

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2020**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Nicole Balakos, Mike Bianconi, Chuck Dawson, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, George Irvin Jr, Joe Luckino, James Mavromatis, Domenick Mucci, Rob Sproul

ABSENT: John Davies, Tony Kolanski, Robert Krajnyak, Mark McVey

OTHERS: Anita Petrella, Dave Hays, Natalie Lysle, Tammy Shepherd, Louise Holliday, Alisha Teramana

A quorum being present, Chair Scott Fabian called to order the regular meeting of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority Board at the Belmont Office building, 67895 Pickering Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio at 5:30PM on, Monday, August 10, 2020.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the July 13, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Mucci and seconded by Mr. Sproul. **Vote: Seven (7) said Aye, with Mrs. Balakos, Mr. Echemann, Mr. Dawson abstaining. Motion passed.**

Mr. Joe Scagoza addressed the Board

Mr. Scagoza stated he would like to sit down with some or all Board members to have an informational session to discuss the Crossridge Landfill mess, everyone has heard the opposition out there and there is a legitimate problem at the facility. He found a group that can come in and solve all the problems with private money because he is concerned about it and does not have the financial ability to do it. He found the group Greenway Reclamation and brought them in. Mrs. Balakos asked Mr. Scagoza if he could tell the Board what he is proposing, she did not want to speak out of turn and has not shared anything from last week with anyone. Mr. Scagoza stated they have been trying to negotiate with the State of Ohio and they know this (Greenway) group. Greenway has a good track record and is familiar to the State already having fixed two other locations in the State and has the financial wherewithal to pull it off. One such location they turned around and fixed the problems of was Tunnel Hill. They have the funding and bonding capabilities needed and are a second/third generation company born into the waste industry.

Mr. Dawson asked what exactly he was asking the Board to do. Mr. Scagoza said he would like board to sit down and get to understand it, he would bring all the needed documentation and answer any questions. Adding he didn't know if this Board had voted no like many other organizations, but this would correct a couple of bad landfills in Jefferson County. He is going to different Boards that have a stake in this issue asking them to be informed to hash this out because the alternative is bad.

Mr. Fabian explained that the Solid Waste Board has not taken any action as per its Attorney recommendation and are not allowed to do so until an application is processed.

Mr. Scagoza stated he was asking to have a discussion to get information to the Board, so they understand what this is. There is a lengthy process of months of engineering before submitting an application, and for a company to agree to correct these problems they need to know that there is opportunity for the future. At the start they would have to put ten to fifteen (10-15) million dollars in Bonds up of their capital, in order to do that they would have to have some assurances on the other side. He doesn't expect a ruling from the Board now, but it is worth their time to understand it. A properly run facility doesn't have that kind of odor that the local residents are concerned about, there is a facility in Robinson, PA near Best Buy that takes most of the City of Pittsburgh's waste which has no smell around the surrounding area. There is about the same mileage from that facility to Robinson as there is Steubenville to Crossridge. This will impact our children/grandchildren.

None.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: Jim Mavromatis

None.

GRANTS/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Bianconi

None.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino

None.

LANDFILL REPORT: Nicole Balakos

Mrs. Balakos went over the reports. She explained the odor complaint trend shows June & July were down from the previous year, but with change in ownership residents are concerned about having their voices heard and complaints are up in August.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Mucci asked about the Consultants that are being paid monthly providing info needed to the Board. Mr. Fabian began forwarding their emails to anyone on the Board wanting them, as of right now Mr. Bianconi is the only one who wanted on the list. Mr. Mucci asked to be added to list of email forwards. Mr. Fabian reported that he gets regular calls and emails from the Consultants and they keep him informed.

Mr. Mucci asked for an update on the Jefferson County Health Dept. Contract. Mrs. Balakos stated that the last time she was at a meeting (June) was the first time the Board talked about reconciliation. Mr. Mucci stated this conversation has been going on and on and on. Mrs. Balakos stated that was the first time she had been asked for a reconciliation, she has been turning in Expenses but the Board asking for records years back, before she started, would take time because Jefferson County has the old fiscal system called Bud Light DOS System. The records the Board is asking for were from in 2019 before she or her Fiscal Officer worked there. They are trying to go back through the 2019 records, but with that DOS program you can't even do a query based on vendors, you have to actually know what you are looking for to pull them up. They don't have Fund Accounting; everything is a manual pull making it difficult to recreate 2019 when you weren't there. In 2020 when she started the Fund Accounting is still not set up for the Health Department, they use one Fund between them and the County Auditor's. But the Health Department is now keeping a spreadsheet of the information. She is pulling the information for all of 2019 in between everything else she is working on with the Covid, and none of the employees are still there.

Mr. Luckino suggested starting from scratch from when Mrs. Balakos started or with a clean slate from 2020, it looks like there is two sets of standards from when the Health Department was run years ago to now under new leadership. Mr. Mucci stated he agrees, however if the monies were not spent properly then they have a problem, which is what they are trying to determine. Mrs. Balakos stated according to the EPA with those 10 allowable expenses, anything spent on any public health thing in a community where landfills exist is allowed, it

would still need to be present to go through that Bud Light System which is in the County Auditor's, because the person going through that would have to know what to look for.

Mr. Mucci discussed when the additional \$50,000 was added to the Health Department funding in October 2019, and proper documentation was requested. He then suggested that the Authority continue to pay the 2020 funding with the proper documentation, and at the appropriate time when the Health Department provides the Authority with the documentation for 2019 the appropriate adjustments can be made in their funding of 2020. It was clarified that they are paid Quarterly for up to \$125,000 total.

Mrs. Balakos discussed her Boards concern of the Contract wording regarding C&D funding requirements, and the tracking of the C&D versus Solid Waste spending. They do now keep it appropriated separately in a Fund internally by a spreadsheet. Mr. Fabian asked why the Authority should give them money when they received \$193,000 in C&D last year, that more than paid for what the Board was shown as a \$125,000 program. Mrs. Balakos stated they are separate issues, the \$125,000 doesn't cover any capital expenditures or other issues associated with it for the long term liability program, in terms of other positions that support the solid waste program, in terms of that other overhead also. Mr. Fabian asked if that means last year that program cost over \$300,000. Mrs. Balakos answered she does not know, she was not saying that, she didn't keep those records and won't know until a couple of years from now.

Mr. Irvin stated that the big switch happened with the second Contract in 2019 with the big percentage (%) increase of the extra \$50,000, and the bookkeeping records are an issue for providing the data. He proposed they go back to the first 2019 Contract original amount and record requirements, and get a reimbursed credit upon the account, with proper bookkeeping going forward, the then he would be more included to accept something like that, but we can't have that \$150,000 out there without bookkeeping, record analysis and some accountability.

Mr. Hays stated he felt there has always been a lot of confusion on both sides of what is allowable and isn't, at this point why not just move 2020 forward. Attorney Bauer could get a good template of what's allowable and what's not based on other Solid Waste Authority's that he represents.

Mr. Luckino made a motion to move forward with the 2020 agreement, and the Authority Attorney Albin Bauer provide a good template of what's allowable and what's not based on other Solid Waste Authority's he represents.

Discussion - Mr. Mavromatis warned of findings when the Authority is audited for 2019 if not resolved. Mrs. Balakos stated the EPA was fine with closing out 2019 and moving forward with 2020. Mr. Fabian stated his decision was based on the 79 page report, page 5 has the breakdown of what it is, listing C&D, infectious waste, septic haulers, solid waste haulers which are not allowed to be funded by the Authority. Mrs. Balakos stated the last meeting she attended (June) was when she was told there was a problem, they have had phone conversations, and dates were just set for the two fiscal officers to talk, so she hasn't gone to pull all of that. Now it's getting all the right people together for calls.

Mr. Mucci discussed the audit referenced earlier by Mr. Mavromatis, and asked if the issue would be reflected in the Health Dept books but not in the Authority's? And if the audit for 2019 had been done. Mrs. Balakos answered the Auditors are in now. Mr. Mucci stated he believes that with a copy of the contract and what the expenditures