

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2024**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Bob Baird, Mike Bianconi, John Davies, Chuck Dawson, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, Andrew Henry, George Irvin Jr, Tony Kolanski, Robert Krajnyak, Joe Luckino, Dan Lima, James Mavromatis, Mitch Morelli

**ABSENT:** Rob Sproul

**OTHERS:** Anita Petrella, Scott Renforth, Natalie Lysle, Albin Bauer, Louise Holliday, Bobbi McMillen, Ron Ramsey, Mark Bigler, Robert Andy Kuchinski, James Still, Paul Romano, Tony Morelli, Shawn Albaugh, Vince Gianangeli

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, 228 Technology Way, Steubenville, Ohio at 5:30PM on, Monday, November 4, 2024.

**MINUTES:** A motion to approve the October 7, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Krajnyak, and seconded by Mr. Luckino. **Vote: 10 said Aye, with Mr. Bianconi, Mr. Morelli, Mr. Echemann, Mr. Irvin abstaining. Motion passed.**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to change the Agenda to go into Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1) Personnel Exceptions to discuss discipline of public employees. Mr. Luckino seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes.**

Mr. Mavromatis and Mr. Davies left the meeting during the Executive Session.

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

Mr. Luckino made a motion to approve for Mr. Mavromatis to contact his legal council and discuss the implementation of a hearing officer and the policies and procedure that go along with it. Mr. Baird seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion approved."**

**CORRESPONDENCE: Scott Fabian**

Mr. Fabian read a letter from Driver Mark Bigler informing the Board of his retirement in January 2025. Mr. Bigler's letter thanked the Board for giving him a chance and allowing him to drive a truck in Jefferson County for 11 ½ years, for always putting safety first, for the coworkers who have turned into friends and work as a team, and for having Anita as his boss because she has always treated everyone professionally, fairly and cared about all her workers. The Board congratulated Mark on his retirement.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Fiscal Report:**

Mr. Renforth reported October revenues of \$310,217.79, with expenditures of \$200,116.40 and net income of \$110,101.39. Payroll and Non-Payroll Expenses were reviewed by the Board.

Apex Tonnage Report for September 2024 shows 7,866.63 tons In-District, 25,378.89 Out-of-District, 129,031.60 Out-of-State tons, for total of 162,277.12 tons, yielding \$252,171.81.

Mr. Renforth stated \$110,101.39 is a typical figure for net income. Last month there was a net loss because of a big truck purchased, but it is usually between 100 to mid-100's. Ms. Petrella pointed to the new truck, stating it does not yet have the signage on it.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for October 2024 was made by Mr. Echemann and seconded by Mr. Luckino. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Mr. Renforth asked the Board for the following Budget Adjustments:

Payroll related increases are due, we have new hires this year, and asking that payroll related increases be \$55,000.00 to carry out the year. This is for all the PERS, taxes, etc.

- Transfer Budget Line 01-6530 to 03-6530 (Collection Drives) \$127,000.00. Same Collection, different Fund.
- Increase Budget Line 01-5005 (Payroll Taxes) \$6,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 03-5005 (Payroll Taxes) \$10,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 01-5110 (Workers Compensation) \$4,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 03-5110 (Workers Compensation) \$4,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 01-5010 (PERS) \$11,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 01-5010 (PERS) \$20,000.00

He also asked for an increase in Non-Payroll due to unexpected increased cost of truck maintenance. Two of the oldest trucks were traded in, but prior to they cost a great deal to maintain until that occurred.

- Increase Budget Line 03-6210 (Contract Services) \$40,000.00 (Unexpected Increase cost of vehicle maintenance/repair)
- Increase Budget Line 01-6305 (Recycling Materials & Equipment) \$5,000.00
- Increase Budget Line 03-6305 (Recycling Materials & Equipment) \$5,000.00

Additionally, we have seen a lot of costs for much needed improvement of building and grounds, and there are extras that go along with that, like the electrical that alerts us if the pump (at Belmont building) is or isn't working. And at Jeffersons, some emergency electrical repairs are needing done.

- Increase Budget Line 01-6460 (Building & Grounds Capital) \$20,000.00

The Litter Enforcement and Cleanup amount is substantial, due to Belmont County Sheriff's Office sending a 2023 Invoice in April of 2024. The money wasn't taken out in 2023, but wasn't allocated in 2024 either.

- Increase Budget Line 02-6570 (Litter Enforcement & Clean ups) \$61,499.50 (02-6570 had 2023 payment from Belmont County SO in April 2024 of \$61,449.50)
- Increase Budget Line 01-6570 (Litter Enforcement & Clean ups) \$100.00

Increase in material and recycling equipment under other due to increased need of day to day expenses.

- Increase Budget Line 01-6590 (Other) \$7,500.00

Increase in Payroll Related= \$55,000.00, Increase in non-payroll=\$ 129,099.50 for Total Needed to adjust 2024 financial year budget is \$184,099.50.

Mr. Echemann asked about the Invoice received from the Belmont Sheriffs office in April 2024. Mr. Renforth explained that the Invoice didn't come in 2023, it came late (April 2024), he hadn't allowed for it in the budget, the money was allocated but wasn't invoiced in 2023. The amount paid out in 2024 included amounts from both 2023 and 2024.

Mr. Bauer stated he recalls some provisions in the contract about that, maybe because it had been an issue previously. We didn't want to have a carryover impact.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to approve the Allocations as presented by Mr. Renforth. Mr. Krajnyak seconded. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Mr. Renforth provided the Board different amounts for possible employee raises, he was unsure of the normal procedure for raises, but asked the Board to consider atleast the 5% increase. He submitted different percentages and some flat amounts for the Boards review. Mr. Irvin stated that there was typically a joint Personnel & Finance Committee meeting before the December meeting to go over numbers and make a recommendation to the whole Board. Members thanked Mr. Renforth for the information. Mr. Irvin suggested the joint Committee Meeting be held just prior to the Board Meeting. Timeline of the raises are normally the first pay of the year.

**Director's Report:**

Ms. Petrella informed the Board they have a residential lease agreement prepared for the property/trailer adjacent to the Belmont Building, and they will be getting the gentleman to sign a Lease to let him stay there. She explained that the Authority isn't in the rental business, but they don't want to throw the gentleman out who has been living in the trailer. He would however be the last person to live there because they will not be leasing to anyone after he eventually moves out. Mr. Luckino explained that Attorney Bauer had sent recommendations, and they will insert them into the Lease and send it over to get signed and executed hopefully by the end of next week.

Mr. Bianconi stated he wasn't at the last meeting and asked how much they would be charging for rent and what's the term of the Lease. Mr. Luckino explained that the gentleman has been living there for a long time and was paying \$250 per month. The Gentleman stated he could afford up to \$325 a month. Mr. Luckino explained we are not there for the rent, we are there for just the property, and the gentleman takes care of it. If he moves out the Authority will sell the trailer and keep the ground. If he does remain there, they could possibly increase the rent on a yearly basis. Members briefly discussed whether to have a month-to-month or one year lease.

Mr. Bauer stated he reviewed the lease and provided a list of about 10 things to touch up, one of the last was in general with respect to private property, the Board will have to adopt a Resolution making a determination that the trailer/mobile home is not needed for public purposes of JBRSWA, which would allow it to be leased. Have to make a finding that it is not needed for public purposes so it can be leased to someone, as a way of temporarily disposing of it. We will make the changes and have the gentleman sign it and bring it back to the Board at the December meeting to adopt the Resolution.

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that staff members attended the Jefferson County Soil & Water Banquet and the JB Green Team was recognized for it's participation in the Land Lab and the startup of the Stream Debris Program. She explained the programs to the Board.

The Junction business in Mingo has had a little confusion, they've been in the newspaper and advertised that they were looking to lease the front of the property on Commercial Street, and our recyclables are to be dumped in the back of the property. The gas station and dairy queen deal fell through, and now they are now looking to lease the front of the property. She stated we are still moving forward and that Joe Ewusiak called her today and wanted to get another copy of the contract from us. They are starting to ship to the Empire Diversified Energy plant in Follansbee and did a cold run load on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The process incinerates the materials into gas to then be used to create energy. They are planning to take more and are hoping to begin accepting our materials soon. Mr. Fabian stated that Mike Costello of the Government Policy Group sent something out of Columbus about how we might see these types of process plants start to pop up around landfills, and the tonnage going into those landfills, including Apex, may begin to decrease from being diverted to these types of plants to generate electricity. Mr. Luckino stated they said this type of plant is one of first of its kind in the country. Ms. Petrella explained she and her staff toured it, and they are open and happy to give more tours if any Board members are interested to let her know.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian**

None.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

None.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: George Irvin**

Mr. Irvin stated they did not meet, but would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Finance Committee ahead of the Board meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed and agreed to 4:45pm. on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

None.

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

None.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino**

None.

**LANDFILL REPORT: Andrew Henry**

Mr. Henry reported for the Month of October Apex had 163,946 tons of MSW, 113,636 tons of CD&D. The EPA denied their initial request for increased tonnage from 10,000 per day to at least 12,000 per day. They have some follow up to do before the EPA will consider increasing their tonnage on a daily basis. Their stretch goal is 15,000 per day, but average tonnage right now is about 8,500 give or take. They don't think they will reach their requested tonnage but want the flexibility. Mr. Bauer stated the new landfill expansion in Fostoria, Ohio that was approved by the EPA last month was for 12,500, 50 million tons of additional disposal capacity, and final permit gave them 9,500. So he is confident that the 12,000 would be the highest raining landfill in Ohio. Mr. Henry stated this was for just MSW material, so they can take as much CD&D on the gondolas as they can handle operationally. Mr. Henry reported Apex had 207 Odor Complaints for 2024, 16 in October. They did have a class action settled in the beginning of 2024 and it may have been a huge factor in the decrease

of complaints. Techs have identified odors 16 times throughout the year, most of the time they didn't exceed 1 on a scale of 1-5. No Notice of Violations so far this year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Bianconi introduced Jefferson County Commissioner Mr. Morelli, and Vince Gianangeli will be the new Belmont County Commissioner the first of the year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Luckino stated that Commissioners Morelli informed him that he will be reappointed as Jefferson County Commissioner representative for 2025, they will be sending the letter.

Mr. Luckino stated since the Board discussed the Sheriff's contracts last month it would be appropriate to discuss the Fiscal Officer and Executive Director's this month to be on schedule. He believes the Board should offer them both the option of 3-year contracts.

Mr. Luckino made a motion to offer both the Fiscal Officer and Executive Director up to a three-year contract with wages contingent on what the Board decides next month. Discussion: Compensation and possibly waiting to discuss at the Committee meeting in December. Voting on the Contracts without an amount was questioned. It was explained that the Sheriff's EEO contracts were voted on last month without the amounts.

Mr. Henry seconded the motion, stating it solidifies that they will be discussing their wages at the Personnel & Finance Committee meeting next month.

**Roll Call Vote: 7 voting Yes, 5 voting No. Motion approved.**

Mr. Bianconi asked if any of the public in attendance wish to address the Board.

Mr. Gianangeli introduced himself thanking Mr. Bianconi for the invitation. He's been in public service for 40 years, was a State Auditor for 16 years, worked for the County for 16 years, in currently in his forth term as Colerain Township Fiscal Officer and has had dealings with JB Green Team at Cleanup Collections working alongside of them. He was aware that Mr. Echemann was on this Board, knows Mr. Krajnyak, and also Mr. Irvin from years ago at St. Johns School.

Mr. Morelli spoke briefly, thanking the Board for their service in appreciation of their efforts in a thankless job.

Next meeting set for Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Belmont JB Green Team building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm. with a motion from Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Luckino.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Scott Fabian, Chair

  
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Mike Bianconi, Secretary