

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2009**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on July 21, 2009 at 999 Flatbush Avenue, Town of Ulster, NY.

Roll Call for the Regular Board Meeting was at 4:35 pm.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Michelle Rodden, Treasurer Don DeBrosky and Member Steve Noble. Vice-Chairman Fred Wadnola, and Member Katherine Beinkafner were absent.

Also present were: Michael Bemis, Executive Director; Charles Whittaker, Materials Recovery Facility and Transportation Manager; Timothy DeGraff, CPA, Agency Controller; Michelle Leggett, Recycling Coordinator; and Counsel and Secretary Stephen Wing.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment was received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved 3 to 0, 2 absent (Wadnola & Beinkafner).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Monthly Business Meeting was changed to Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 4:30pm. A budget workshop will be held prior to the convening of the regular meeting.

GENERAL REPORTS

The Board received and reviewed the MSW Tonnage Report, the Recycling Tonnage Report and the Leachate Collection Reports.

Mike Bemis reported that the Agency received 10,838 tons of solid waste in June, 620 tons off budget for the month. We are approximately 10,000 tons less than the budgeted tons for the year. Bad economic times continue to impact the tonnage.

The Agency received 1559 (rounded) tons of all recyclables in June 2009, which is 15 tons less than June of last year and 6 % less over the first 6 months of this year compared to last year. Mixed news and cardboard have declined the most. A general improvement on the revenues for goods sold of mixed news, commingled and OCC was noted. We're at 50% of last year's revenue.

The total leachate collected at the Ulster and New Paltz closed landfills in June 2009 was 427,000 gallons, nearly double the gallons in May of 2009. June 2009 was one of the wettest

Junes on record. Mike Bemis described the collection at Hurley and Jockey Hills closed landfills.

Michelle Leggett said the next HHW day is set for Saturday, October 10, 2009, 8am to 2pm at the Agency's Ulster facility. She continues to work on the business and commercial properties recycling enforcement guide. Businesses that have 10 or more employees will have to comply. She's working on a grant for a project that fits in under the criteria for a greenhouse gas reduction program that could fund 50% of the cost 33 34 yard-self contained solar compaction units for trash and fiber. This will save us thousands of miles in travel time, thus reducing the cost of hauling. Many value added components exist including the opportunity to provide recycling at transfer stations for businesses thus increasing the waste stream of recyclables; and decreasing the number of pulls thus decreasing transportation costs. The Agency will be required to provide 50% matching funds which will be considered for the proposed budget. A local company, Endeavour, is providing the grant writing services. No information has come in yet on our NYSDEC recycling grants.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Controller Tim DeGraff. Revenues continue to be down because of lower solid waste and recycling revenue receipts. May's net operating revenues were a positive \$105,337, due mostly to lower operating expenses, essentially the same result as in April 2009. The Fund balance is consistently lower than last year.

Resolution No. 2141-Sale of Surplus Equipment;

Resolution was moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky.

Mike Bemis explained that this resolution authorized the public sale of 3 of the Volvo trucks to CEJJ, the highest bidder on the 2000 year Volvos and the 1995 Volvo roll-off vehicle. The 1997 Volvo roll-off vehicle high bidder was Village Truck Sales. He recommended that the bids be awarded accordingly. The bid received for the front-end containers was not acceptable. Mike Bemis recommended that the Agency reject the bid received and a rebid those containers.

Vote: 3 in favor 0 opposed, 2 absent (Wadnola & Beinkafner).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2142-Authorizing and Approving Further Amendment to Agreement with Solid Waste Hauling Companies

Resolution was moved by Michelle Rodden and seconded by Don DeBrosky.

Steve Wing stated that the resolution approves a revision to the hauling contracts that will delete

the reimbursement to the haulers of NYS Thruway toll increases from 2005, and replace that reimbursement with a \$.50 increase in the hauling fee. This will save the Agency money and will result in a decrease in administrative expense, also a benefit to the haulers. The haulers are still required to use the NYS Thruway for hauling solid waste. The change will be effective 7/1/2009 through 12/31/2009. A procurement of new contracts will be completed prior to the end of the year.

Vote: 3 in favor 0 opposed, 2 absent (Wadnola & Bienkafner).

Board Notification - Ulster County Board of Health Hauler Permits

Mike Bemis advised that recent articles on the status of recordkeeping at the County Board of Health showed that certain hauling permits have not been issued. This lack of effective record keeping has a negative impact on the Agency, which relies on the Board of Health to inspect the vehicles of the applicants. Mike has discussed the matter with the County Comptroller. Michelle Rodden said there was confusion as to the salary of the new director who must be a doctor. The interim director is a nurse, and they are short 8 persons. We have offered our help to the County. Michelle Rodden suggested that we perform the inspections for the Board of Health in the interim. We will look into it.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board authorized a revised letter to Brinnier and Larios complaining about an aspect of their work on the Ulster Transfer Station Project to be sent.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Bemis and Charlie Whittaker described a fire at the Town of Ulster Transfer Station which occurred just prior to the meeting. The town, local police and fire departments are investigating the origin of the fire. The Agency may pursue an insurance claim for its damaged roll-off boxes. The Agency indicated that it would work with the Town to find alternatives for its transfer station customers while the station is not operating.

Steve Noble indicated that the City of Kingston will be implementing a user fee for not-for-profits whose solid waste is collected by the City. About 50 not-for-profits are in this category. The bag fee will probably be \$3.50 to \$4.00

Board Notification – Review of the Draft 2010 Budget

This presentation was moved to the end of the meeting. Mike Bemis reviewed the key revenue highlights of the draft 2010 Agency Budget, beginning with the increases in rates for most users of the Agency's facilities (but not non-Put or Pay C&D users because they are already charged high rates as compared to other C&D facilities) and revenues from the new Waste Management

contract. Impact on the towns and the City of Kingston is not large (3%). A copy of the highlights and the draft budget were provided to the Board and are in the record of the meeting. A copy of the key budget highlights is attached to these minutes. Tim DeGraff reviewed cost increases such as new accruals for benefits, the State's increase in pension rates, and health insurance (including a new state surcharge for insurance companies that will be passed on to clients). On the positive side, the Agency is paying off the grinder debt, and fuel costs continue to decline. The final payment for the Series 2000 unrefunded bonds will be made on 3/1/2110. But vehicle maintenance and repair costs, and transport and disposal costs will increase.

Mike Bemis reviewed the net service fee proposed for the budget – it is \$148,000 higher than 2009, but much lower than the trend from 2005-2008. The 2009 net service fee is a minor part (\$1,249,383) of the County's budget (about \$340,000,000).

Michelle Rodden asked that columns for forecasted budget results for 2009, an actual column for 6/30/09 and Tim's detail on the 2010 projections. She wants to be more confident in the projections in the budget. Mike Bemis reviewed revenues and expenses in the projected budget.

Steve Noble asked about the availability of monies for transferring into the budget. Tim DeGraff advised that the Agency has about \$1 million dollars between the operating reserve and the excess debt service reserve fund, but would not want to transfer that amount in because those funds may be needed for payment of debt service.

Board members will e-mail items of concern on the budget to Tim DeGraff between this meeting and the workshop on August 11, 2009.

ADJOURN

Motion: Michelle Rodden

Second: Don DeBrosky

MOTION to Adjourn the July 21 2009 meeting at 6:07pm was approved 3 in favor 0 opposed, 2 absent (Wadnola and Beinkafner)

The above transcribed Minutes of the July, 21 2009 Board Meeting were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by the Board

Vote: Aye 4 Nay 0 Absent 1 (DeBrosky)

Date: August 11, 2009