

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2020**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Mike Bianconi, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, George Irvin Jr, Robert Krajnyak, Joe Luckino, James Mavromatis, Domenick Mucci, Rob Sproul

**BY PHONE:** Chuck Dawson, Tony Kolanski, Mitchell Morelli

**ABSENT:** John Davies, Mark McVey

**OTHERS:** Anita Petrella, Dave Hays, Natalie Lysle, Tammy Shepherd, Alisha Teramana, Albin Bauer, Andrew Henry

A quorum being present, Chair Scott Fabian called to order the regular meeting of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority Board at the JB Green Team building, 67895 Pickering Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio at 5:30PM on, Monday, December 14, 2020.

**MINUTES:** A motion to approve the November 9, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Mucci, and seconded by Mr. Echemann. **Vote: 9 said Aye, with Mr. Dawson, Mr. Kolanski and Mr. Krajnyak abstaining. Motion passed.**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Fiscal Report:**

Mr. Hays reported revenues for \$226,902.30, with expenditures of \$122,422.08 and net cash of \$104,480.22. Non-Payroll Expenditures were reviewed with no questions. Apex Tonnage report for October showed 14,555 ton In-District; 2,457.64 Out-of-District; and 86,661 tons Out-of-State; yielding \$149,462.25 in disposal and contract fees.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for December 2020 was made by Mr. Mucci and seconded by Mr. Krajnyak. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Mr. Hays requested approval for year-end appropriation adjustments. He requested approval for an increase in the Health Care line item in the General Fund in the amount of \$8,000 and an increase in the Rates and Charges' Health Care line item of \$13,500. Also requested were appropriation increases in the Buildings and Grounds line item in the Contract Fee Fund of \$10,000 and the PERS line item in the Rates and Charges fund by \$900. These appropriation increases will get the Authority through the end of the year.

A motion to approve the requested appropriation adjustments was made by Mr. Krajnyak, and seconded by Mr. Luckino. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Mr. Hays asked for permission to transfer money from the General Fund to the Rates & Charges Fund. He reminded the board that the Rates & Charges Fund was set up years ago as part of a settlement agreement. Since the Authority has lowered these fees, it requires a substantial transfer to avoid the fund from ending in a negative fund balance, a violation of the ORC. Currently, Mr. Hays said the fund has a negative balance of \$513,978 but he cannot exactly say what it will be by year end. He asked that since it is not permissible to end the year with a negative balance, that the amount required to avoid that be transferred from the General Fund to the Rates & Charges Fund at year.

A motion was made to approve the balance needed cash transfer from the General Fund to the Rates & Charges Fund as requested by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Sproul. **Roll call Vote: All said yes. Motion approved.**

**Director's Report:**

Ms. Petrella welcomed the new Jefferson County Health Commissioner Andrew Henry to the meeting who starts in his position on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Solid Waste Plan**

Ms. Petrella stated the Public Hearing were held with no comments from the public, with the exception of the Authority Attorney Albin Bauer who had comments about the siting strategy.

Mr. Bauer explained the Board approved the Draft Plan which was adjusted prior to going out for the 30-day public comment period. The hearings were conducted, but one item that required some additional work was to revise the Siting Strategy. He explained that the EPA doesn't review rules and siting strategies when reviewing the draft plan for doing the non-binding opinion because it looks at them as local matters. What he noticed about siting strategy what that is misstated that the Board had not adopted a rule regarding prior approval of plans and specifications before someone construct a facility. The Authority did have a rule since at least 2015, so this siting strategy needed to be reworked, plus the general public asked the Board to look at the siting strategy and beef it up due to their concerns. He reworked the Strategy which was sent to all Board members in November from Ms. Petrella. The existing strategy is general and did not have any specifics about what an applicant would need to show in order to demonstrate certain things, and this revised strategy has a lot of specifics. A lot of the public comments that came in last December were concerning the impacts of a landfill on the Jefferson County airport. Provisions in the strategy continue to exempt any facilities or projects that the Authority would undertake. He had looked at other Solid Waste Districts siting strategies, and if the Board approves this replacement the JBRSWA will have the most rigorous Siting Strategy in the State. From what he had been hearing in the last year was that was the sentiment of this Board. There were no questions from the Board for Mr. Bauer.

Mr. Luckino made a motion to adopt the revised Siting Strategy to replace the existing one in the Draft Plan as recommended by Mr. Bauer. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Roll call Vote: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Mr. Echemann made a motion to adopt the Resolution Declaring Adoption of the amended Solid Waste Management Plan for Jefferson Belmont Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Sproul seconded. **Roll call Vote: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Mr. Bauer explained the Plan does not go into effect until after approved by the Director of the OEPA. But first there is the 90-ratification process, and once sent to the OEPA a (up to) 90-day review period. So, estimated to take effect in July 2021.

Ms. Petrella stated that Jamie Zawila asked her to remind everyone that the Plan ratification period is December 28<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be sent out to the largest cities and the Townships who will have the 90 day period to vote. Mr. Fabian explained 60% approval is needed.

Employee raises

Ms. Petrella explained each year at this time raises are considered for employees. With the Personnel Committee Chairman not able to conduct a meeting the matter is being brought to the full Board. Mr. Hays stated he prepared a spreadsheet comparing a \$1 to a 3% raise. He discussed revenue and recommended the 3%. Mr. Mavromatis explained the approach the City of Steubenville takes when considering employee raises, and the things that play into their budget, he wanted to be sure they would not have to furlough any employees if raises are given. Mr. Hays stated they could get by with either the 3% or \$1 option. Mr. Dawson asked about the inflation rate for the past year. Thirteen employees would be included in the raise. Per year the 3% would total \$16,200 and the \$1 would total \$27,000. Mr. Mucci suggested giving the raises this year and then do evaluations next year making salary adjustments. Mr. Hays asked that the raises take effect December 26, 2020 which is the first pay of 2021.

Mr. Mucci made a motion to give a 3% raise to the thirteen employees effective December 26, 2020. Mr. Echemann seconded. **Roll call vote: All said Yes. Motion passed.**

Ms. Petrella explained to the Board there was a Covid-19 scare in offices last week, although the employee tested negative, she asked the Board their opinions on rotating staff in the office while working from home the other days. She explained laptop computers were purchased after the last time in the spring and staff is now prepared to do it that way. Glass routes are still active but depleting, so the drivers are still running their full routes and are not affected yet. Board members spoke up in agreement all approved what Ms. Petrella was recommending.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian**

None.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Rob Sproul**

None.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:**

None.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: Jim Mavromatis**

None.

**GRANTS/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Bianconi**

None.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino**

Mr. Luckino report they did not meet but he did speak to the family that owns the property adjacent to this Belmont building as previously discussed and hopes to have information for Ms. Petrella in the next couple of weeks as to whether they are interested in selling it.

**LANDFILL REPORT:**

The Jefferson County Health Department Report was provided in Board members packets.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

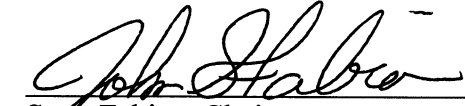
Mr. Bauer asked to speak more about the Siting Strategy. Since the Plan may not be approved until mid-July there is a way to accelerate the effectiveness of the revised Siting Strategy. The Authority does have a rule that says the Board has to approve Plans of specification of proposed construction or large modification of a solid waste facility in the District, which was adopted in 2015, and needs to be freshened up anyhow. The Board can go ahead and use rulemaking Authority to update the rule now and be hinged on the application of the new Siting Strategy. The Board would adopt a rule, publish it and it goes into effect according to ORC 343.01G. However, in the current Plan there is a 30-day comment period on approval of proposed rules.

Mr. Mucci asked about the Government Policy Group from Columbus and their contract expiring December 31<sup>st</sup>. He expressed concerns about renewing their contract at the cost of \$6,000 per month totaling \$72,000 per year. Their weekly reports don't seem to provide a lot of information specific to the Authority. Mr. Bauer explained that Greenway has not yet applied for a permit, the old Crossridge facility has been bound up in litigation. The hearing was supposed to start today but the visiting judge who was appointed in that case just announced he is retiring. Now until a new visiting judge is appointed and get familiar with case it will be a minimum of 6 months before anything happens. Mr. Luckino asked Mr. Bauer if the Board should keep the Policy Group on retainer. Mr. Bauer explained that the Crossridge landfill was not the only reason to hire the company, there are other facilities that could create a community concern which is what the policy group helps with, and that GPG provides a valuable service. Mr. Bianconi stated that he reads the reports and has trouble finding anything in the report that points to us directly, it's a lot of money for those reports. Mr. Bauer explained it is a weekly report that covers a lot of different topics. Board members discussed. Mr. Luckino asked if Mr. Bauer has access to them through other ways, he reported that he does through Charter Schools. Mr. Mucci asked if the Authority needs them at this time. Mr. Bauer reviewed what information he and Mr. Fabian receives from them and suggested negotiating a lower price for the reports. He added that there are other reasons than just the Crossridge landfill for needing them, that the Authority needs to watch for the industry pushing to change the solid waste category being changed to C&D waste, that it could have a large impact on the fee revenue. Mr. Mucci suggested negotiating with them to see what the options are, Mr. Fabian and Mr. Bauer will set up a call to negotiate with any other members wishing to take part.

Mr. Krajnyak apologized for his many absences from the meetings, Ms. Petrella is aware of the reason and appreciates the patience. He plans on being more active with the Board in the future. Mr. Mucci asked about the status of Mr. McVey on the Board and if he was leaving, he has not been to a meeting in many months.

Mr. Mucci recommended having the next Board meeting by zoom.  
The next meeting was set for Monday, January 11, 2021 at 5:30pm by Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

**ATTEST:**   
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Scott Fabian, Chair

  
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Mike Bianconi, Secretary