,995.58
2023	0.00
2024	68,724.25
2025	2,157.98
TOTAL	\$98,483.58

MOTION TO CONFIRM SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS OF JANUARY 2026, FEBRUARY 2026 BILLS LIST, AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEBRUARY 2026 BILLS LIST AS RESOLUTION 18-26, RESOLUTION 19-26, AND RESOLUTION 20-26

Moved: Commissioner Shea
 Second: Commissioner Kessler
 Roll Call: 10 Ayes – 0 Nays

UNDERWRITING MANAGERS REPORT:

REPORT: Mr. Cooney said he had nothing further to report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR:

REPORT: Safety Director submitted a report reflecting the risk control activities and the Safety Director Bulletins distributed from December 2025 to February 2026. Also included was the 2026 Expo schedule noting available classes and locations, upcoming Leadership Skills Workshop for Supervisors. Safety Director also reviewed the Safety Committee Chart and requested members to notify his office of any changes.

Acting Chairman Sheehan said additional representatives from J.A. Montgomery have joined the meeting to conduct a special presentation on several initiatives specifically Accreditation Plus, Active Shooter and Training Leadership Training. The representatives were Paul Shives and Keith Hummel (Retired Chief).

Mr. Hummel introduced himself and explained the structure of his law enforcement consultant team and their responsibilities. Mr. Hummell continued and said as a result of a study on the effectiveness/benefits of the police accreditation program his team identified that there were still gaps in what an agency needs to become accredited in New Jersey and what is needed to enhance an agency's ability to provide strong policy guidance. Based on the findings Mr. Hummel's team decided to fill the gap by developing the Accreditation Plus program.

The Accreditation Plus program, launched 8 months ago and operates through a portal, assists agencies in developing operational procedures required to meet accreditation standards and operational needs that

agencies struggle with due to the lack of resources. To date 65 policies have been posted and 468 individuals registered and of those 347 have downloaded over 1,800 policies. Mr. Hummel said the policies are modified as needed from changes made by the Attorney General or the law.

Mr. Hummel said J.A. Montgomery's second initiative focuses on preparation for active shooters and workplace violence in addition to recognizing the safety challenges confronting our workforce. OSHA and PEOSH have a general duty clause that clearly states county's/municipalities need to protect their workforce from known hazards and Workplace violence and active shooters are a known hazard that is reasonably foreseeable. Failure to prepare for these types of incidents can hold you and your organization accountable.

This program was developed by Chief Harry Earle and Lieutenant Chris Crabtree that organizational leaders can attend virtually or in person. The course provides participants with essential insights, practical resources, and strategies designed to help the public entity put a plan of action together.

Paul Shives provided an update on the third initiative which focuses on the Leadership Academy, which was introduced in 2019 to provide basic leadership skills and training for municipal and county employees to fill the gap in background training in management supervision. More than 100 people from the county side enrolled in the Leadership Academy.

The update focuses on the two-day management skills training course previously taught by Don Ruprecht of J.A. Montgomery and Clark Lamandola, an outside consultant. The outside consultant that retired at the end of last year resulting in the search and hiring of Echelon Training Group - a training company that runs a management skills course. Mr. Shives said a representative from J.A. Montgomery attended their 3-day muster training and was thoroughly impressed. Mr. Shives said J.A. Montgomery will be able to accommodate well over 200 people per class at the Echelon Training Program. Our goal is to schedule two training sessions in 2026.

FUND ATTORNEY:

REPORT: Fund Attorney had nothing additional to report.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR-WORKERS COMPENSATION:

REPORT:

Claims Resolution Corporation submitted Network report showing provider billed amounts of \$5,441.18, paid amount of \$5,371.84 and net savings of \$2,641.61 as of January 2026. There was a 100% network utilization rate as of January 2026.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR:

REPORT: Vanguard had nothing further to report in open and requested closed session to discuss several property claims that exceed \$500,000 and two cyber claims; included in the agenda was Resolution 21-26 authorizing closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

Executive Director requested closed session to discuss pending coverage matters in closed session; the Board of Fund Commissioners, Fund Attorney, Executive Director and professionals.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-26 TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Moved:	Commissioner Kessler
Second:	Commissioner Shea
All in favor:	Unanimous

Acting Chairman Sheehan requested the following action as consent approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-006- 0001397 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$313,526.50.

MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-023- 0000980 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$199,962.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-025-0005450 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,744.70.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-025-0005237 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$363,255.30.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-025-0005265//640-025-0005451//640-025-0005452 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$395,543.20.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-013-0005414 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 AND SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$471,598.40.

MOTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #640-023- 0004336 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500,000.00

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00025E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00.

CAT 2613

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00108 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00102E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00103E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$115,000.00.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00100E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00101E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00.**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00106E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #2025341431 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,000.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #NJC00112E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$195,283.36.

Motion: Commissioner Kessler
Second: Commissioner Fiure
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: The special presentation was conducted as part of the Safety Director report.
PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

MOTION TO OPEN THE MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Smaniotto
Second: Commissioner Kessler
All in favor: Unanimous

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Kessler
Second: Commissioner Smaniotto
All in favor: Unanimous

NON- AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 23, 2026 - 11:00 AM in-person Forsgate Country Club

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Moved: Commissioner Shea
Second: Commissioner Kessler
All in favor: Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:20 AM

Brandon Tracy, Assisting Secretary