

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2021**

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: John Davies, Chuck Dawson, Andrew Henry, Tony Kolanski, Robert Krajnyak, Mitch Morelli

OTHERS: Anita Petrella, Dave Hays, Natalie Lysle, Alisha Teramana, Tony Morelli, Terry Bell, Craig Petrella

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 5:40PM on, Monday, March 8, 2021.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the February 8, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Mucci, and seconded by Mr. Echemann. **Vote: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Fiscal Report:

Mr. Hays reported February revenues of \$232,159.82, with expenditures of \$124,659.88 and net income of \$107,499.94. Non-Payroll Expenditures for February were reviewed with no questions. The January Apex tonnage report showed 10,305.86 total In-District tonnage; 7,276.53 Out-of-District tonnage; 102,734.36 Out-of-State tonnage; yielding \$178,960.46 to the District in February.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for February 2021 was made by Mr. Irvin and seconded by Mr. Mucci. **ROLL CALL VOTE: All said Yes. Motion passed.**

Mr. Hays asked the Board to pass the 2021 Permanent Appropriations, already provided by email, which he needs to submit to the County Auditor's Office by the end of the month. He explained the \$100,000 shown under Economic Incentives is for the SW Grants Program.

With no questions Mr. Mucci made a motion to approve the 2021 Permanent Appropriations. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Roll call vote: All said Yes. Motion passed.**

Executive Director's Report:

Community Cleanups

Anita Petrella stated that the Community cleanup dates are coming up and that hard copies of the schedules are available for members at tonight's meeting. Belmont County Collections will be different due to the issue of getting tire trailers at their collections this year, so they will only have one (1) Tire Collection on June 12th at the Belmont County Fair Grounds.

Commissioners Meeting

Ms. Petrella explained she was asked to attend the Jefferson County Commissioners meeting last week, she will be attending them periodically to give updates. Updates may also be provided to them by Mr. Luckino, their appointed representative on the JBGT Board.

Resolutions

Ms. Petrella reported that the Plan approval rating is currently 41% for Jefferson, the City of Steubenville is expected to pass theirs tomorrow night bringing it to 57%. Belmont is at 55%, with the combined District total of 48%. The goal is at least 60%. She explained many Municipalities are meeting and expected to pass their resolutions in the upcoming weeks. The list of current resolutions will be emailed to the Board.

Ms. Petrella reported that the business Bully Tools located nearby in the Industrial Park asked for permission to do a 60,000 foot expansion project. Approval is required by majority vote from all the other businesses owners located in the Industrial Park. She attended the Port Authority meeting and gave her vote of approval, adding that the vote was a unanimous yes.

The Litter Enforcement will be discussed under the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Mucci asked about the Community Cleanups benefits regarding Steubenville and Martins Ferry. Ms. Petrella stated about six years ago there were one-time collection events held in five large cities of the Authority. Currently there are numerous drop-off recycling sites located in the Cities compared to the Townships with one or less. With the Cleanup Collections the Township Trustees are responsible for providing advertising, restrooms, and lunch for the workers at their Collections. The Authority does have the Hazardous Waste Collections in Steubenville and St. Clairsville areas each year. Mr. Bianconi explained that City residents, as well as all District residents, are free to utilize any of the Collections near them, and no one is restricted to their own local collection. Ms. Petrella stated Steubenville residents have several nearby collections including Steubenville Township, Cross Creek Township, Island Creek Township. Mr. Fabian stated they get residents of Mingo and Steubenville at their Township Collection. Ms. Petrella explained that she still cannot get labor assistance from the EOCC, adult offenders, Community Service, CCAP, or county inmates due to the Covid restrictions. Due to this the Cleanup Collections have been restricted to one (1) day events this year, utilizing JBGT staff to man the collections in addition to doing their five day recycling routes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Rob Sproul

None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Mark McVey

Mr. Fabian explained the Committee met this afternoon about the possibility of taking over the Litter Enforcement Officers. A lot of research was done on other programs and the results are not very good because of how those programs are set up. The officers answer to the County Sheriff's Departments spending most of their time as a resource officer, traffic duty, road deputies, and other calls, with very little time spent on litter enforcement. Mr. Fabian stated he would not support the JBRSWA paying a full salary with this type of program. He explained that Attorney Albin Bauer reviewed ten (10) different Districts from across the State. He had reported that some have officers and some don't, and that many are very complicated programs which would be very difficult for us to emulate because they have completely different types of Board, they are Charter Counties. Mr. Fabian stated he reviewed their Solid Waste Plans. One District in particular he had spoken with their Director who told him that they had contract employees through Community Action Council up until 2012, they then moved to County

employees allowing them to begin with PERS and benefits. The officers were technically Inspectors up until 2012 under the Sheriff, doing what the Sheriff wanted them to do, leaving little free time for Litter Enforcement. The programs did not work well until they were made County employees and then answered directly to the Executive Directors. In 2012 they Sheriff's commissioned one person to the District, so that person answers to the District Executive Director every day and has an office at the Solid Waste Building, and the solid waste pays for that officer. With this the program is working. They would also pick and sponsor three (3) major Cleanups in each County each year.

Mr. Fabian reported that Mr. Bauer informed him that at a SWANA meeting a couple of weeks ago, an officer offered to come to anyone's meeting to explain how they do things.

Mr. McVey stated that it's been since 2008 that the legislature gave the Township Trustees a lot more authority. One Township in Belmont has done the legwork to get it done, and now they do the work with taking the pictures and send the notices of abatement to the property owners, and that it has been successful already in one year. Mr. McVey stated if the Township Trustees want to put the time and effort into it, the Authority could consider reimbursing them for their costs. This would involve working with the Prosecutors, the Court systems, due process and letters to abate. But once it is set up it is just a easy to repeat processes with each case. He explained how the Courts, after seeing hardened criminals, find it hard to see this issue as a serious offence worthy of heavy fines or jail time. Mr. Morelli stated that was what the plan is and what Mr. McVey was saying made sense. Instead of a Litter Officer that the Authority reimburse Townships for the work they have done on cleaning something up, or maybe both. He discussed the challenges of different departments being called in for different types of complaint issues, and the time wasted on those when they don't pertain to them. He added that they have a Prosecuting Attorney coming to speak to the Trustees this month.

Mr. Bell stated that there are fourteen (14) different laws in the Ohio Revised Code regarding nuisance properties. He discussed what those were in regards to and what the County Health Department deals with, adding that some laws are from 1969. For the Townships to get involved it is lengthy and costly, which makes them reluctant. Cleaning up dump sites with their own crew would take them away from their regular road work.

Mr. Bianconi discussed the property maintenance code in Pultney, Pease and Mead Townships that was adopted. He talked about the difficulty with the Courts ordering cleanups and fines, as well as forcing property owners to comply. Adding that he thinks the property owners should be responsible for their own cleanup costs, not the taxpayers, and the issues of trying to do that.

A Litter Enforcement meeting is to be held on March 24th, at the Regional Planning Meeting. Mr. Fabian asked the Board to consider the matter until next month, with possibly having another Committee meeting or as a whole Board to keep moving ahead.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: Jim Mavromatis
None.

GRANTS/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Bianconi

Mr. Bianconi and Mr. Mucci explained that there were three qualified Grant applications so far with April 1st being the deadline, which is right around the corner. Board members were asked

to encourage local non-profit organizations to apply and help get the word out. Possible reasons for the low response were discussed briefly which included Covid.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino

None.

LANDFILL REPORT:

Mr. Fabian stated that the Report totals no longer include the CD&D numbers, and will find out why and request to have them put back on.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Fabian informed the Board that he was in a remote conference meeting with Albin Bauer, Andrew Huffman from the Government Policy Group, Anita Petrella, and State Representative Ron Ferguson today. Mr. Ferguson is considering adding legislation on a Budget Bill regarding pulverized CD&D. The effects on the Solid Waste Districts across the State were explained and discussed for his consideration. Currently under the law pulverized CD&D is considered municipal waste, Mr. Ferguson was questioning why surrounding States charge less than Ohio, and is considering a Bill to reclassify pulverized CD&D. This reclassification could put a strain on the Authority Budget and would affect every Solid Waste District in Ohio.

Apex Landfill

Craig Petrella of Apex reported they are in a new Cell now and moving along well, there was only one complaint in January, which was not valid, and no complaints in February. Things are progressing well, although the weather did delay trains from the East Coast, they are now running a seven (7) day train schedule. Some places in New York and New Jersey that dropped because of Covid have increased from 25% to 50% which should help business. The new Company has just invested \$14 million in equipment.

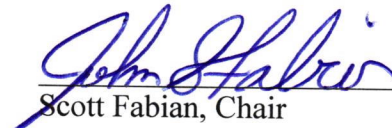
Mr. McVey briefly discussed the flooding in 1990 at Wegee Creek and Pike Creek, which were later determined to be contributed to by the old cars and washing machines and other large debris dumped along them. The floods cost 26 lives.


Next meeting set for Monday, April 12, 2021 Via Zoom or at the Belmont JBGT building, TBD.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. With a motion from Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. McVey. **Vote: All said Aye.**

ATTEST:


Scott Fabian, Chair


Mike Bianconi, Secretary