

ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 22, 2017

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on March 22, 2017, at 999 Flatbush Road, Town of Ulster, NY.

The proceedings were convened at 5:00 PM.

The following Board members were present: Chairman Fred Wadnola; Vice Chairman David Gordon; Treasurer Charles Landi; Member Jack Hayes; and Member Brian Devine.

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

From the public: William Kemble from the Daily Freeman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Fred Wandola talked about the meeting he and Jack Hayes had with a representative from BioTech, a company that turns waste into fuel. He said that their program is informative and something we should look into.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Wadnola moved to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2017, Regular Board Meeting. Motion to vote was made by Jack Hayes and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fred Wandola asked Tim Rose about the meeting with the Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission.

Tim Rose responded that they were originally supposed to be at the meeting tonight to present their draft report to the Board. Due to the inclement weather last week which caused Ulster County to shut down, the legislative meeting was moved to tonight. Since three of the members of the Commission are county legislators, they asked that that they be able to present their draft report to the Board at another time. He said that there is a deadline of May 1st for the report.

David Gordon asked if the report is finished.

Tim Rose said that as far as he knows, they are still working on it.

Fred Wadnola said that he would like to see the report at least a week before the deadline.

Tim Rose replied that he will contact the Commission and let them know that they are on the agenda for our April board meeting. He will make sure that the Board receives the report by April 19th.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

Fred Wadnola noted that in June we will switch over to 12:00 PM board meetings.

GENERAL REPORTS

Tim Rose presented the MSW, Recycling and Leachate Collection reports for February, 2017.

MSW

Tim Rose stated that the MSW target tons for February were 7,864 tons compared to the actual tonnage brought in which was 7,793 tons, a difference of 71 tons. Sludge target tons were 300 and 292 tons were brought in, with a difference of 8 tons.

RECYCLING TONNAGE

The Recycling tonnage report was compared to the prior year:

	THIS FEBRUARY	LAST FEBRUARY
COMMINGLE	41.01 TONS	38.08 TONS
GLASS	24.29 TONS	30.14 TONS
MIXED NEWS	74.49 TONS	76.86 TONS
SINGLE STREAM	528.76 TONS	653.7 TONS
OCC	111.26 TONS	73.4 TONS
FOODWASTE	211.03 TONS	84.44 TONS

Tim Rose said that our compost program is doing phenomenally. The DEC's Environmental Monitor recently congratulated him on how successful the program has been.

Fred asked if the farm hub would be interested in doing some sort of partnership with the compost.

Tim Rose replied that he would reach out to them and see what they think.

Charles Landi asked if there are still markets for single stream recycling.

Tim Rose said that we have two markets: ReCommunity in Beacon and Waste Connections in Albany. He added that cardboard and paper are up drastically right now.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Tim Rose explained the Commodities Report for February 2017. The report is included in the Board packet, showing who we sold what to and the prices. NR means no response.

Fred Wadnola moved to approve the Commodities Report, seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed; 0 absent.

LEACHATE COLLECTION

Tim Rose stated that in February 2017 out of Ulster we did 192,000 gallons and last February we did 292,500 gallons. Out of New Paltz in February 2017 we did 194,000 gallons and last February we did 175,000 gallons.

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Melinda France handed out a packet with her updates. Updates presented include:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event:
 - Approximately 200 appointments have been scheduled thus far. (Charles Landi asked if that is a good number of signups for this point in time. Melinda France replied that it is a good amount of appointments, considering we still have a month to go before the event. She added that the bulk of people usually wait until the week before the event to sign up.)
 - Since the HHW event falls on Earth Day this year, we are considering having a 20% off sale on compost bins, rain barrels and stands at the Main Office during the hours of the event. (Tim Rose added that we will also be participating in an Earth Day event in Dutchess County as requested by the DEC, and will offer discounted bins there as well. He asked for the Board's OK to discount the price of the bins, and the Board agreed.)
 - HHW flyers were distributed to the Board
- Facility Tours:
 - Charlie Whittaker and Melinda France conducted several tours over the past month regarding the Agency's compost operations.
- Electronics Recycling:
 - 567 people have dropped off electronics for recycling so far in 2017.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Tim DeGraff presented the February 2017 Treasurer's Report. For the month of February, we did 7,793 tons. Total revenue was \$955,237.

Revenue items of note:

The sale of recyclables totaled \$71,548, mostly due to the sale of plastics.

Total operating expenses were \$749,116, giving us a net operating revenue of \$206,121. No items of note on the expense side. There was an interfund transfer in of \$92,579 due to monies from the closed MRDC account being funneled into the operating reserve. Capital outlay was \$49,642 for the second of five payments for the L90H Volvo Loader. We made a debt service payment of \$2,212,810, which paid off our final two EFC notes. Remaining debt service balance is just less than \$8 million, across 3 obligations: 2002 refunding, 2012 refunding, and 2006 issuance. Fund balance for the month of February was negative \$1,963,752, which brings our year-to-date to a deficit of \$1,679,411, a difference of \$131,360 from this time last year.

Charles Landi moved and motioned to approve the February 2017 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Brian Devine. 5 in favor, 0 opposed; 0 absent.

MRF COST CENTER ANALYSIS

Tim DeGraff presented the February 2017 MRF Cost Center Analysis report. For the month of February, we did \$10,454 in tipping fees. Total sale of recyclables were \$70,262 for the month. Sale of plastics was \$33,418. The last bulk sale of plastics was in June of 2016, for approximately \$40,000. Total revenues for the month were \$80,706. Total expenses for the month were \$30,794. Net income was \$49,912. Year to date Net Income is \$65,954.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2405 regarding approving collective bargaining agreement between the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency and Local 445, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Tim Rose explained the 5 changes to the new union staff contract:

- For the duration of the new 4 year contract, union raises are as follows:
 - 2017: 2%
 - 2018: 1.5%
 - 2019: 1.75%
 - 2020: 1.75%
- A boot allowance of \$125 per employee per year will be in effect. Boots will no longer be replaced until the following year. Previously, the boot allowance was \$90 and boots were replaced as needed.
- Two job titles have changed from a grade 4 to a grade 5: Maintenance Mechanic and Lead Scalehouse Operator, due to each title receiving significantly more responsibility.
- New employees will now contribute 20% toward their health insurance premiums, up 5% from the previous contract.
- All new employees will be subject to a 1 year probationary period, a change from the 60 day probationary period in the previous contact.

Fred Wadnola moved to the floor **Resolution No. 2405**; Motion to vote was made by Jack Hayes, and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed; 0 absent.

Resolution No. 2406 regarding authorization for salary for administrative staff positions

Tim Rose explained that this resolution will grant the administrative staff raises to match the union staff. The raises are as follows:

- 2017: 2%
- 2018: 1.5%
- 2019: 1.75%
- 2020: 1.75%

Fred Wadnola moved and motioned to approve **Resolution No. 2406**; seconded by Brian Devine. 5 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent.

Resolution No. 2407 approving the changes to the personnel manual

Tim Rose explained that since the administrative staff does not have a contract, they rely solely on the personnel manual. The personnel manual must match up completely with the union contract. He noted that in the case that the two differ, the union contract will always supersede the personnel manual.

Fred Wadnola moved to the floor **Resolution No. 2407**; motion to vote was made by Charles Landi and seconded by Brian Devine. 5 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 absent

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Rose stated he and Charlie Whittaker had a meeting with the DEC at the New Paltz facility today to talk about the logistics of the floor repair, due to it being such a tight space. The work is scheduled to begin next month, and will take place in sections. The work should be done within 3 months and will be done in-house.

Charlie Whittaker said their plan is do make the floor twelve inches thick. The Agency's engineer stated that 8 inches would be sufficient, but they are aiming for twelve so that it lasts longer.

Tim Rose said that the County will be voting on a resolution at their April legislative meeting authorizing us to enter into a contract with them regarding the \$266,000 grant we recently received. At the Agency's April meeting there will be a resolution authorizing us to enter into a contract with them for the grant monies.

Tim Rose added that the new loader that was just delivered was purchased as a part of the grant. The loader cost \$190,000, and we will be receiving approximately \$120,000 back. He said that he plans to apply for reimbursement through the DEC for the remaining amount.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Rose talked about how each year we pay the DEC for environmental monitoring. He said each year the cost of the monitoring has gone down. When speaking with the DEC recently, they told him that due to the great job we're doing here at the Agency, the Environmental Monitor hasn't needed to come by the transfer station as much, leading to lower fees.

Charlie Whittaker added that we receive a report each year from the DEC, and since Tim Rose has been Executive Director we have not had one violation.

Fred Wadnola asked if contract negotiations with Cornerstone and possibly doing a feasibility study need to be discussed in executive session.

Ken Gilligan replied that if it pertains to a contract, they can discuss it in executive session. He asked Fred Wadnola if he wants to discuss the contract for Cornerstone now.

Fred Wadnola said that he would like to discuss it now, as time is of the essence with summer coming.

Charles Landi asked if there was anything contract specific he wanted to discuss, or if he wanted to just discuss generalities of the contract.

Fred Wadnola replied that he wants to discuss generalities.

Charles Landi said that if it is just generalities of a contract, you do not need to go into executive session. He added that we should let Agency Counsel decide.

Fred Wadnola stated that we have spoken about regionalization for about 7 years regarding different services such as highway, water, transportation, etc., and he would like to propose a feasibility study on creating a multi-county solid waste authority for Sullivan, Ulster, and Greene counties.

Charles Landi asked if it would be best to wait until the Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission presents their finished report.

Fred Wadnola replied that he doesn't believe that is pertinent. He said that it is time we try to find an alternative to spending \$6 million each year to send trash to Seneca Meadows.

Charles Landi agreed. He added that he wants to look into using the Poughkeepsie burn plant, which currently cannot handle the amount of waste that we would be bringing them. In order for the burn plant to be able to handle the increased waste volume, they would need to add a third burner, which would cost \$25-30 million.

Tim Rose interjected, saying that he believes the cost was closer to \$125 million.

Charles Landi said that we should find out exactly what the cost would be.

Fred Wadnola stated that he was very interested in the presentation from BioTech about their waste-to-fuel technology. He said their operation cost about \$28 million. He added that he wants to consider voting on a feasibility study at next month's meeting.

David Gordon expressed concern over voting for a feasibility study without hearing from the Solid Waste Improvement Commission.

Tim Rose agreed, saying that we should hear what the Commission has to say next month and then talk about a feasibility study at the May meeting.

MOTION to ADJOURN the March 22, 2017, Regular Board Meeting at 6:10 PM was made by Charles Landi and seconded by Brian Devine. 5 in favor; none opposed; 0 absent.

The above transcribed Minutes of the March 22, 2017 Regular Board Meeting were moved by Charles Landi and seconded by Brian Devine. 4 in favor. None opposed. 1 absent (HAYES). The Minutes were APPROVED by the Board.

Date: April 26, 2017