

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2023**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mike Bianconi, Chuck Dawson, John Davies, Scott Fabian, Andrew Henry, George Irvin Jr, Tony Kolanski, Dan Lima, Joe Luckino, James Mavromatis, Rob Sproul

ABSENT: Robert Baird, Jerry Echemann, Robert Krajnyak, Mitch Morelli

OTHERS: Anita Petrella, Scott Renforth, Natalie Lysle, Bobbi McMillen

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, Ohio at 5:30PM on, Monday, December 11, 2023.

MINUTES:

A motion to approve the November 13, 2023 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Mavromatis, and seconded by Mr. Henry. **Vote: Seven (7) said Aye. Mr. Davies, Mr. Kolanski, Mr. Lima and Mr. Luckino Abstained. Motion approved.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Fiscal Report: Scott Renforth

Mr. Renforth reported revenues for \$790,295.45, with expenditures of \$725,323.37 and net income of \$64,972.08. Non-Payroll Expenditures were attached for inspection. \$500,000 was moved into the Stars Account from Contract Fee Fund 02 as approved last month. The \$6,045,985.01 number shown does not include Novembers numbers, but that amount will show in the Decembers Report, interest in November was \$26,000. Members reviewed. Mr. Dawson asked where the Clean Earth Headquarters was located. Ms. Petrella answered they were in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Renforth explained the amount shown for them on this report was for the Belmont HHW Collection.

Mr. Renforth reviewed the Apex tonnage report for October which reflected 7,891.67 tons In-District, 21,510.61 tons Out-of-District, 134,010.14 tons Out-of-State for a total of 163,412.42 tons, yielding \$251,928.10.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for November 2023 was made by Mr. Sproul and seconded by Mr. Luckino. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Mr. Renforth reminded the Board that as a result of a 2015 Rates & Charges Lawsuit Settlement Agreement requiring the Authority to have a separate Rates & Charges Fund. If the Rates & Charges Fund Cash is not sufficient to cover the recycling program expenditures at the year-end a cash transfer from General Fund, Contract Fee Fund or a combination of both is required to eliminate that deficit.

As of November 2023 the fund is negative \$923,204.44. Each December adjustments are needed to cover the funds, and he is asking the Board to approve a cash transfer not to exceed 1,300,000.00 to cover for 2023. A transfer of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund, and a not to exceed \$300,000 transfer from the Contract Fee Fund. This transfer will be done at the end of the year for the exact amount of the deficit at that time which is expected to be slightly under \$1,200,000.

Mr. Henry made the motion to approve the \$1,000,000.00 transfer from the General Fund and an up to \$300,000 transfer from the Contract Fee Fund into the Rates & Charges Fund as requested. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Vote by Roll Call: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Director's Report: Anita Petrella

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that she provided a letter of support for the Jefferson County Soil & Water District for an Appalachian Grant Application. The County Commissioners have been working with them on this large grant and Soil & Water had asked for our support.

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that the purchase of the property on Route 40 in Belmont County has been cancelled and that Mr. Luckino could explain more details. Mr. Luckino explained he and other members met at the site and after further investigation they believe it be best not to tackle that location project at this time.

Ms. Petrella stated the purchase of \$2,000 gravel to be placed at the Cedar One Drop-off Site has been cancelled due to inability for Don Moore to get it, we did moved the bins sideways and added two more bins which seems to be helping, this morning there was nothing on the ground around the bins.

Ms. Petrella asked the Board to approve an Annual Safety Meeting Lunch for staff in the amount of \$350.

Mr. Dawson made the motion to approve the Annual Safety Meeting lunch in the amount of \$350. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said yes. Motin approved.**

Ms. Petrella updated the Board on the Styrofoam Recycling discussed at last month's meeting. She reported that there would not be enough volume locally to run the machine. The machine would be about \$20,000 and requires 100 lbs. per hour to run, which is a lot of Styrofoam. The EPA estimates there is 1% of Styrofoam in MSW which is what we are collecting. She will keep investigating but to sell the finished product we would need 40,000 lbs. of densified blocks in a semi-truck load. She explained we just don't have that kind of volume and it would take us forever to fill a semi. She had sent a video to the Board explaining the process.

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that another employee in Belmont that is going off for surgery, so again the new driver is gainfully employed and has been very busy since being hired. There has only been 3 weeks where we didn't have a full staff since he's been here.

Mr. Fabian stated that he does still believe that the Styrofoam recycling would be a good idea at some point in the future, maybe generating more volume if we got the word out. Member discussed obtaining it from surrounding Counties. The issues of surrounding Counties collecting it and bringing it to us as well as storage space and how our residents would have to bring it to one location for drop-off was discussed. Ms. Petrella stated the machine would need 85 square feet, but the space needed to store the Styrofoam would be much larger.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian

None.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT: Rob Sproul & George Irvin

Mr. Sproul stated the Committee met and discussed raises and agreed to a 3% raise for all non-Salary employees, and a 3% salary increase for the Fiscal Officer, basically an addendum to his contract starting January 2, 2024 to July 2024. Mr. Irvin stated that they agreed to offer a 3-year contract to Anita Petrella with a 3% increase per year. Members discussed what the rate increase would amount to per hour for the drivers. Mr. Bianconi provided documents regarding salary increases in the Solid Waste Plan to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Sproul made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) Personnel Exception to consider compensation of a public employee. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Vote: All said Aye. Motion approved.**

Mr. Dawson made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mr. Henry seconded. **Vote by Roll Call. All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to give the Non-Salary Employees a 3% raise beginning on the January 12, 2024 pay and a \$500.00 Christmas Bonus payable on the next pay, December 29th. Mr. Henry seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to give the Fiscal Officer an addendum to his contract of a 3% increase starting on December 30, 2023 as well as a \$500.00 Christmas bonus. Mr. Fabian will contact Attorney Bauer to have the contract amended. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to offer the Executive Director Ms. Petrella a new 1-year contract with a 3% increase with language allowing for the giving and receiving of bonuses with the amount specified for the start of this contract a \$500 Holiday Bonus. Mr. Henry seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Sproul made a motion in regard to the 2023 Jefferson County Health Department Contract, due to unforeseen issues in 2023 they have gone above their Contract amount and are requesting an adjustment of up to \$30,000 to their contract to cover expenses through the end of the year. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion. Discussion, total amount would now be up to \$110,000 for 2023. Mr. Henry explained that Total is dependent on the month of December Invoice which his fiscal officer estimated at \$27,000. **Roll Call Vote: 10 voting Yes, Mr. Henry Abstained. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Sproul made a motion to renew the Jefferson County and Belmont County Sheriff's Departments Contract for the year 2024. Mr. Mavromatis seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: 10 voting Yes, Mr. Irvin voting No. Motion was approved.**

A motion was made by Mr. Irvin to renew the Government Policy Group Contract for 2024 for the same amount as 2023. Mr. Dawson seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Dawson made a motion to make the 2024 Jefferson County Board of Health Contract with the same language but make the amount for \$100,000. Mr. Luckino seconded. **Roll Call Vote: 9 voting Yes, Mr. Henry abstained. Mr. Irvin voting No. Motion was approved.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: Jim Mavromatis

None.

GRANTS/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Bianconi

None.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino

None.

LANDFILL REPORT: Andrew Henry

Mr. Henry reported so far in 2023 there have been 5 Notice of Violations but that has remained unchanged since last month. His odor Techs do weekly visits to the perimeter of the landfill and have identified odors on 19 occasions, ranging from a .5 to a 5. For the month of November there were 25 odor complaints, which is trending downward as expected in the colder months. The tonnage report shows in November MSW was 153,000 and C&D was 73,000 tons. He knows there were some residents that took the settlement for the class action lawsuit so we have some that will not be calling in, but there is still a large number of residents who chose not to settle. Ms. Petrella asked if it was the second settlement, because she thought they had received \$10,000 several years ago. Mr. Sproul explained that IWS had taken on any previous litigation that Environmental Solutions had, so they took over that class action case, to his knowledge yes this is the second settlement.

Mr. Bianconi asked if there was any news of the Crossridge Landfill. Mr. Sproul stated he is unsure but heard months ago any involvement of IWS trying to rehabilitate the site was over, but then had since heard that wasn't true, so he believes IWS is still in talks with EPA to come up with a solution to rehabilitate the site. Obviously, they want something in return which is more land at Apex, but Soil & Water may not allow the easement of the wetlands to go to Apex. Mr. Luckino stated he and Ms. Petrella went to a meeting regarding it and the ground they want is in the middle of the landfill footprint so it would technically not be an expansion. Mr. Henry added that Mr. Scagoza continues to do nothing at Crossridge in spite of all the Judges orders.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bianconi asked if there was any news on the Environmental Court. Mr. Fabian stated he hadn't heard back from Attorney Bauer, but he will ask him about it when he talks to him tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Luckino informed the Board that a company in Follansbee, WV is making a plant that will recycle plastics, supposedly this is the only location in the US that will take plastics #1-7. Ms. Petrella reported the owner has been in contact with her several times. Mr. Fabian reported they were having a public meeting tomorrow at 6PM about getting the building approved to house it. Ms. Petrella reported when she spoke to him about a year ago and he was wanting us to plan to

take our plastics to him because he would need the volume, but when she asked him if they would be buying our volume or if we would have to pay them, he at the time didn't have an answer and was only taking #1's & #2's. Mr. Luckino stated he believes they are a private and public funded business, they now have funding and support from the State of West Virginia.

Next meeting set for Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:30pm at JBGT building at the Steubenville JBGT building.

Mr. Fabian reported that the Jefferson Board Members met tonight and installed their three statutory Board members, who all remain the same. He added that Belmont members will need to meet before the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm. with a motion from Mr. Mavromatis, seconded by Mr. Lima.

ATTEST:



Scott Fabian, Chair



Mike Bianconi, Secretary