

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2015

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on October 28, 2015, at 999 Flatbush Road, Town of Ulster, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 5:00 pm.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Leon Smith; Vice Chairman Catherine Nilsen; Treasurer Charles Landi; Member Dominic Tagliafierro and Member David Gordon.

Also present were: Executive Director Timothy Rose; Counsel / Secretary Kenneth Gilligan; Controller Tim DeGraff; Operations Manager Charlie Whittaker; Recycling Coordinator Merlyn Akhtar; Compliance Officer Tom Briggs; and Administrative Assistant Melinda France.

From the public: William Kemble from the Daily Freeman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leon Smith opened the meeting up for Public Comment.

No public comment.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 23, 2015, Regular Board Meeting were moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

The Minutes of the October 14, 2015, Public Hearing were moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 5:00 PM. The Board agreed to change the meeting date due to the meeting being the day before Thanksgiving Day.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim Rose presented the MSW, Recycling and Leachate Collection reports.

MSW

Tim Rose stated that MSW target tons for September was 10,491 tons and the Agency brought in 11,005 tons for a difference of 514 tons to the good. Sludge we brought in 209 more due to the City of Kingston pelletizer being down. He stated we will see an increase in sludge for the next few months.

Leon Smith commented that this will put a burden on the Agency because the permit is for only a certain amount and the Agency would have to go to the DEC to ask for an increase in tonnage. Tim Rose stated that is correct. The Agency's permit limit is for 100 tons per week; and with City of Kingston's pelletizer being down which increases the Agency's sludge he asked the DEC for a permit modification until December to 140 tons week.

David Gordon wanted to know if there was any drying process that the City of Kingston would go through before they process their sludge; and can they do a little more of it, because the weight is probably a lot of water. Tim Rose responded that there are regulations and the Agency cannot accept it unless it is less than 20% solids. Tim Rose stated they are using a belt filter press to dry the sludge due to the pelletizer being down. Tim Rose stated City of Kingston does a good job drying the sludge.

Charles Landi wanted to know why Colonie did not bid on the sludge. Tim Rose stated he heard that they were in violation with DEC for accepting too much waste. Also, that there might be no money in sludge.

RECYCLING TONNAGE

The Recycling tonnage report was compared to the prior year. Last September, for commingle we did 57 tons and this year we did 49; glass was 48 tons and this year it is 46; mixed news was 123 tons and this year 139; Single Stream last year was 517 tons and now it is 1,125; OCC was 151 tons last year and it is down to 126 this year; food waste was 8.2 tons last year and this year 75 tons.

Tim Rose stated the Agency is in the process of applying to DEC to double capacity of food waste allowed. He stated it was 500 and would be increased to 1000 cubic yards.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Tim Rose noted the commodities report is in the Board packet. This shows who we sold what to and the prices. Tim stated that NR means no response.

Leon Smith moved to approve the Commodities Report. Motion to vote was made by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

LEACHATE COLLECTION

Tim Rose noted that last year in September we did 21,000 gallons and this year we did 105,000 out of Ulster and last year in September we did 42,000 gallons and this year we did 56,000 out of New Paltz.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Merlyn Akhtar handed out a packet with her updates.

Merlyn discussed the HHW and Pharmaceutical Collection Event. She stated that there was 289 cars that came through. She went through Hazardous Waste that was collected at the event and the amounts.

She also stated that the Agency collected 340 lbs. of pharmaceuticals, 580 lbs. of textiles and 140 lbs. of food donations.

She also mentioned that we received a compliment on the Facebook page regarding the event being efficient and well organized.

Ken Gilligan stated someone told him that it was nicely run. Charles Landi stated that it is well accepted by the public. Tim Rose stated it still amazes him how well it is organized. He stated thanks to Merlyn and Charlie's staff they have it down to a science. He stated that Melinda and Tom actively participates in checking people in and the Sheriff's Department is a big help.

Leon Smith asked Merlyn if she knew how much pharmaceuticals are being dropped off at the Sheriff's substations and Police Departments. Merlyn stated she doesn't have any numbers right now but would check-in with the person who is in charge of the program. Leon stated it would be interesting to see if the boxes are being utilize.

Regarding public outreach, Merlyn stated she has been working on making the Agency's Facebook and Google+ pages active again. She stated she uses a program to make it more efficient so it will post to multiple social media platforms at once. She stated the Agency received 8 more likes over the course of the month which she believes is good for a government agency. Also, it reached between 45-88 people. She stated she posted an article about how much people consume; people shared and liked it and that article reached almost 1,000 people. On Goggle+ she stated there hasn't been a lot of engagement but it is getting people to the Agency's information.

Merlyn stated she met with Marisa Rogers from Radio Woodstock (100.1WDST) to discuss options with social media, web, and radio campaigns to promote recycling, composting, and the HHW events. Radio Woodstock has a very large and very engaged Facebook audience, as well as an active website. She also mentioned she was supposed to meet with Don Verriti from 92.9 to discuss a radio campaign to promote National Recycling Day but the meeting was postponed to tomorrow.

She stated by the end of October, she will have given three tours of the MRF and composting operation.

She stated last week she attended a meeting for the US EPA's NY and NJ Trash Free Water Partnership, a regional initiative to address the issue of trash and debris in local waters. She stated she previously was involved in this at her previous job with the DEC. She will be a member of the Plastic Bags group, which is looking at benefits of bans vs. fees, bag alternative, and campaigns to change consumer behavior.

She stated next week three staff members will be attending this year NYSAR3 Annual NYS Recycling Conference and Trade Show: herself, Melinda France and Charlie Whittaker.

Catherine Nilsen asked where the trade show is being held. Merlyn commented Cooperstown.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Tim DeGraff presented the September, 2015 Treasurer's Report. MSW was 11,005 tons for the month of September. Sale of recyclables revenue was \$40,171. Total revenue was \$1,295,306. Total operating expenditures were \$854,492. Result was net operating revenues of \$440,814. We made our

third payment out of five on Volvo excavator. Fund balance for the month was a positive \$396,119. Year-to-date fund balance is a positive balance \$394,744 which is \$1.1 million better than last year.

Charles Landi wanted to know if there was any danger of receiving a call from the Authorities Budget Office about making a profit. Tim DeGraff stated no.

Leon Smith made a motion to approve the September, 2015 Treasurer's Report, Charles Landi moved and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

MRF COST CENTER ANALYSIS

Tim DeGraff stated in the Agency had a good month of September. Total sale of recyclables was \$34,785. The Agency had its highest month of the year for the sales of mixed news, plastics and Single Stream. The net income for September before depreciation was \$5,510 and after depreciation was a net loss of \$5,525; year-to-date net loss before depreciation was \$98,847 and after depreciation \$198,162.

Charlie Whittaker mentioned that due to the need for available space, and that prices were up, we decided to sell some of the recyclables we had in inventory.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2365 Re: Approving 2016 Final Agency Budget

Tim Rose stated there was no public comment at the Public Hearing regarding the draft Budget. He stated the only change was due to the sludge bid opening which increased the sludge cost. No rates raised only the Capital Plan had to be change slightly.

Leon Smith moved to the floor **Resolution No. 2365**; Motion to vote was made by Catherine Nilsen and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

Resolution No. 2366 Re: Approving the Agency Capital Plan

Tim Rose stated there was a few changes which included the adjustment on the sludge; maintenance issues were removed from the plan because shouldn't be on there and the utility vehicle price changed from \$30,000 to \$25,000 and went on the 2015 Budget instead of 2016.

Dominic Tagliaferro wanted to know about the utility vehicle since he missed the last meeting. Tim Rose explained the utility vehicle and what attachments the Agency bought.

Leon Smith moved to the floor **Resolution No. 2366**; Motion to vote was made by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Charlie Whittaker stated the UTS floor repairs were finished today. DEC approved it. He also stated Sterling is putting the plan together regarding all the floor repairs and a PE will certify it.

Dominic Tagliaferro wanted to know if the County has come back and approached the Agency regarding the solar project. Tim Rose and Ken Gilligan stated no one has contacted the Agency. Tim Rose stated he did know that the surveyors for Solar City have been out to the landfill.

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Landi had a few questions regarding invoices. He noticed there were bank charges for Bank of America, and wanted to know where we stood with regards to changing banks. Tim DeGraff responded there won't be enough money deposited in Bank of America to do next month's big check run, so you will see checks from Catskill Hudson Bank next month. Tim stated he wants to consolidate balances in an effort to make one wire.

Charles Landi wanted to know what the entry of \$1,059.00 for Local Union 455 was for. Tim DeGraff stated it is not an expense for the Agency it comes out of the employees' paychecks for union dues. Charles Landi wanted to know about the NYS Child Support entry. Tim DeGraff responded it is the same; comes out of the employees' paychecks.

Leon Smith brought up the rumors about the towns that didn't sign-on want to sign-on now. There was a brief discuss on if the Board should allow the towns to sign-on now or have them wait since the Budget is already done; what the issues would be.

MOTION to ADJOURN the October 28, 2015, Regular Board Meeting at 5:45 pm was made by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent.

The above transcribed Minutes of the October 28, 2015, Regular Board Meeting were moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Catherine Nilsen. 5 in favor. None opposed. 0 absent. The Minutes were APPROVED by the Board.

Date: November 24, 2015