

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2024**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mike Bianconi, Chuck Dawson, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, Robert Krajnyak, Dan Lima, James Mavromatis, Rob Sproul.

ABSENT: Bob Baird, John Davies, Andrew Henry, George Irwin Jr., Anthony Kolanski, Joe Luckino, Mitch Morelli.

OTHERS: Anita Petrella, Scott Renforth, Bobbi McMillen, Loretta Hannahs, Eric Lilly, Jeff Vaughn, Kevin Flanagan and Babette Mavromatis.

A quorum being present, Chair Scott Fabian called to order the regular meeting of the Jefferson Belmont Regional Solid Waste Authority Board at the JBGT building, 67895 Pickering Road, St. Clairsville, 228, Ohio at 5:30 PM on, Monday, August 12, 2024.

MINUTES:

A motion to approve the July 8, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Echemann, and seconded by Mr. Krajnyak. **Vote: Seven (7) said Aye. Mr. Bianconi, Mr. Echemann, Mr. Fabian, Mr. Krajnyak, Mr. Lima, Mr. Mavromatis, Mr. Sproul. Mr. Dawson Abstained. Motion passed.**

Ms. McMillen shared a brief “Safety Minute” reminding all in attendance that school is very soon starting and to watch for the yellow buses.

Mr. Fabian opened by mentioning prior conversations with the Board around the topic of each County having its own Assistant Environmental Prosecutor. He has been in contact with Attorney Albin Bauer and advised that the Prosecutor’s Office is the ultimate legal authority in each County. Attorney Bauer also advised we could use Contract Fees and other funds (I.E. tipping fees) to help to fund these positions.

Kevin Flanagan, Belmont County Prosecutor, then addressed the Board at the request of the Board and Mr. Sproul. He shared that he is very much in favor of exploring this option and that he had also reached out to Attorney Jane Hanlon, the Jefferson County Prosecutor to see what is currently happening in Jefferson County. Criminal and Civil prosecutions were both discussed as both are handled through this office. Mr. Fabian agreed to share contact information for Attorney Albin Bauer with Mr. Flanagan to further this exploration. Mr. Echemann then asked Mr. Flanagan about the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) only allowing 3 counties to have Environmental Courts. Mr. Fabian clarified that we are not seeking to create an Environmental Court in either Belmont or Jefferson Counties. Instead, we would simply prosecute these cases through the existing courts in each County. This is a “work around” the ORC and/or trying to change to ORC. Mr. Mavromatis asked Mr. Flanagan if they “are currently operating with a full staff”? Mr. Flanagan answered “yes”, but that they do not have the staff to handle more than their current load. Mr. Flanagan shared that while they may find a way to prosecute as many cases as we wish, and any case we send them, they can never promise restitution. An example of a case in Fairview at the Belmont County line was shared with the potential of never seeing restitution. In closing, Mr. Flanagan shared that the Mental Health factor in so many of these cases cannot be overlooked.

Jeff Vaughn of Vaughn, Coast & Vaughn, Inc Engineers, addressed the Board with 2 estimates that have been obtained to resolve the exterior water issues at the Belmont Building. These did not go to public