

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Bob Baird, Mike Bianconi, Chuck Dawson, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, Andrew Henry, George Irvin Jr, Mitch Morelli, Rob Sproul

ABSENT: John Davies, Tony Kolanski, Robert Krajnyak, Joe Luckino, Dan Lima, James Mavromatis

OTHERS: Anita Petrella, Scott Renforth, Natalie Lysle, Bobbi McMillen, 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 5:30PM on, Monday, November 13, 2023.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the October 2, 2023 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Echemann, and seconded by Mr. Sproul. **Vote: 8 said Aye, with Mr. Morelli abstaining. Motion passed.**

CORRESPONDENCE: Scott Fabian

Mr. Irvin thanked everyone for the condolences and blanket he received last week for his mother's passing.

STAFF REPORTS:

Fiscal Report:

Mr. Renforth reported revenues for October at \$333,552.15, with expenditures of \$229,433.31 and net income of \$104,118.84. He then referred to the Payroll and Non-Payroll Expenditures for board inspection. Members reviewed with no questions. Mr. Irvin commented that he is always amazed with the amount of paper payment Buckeye Local School receives and is curious how they do it.

The September Apex Report showed In-District Tonnage of 6,737.98, Out-of-District Tonnage of 23,198.15, Out-of-State Tonnage of 126,761 for Total of 156,697.13 yielding \$243,275.78.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for October 2023 was made by Mr. Irvin and seconded by Mr. Echemann. **VOTE: Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion passed.**

Health Department (Allocation almost depleted)

Mr. Renforth informed the Board that they have allocated \$80,000 for the Jefferson County Health Department for 2023 and that we are \$4,597.35 away from reaching that mark. He explained he just received the October Invoice which is \$10,735.26 and we still have November and December left. Mr. Henry explained that they have spent a lot of additional time on solid waste issues at Crossridge Landfill, Apex Landfill, and Johnny's Tire for Dumping, as well as other open dumping and nuisance issues. Mr. Bianconi asked if it is common for the amount to reach \$80,000 before the end of the year. Mr. Andrew explained that in the past it has been common to be very close to that amount, and that the previous amount of \$120,000 wasn't needed so they had settled on \$80,000 agreeing to negotiate if they hit the 80,000. He added that the money covers multiple employees; their two (2) Sanitarians, Environmental Director, his own time in solid waste as well as his administrative staff. He explained they do time track each

person's time working under solid waste and projects they would need approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 to cover to the end of the year. Bringing the total of about \$110,000 for 2023. The Board discussed. Mr. Irvin explained with a 30%-40% increase he would like more time to review previous years as reference and more information before approving the additional funding. Members decided the Finance Committee will meet to discuss it in December just prior to the Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Henry was asked about other funding the Health Department receives. He explained that those same Sanitarians do also spend time in food service so that time is billed elsewhere. In the past they had used C&D funds to cover the deficit under Solid Waste in order to not have a deficit at the end of the year, but that requires a request to the State Tax Commissioner and then they are at the mercy of the Tax Commissioner as to when it gets approved. Mr. Dawson asked about last year. Mr. Henry stated they had to cover it with Board of Health or C&D money. Ms. Petrella reminded the Board the amount was set at \$80,000 due to it being the amount determined in the Solid Waste Plan. Mr. Fabian stated it is set at \$80,000 in the Plan and that the CD&D funds are supposed to help cover their costs. Mr. Renforth stated that the October bill is for \$10,000 and we only have \$4,500 to cover it. The Finance Committee will review at their December meeting.

Star Investment Account

Mr. Renforth reminded the Board that Mr. Luckino had asked about the possibility of investing more money with the Stars Account because the returns are pretty good. He looked over everything and would be comfortable pulling \$500,000 from Fund 02 to move over to the Stars Account, which would make the Stars Account a little over \$6,000,000. Adding that this month's interest is at \$26,040.14 and this transfer would bring that number up a little more. Board Members briefly discussed, all liking the move.

Mr. Dawson made the motion to move \$500,000 from the 02 Fund into the Stars Account as recommended by the Fiscal Officer. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Transfer of Funds

Mr. Renforth reminded the Board that we have a couple of front load trucks ordered, priced at \$650,354. He is requesting that \$500,000 from Fund 02 be moved to Fund 20 to cover them before they arrive. Ms. Petrella explained that the Trucks were approved by the Board and ordered in June and are expected to be delivered in June 2024 but the account is low and Mr. Renforth will need to appropriate these funds either now or in early 2024.

A Motion to transfer \$500,000 from Fund 02 into Fund 20 to cover the new trucks was made by Mr. Irvin, seconded by Mr. Echemann. **Roll call vote: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

Ms. Petrella reminded the Board that the Government Policy Group Contract ends in December, adding that we have about five (5) contracts ending in December that will need approved by the Board for renewal. The Personnel Committee will meet before the December meeting about contracts.

Director's Report:

Belmont Coordinator

Ms. Petrella introduced the new Belmont County Coordinator, Bobbi McMillen to the Board. Explaining she has been working for us for about a month and doing a great job so far.

Belmont Site 331

Mrs. McMillen spoke about the Belmont Site on 331, a Belmont County building at the site is to be torn down so we relocated seven (7) bins to a new location on Hammond Road. The new location is about a mile away and working well, they have placed a lot of signage to direct the public. The new location is close to the sheriff's department who just repaved their lot and graciously had the extra put down near the bins at the new site. Mr. Echemann asked if the gravel had been placed at the new location and if the bins will be moving back to the 331 Drop-Off Site. Ms. McMillen thanked Mr. Echemann for his assistance with the gravel that was put down at the new site and answered that she didn't know if returning the bins to 331 had been discussed prior by Ms. Shepherd. Mr. Echemann suggested seeing how it goes at the new location and possibly leaving them there if it worked out well.

Belmont Building

Ms. Petrella stated that the new heating system in the Belmont Building is working well, next they will be talking to Jeff Vaughn about getting the outside excavated and fixed. Mr. Fabian stated that he is still working on getting the new Grates that are to go in the Belmont Garage floor, but they have not yet come in. Mr. Fabian stated that if the Board doesn't mind Steubenville Township would come and remove the oil for the old heating system because they use that type of system in their garage. The old furnace is so old it is beyond repairable and will be scrapped. Mrs. McMillen asked about the type of Grates that had been ordered, stating that there seems to be concerns from the drivers about the steel lip that holds them in place are eroding especially with placing steel on them once again. Mr. Fabian explained he tried to get cast iron grates, but they don't come in that particular size. Adding what is normally done when the steel lips become too eroded is to replace them, and that it is common for them to erode that way with the salt from the trucks. He will take a look at them next month while there before the board meeting.

Belmont Site Rte 40

Ms. Petrella spoke about the property on Route 40 in Belmont County that the Board previously approved to purchase for \$10,000. Explaining that she signed the Contract, Mr. Renforth sent the \$500 towards the purchase agreement, and Mr. Luckino told her today that we should have the permanent contract in two weeks at which time we will have two weeks to do the due diligence. Mr. Luckino asked that Board members go see the property, and wanted to know if Mr. Bianconi had the estimates for improvement of the property yet. Mr. Bianconi stated he hadn't done anything yet, he was waiting until we purchased the property. We will need to get trees cut down and he will have to get with ODOT for some costs. Ms. Petrella explained that Mr. Luckino is asking for an estimate of what the improvement costs will be to make the property usable as a Drop-off Site. Mr. Bianconi estimated it would be about \$10,000, he is unsure what it costs to cut a curb and he would have to get a permit from ODOT for that. Ms. Petrella explained that Mr. Luckino does not want to wait until next month and is hoping it's a done deal by the next Board meeting, and is hoping that Board members go and look at the property for the due diligence previously requested.

Belmont Educator

Ms. Petrella stated as the Board is aware the Belmont Educator quit after not being promoted. After discussing it with Mrs. McMillen who just starting last month she believes it best to wait until after the first of the year before beginning the search for a replacement.

2009 Caravan

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that the Caravan used by Yard staff to haul propane tanks and by the Educator sometimes is now 15 years old with 78,745 miles and no longer worth repairing. We put \$4-5,000 into it last year which was probably not worth it, it had started out as a small repair and snowballed into a lot higher cost. She asked the Board if she could trade the van in for a new vehicle for her, and then her current vehicle (2017 Ford Explorer) would go to replace the van at the Cell Yard. Members agreed to allow her to begin searching for a new vehicle. Mr. Fabian stated it is currently cheaper to just purchase off the lot rather than using State Purchasing for some reason, that the Engineers Department just bought a Jeep off the lot cheaper than one would have been through State Purchasing. Ms. Petrella will look and bring a purchase price of a vehicle to present to the Board at the next meeting.

Overflow at Cedar One Site

Ms. Petrella showed a photo of the Cedar One Drop-off Recycling location in Wintersville overflowing on the ground from Monday mornings. She explained that she plans to add more bins and gravel to the site to help prevent the overflow of recyclables being left on the ground around the bins. Total estimated cost of \$2,500.

Ms. Petrella told the Board that she would be having a Thanksgiving lunch for the employees on Thursday and invited Board members if any would like to come. We will also be participating in the Steubenville Christmas Parade on December 2nd.

Keep Ohio Beautiful Conference Award

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that she and Louise attended the KOB conference in Columbus last week and that our program was awarded for Longevity in Programs. She explained some of our programs have been around for well over 30 years including Trashy Art. She stated that Natalie Lysle has been here for 38 years, and Louise Holliday has been around for about 33 years. Ms. Petrella spoke to the Board about the big Eclipse event that will occur on April 8, 2024 and also that in 2026 it will be 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed and the State of Ohio has over a million dollars in Grant Funds available for Ohio Communities to use pertaining to the 250th Anniversary for things such as murals, painting barns and any other suggested ideas that anyone may have.

Ms. Petrella spoke about a program in Hillard, Ohio where there is a pole barn with a machine in it to recycling Styrofoam, and that she would like to research the possibility of a similar program for here, if the costs work out. She is hoping the Board would consider the recycling program adding another stream and had a sample of the finished product which was passed around to members. The recycled Styrofoam is shrunk or condensed into tubes or blocks and can be molded into something, which is an exciting new concept.

OPEA Marketing Grant Request

Ms. Petrella informed the Board that she was contacted by the Brick Company located in Toronto, Ohio who wants to apply for an OEPA Marketing Grant via the Solid Waste Authority to make brick out of Fly Ash. The EPA would give \$200,000 in Grant Funds and the company would have to provide the match of \$200,000. She explained that the EPA gives the Authority Executive Director overseeing power as Project Manager and total funds of \$400,000 would be

kept by the Authority to be dispersed to the Company for the project. The Grant Application would need to be approved and backed by the Board in order for them to apply. Mr. Renforth explained the issue is that they just presented this last week then stated that the Grant Deadline was December 1st, which does not allow much time for the Finance Committee and Board to research and consider the Grant Application or for staff to do site visits. Mr. Henry asked if administration costs, and audit costs were to be shared by the company and the Authority. Discussion by the Board followed. Due to lack of information and such a short timeline the Board is unable to rush the review process and cannot support the Brick Marketing Grant Application at this time. Mr. Petrella of Apex was asked if Fly Ash would go into the Apex landfill since the Authority's goal is to defer waste from landfills. He answered no it is a "single cell product" and can only be deposited into a single cell landfill.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian

None.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Rob Sproul

None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: George Irvin

None.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

None.

GRANTS/SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Mike Bianconi

None.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Did not meet but Ms. Petrella gave Mr. Luckino's update in his absence.

LANDFILL REPORT: Andrew Henry

Mr. Henry reported there were five Notice of Violations so far in 2023 issued at Apex. At their last Board of Health Meeting three were issued, all of which happened during the County Sanitarian inspections and EPA Sanitarian inspections. The tonnage Report for the month of October shows 80, 145.75 tons of CD&D. The Health Department Techs have identified Odor Intensity 13 times in 2023 which is not too bad for weekly checks. Typically, when their Techs identify odor it is around Township Road 267, a common area for the odors. There were 51 complaints in October, most of which were early in the month, then they saw a sharp decline towards the end of the month.

Mr. Fabian asked Craig Petrella of Apex about the progress of the CD&D Spur Lines at the landfill. Mr. Petrella stated the Gondola Buildings are projected to be up and running for the 2nd

Quarter of 2024, they are pouring concrete right now and we are doing some track work. They are constructing a new Cell for maybe December/January 2024. They also have the Morooka Foam in, which is a foam that will be sprayed instead of the liquid. It will eliminate daily cover of dirt because it puts a foam layer down that hardens and it doesn't have to be skimmed back, you can just add trash on top of it. It should also good for the odor control. Mr. Henry reported that Apex has instituted a lot a measures. Although they have seen an increase in complaints they have been responding well to them and done a lot of innovative ideas working with a lot of 3rd parties. Mr. Petrella told the Board they are welcome to come and visit Apex, his office is always open for them to drop in anytime.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bianconi asked what the status of the Environmental Judge was. Mr. Fabian stated he would have to contact Attorney Bauer to see where he is at on that matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bianconi showed the Board a photo of the Pease Township Truck loaded with old TV's that they had collected over time from residents, which he had been storing in a garage for the Township. He thought he could just pay approximately \$100 to have them all taken to Infinite Recycling, but it turned out they cost \$592, partially due to the fact that the damaged TV's cost more, the Township ended up covering the cost. He would like to discuss offering residents low-cost options for getting rid of their TV's without them having to drive them clear to Jefferson County and then pay such a high cost for them to be taken, possibly contacting other Solid Waste Authorities to see what programs they offer. Explaining that the general public from Belmont County is not going to drive clear to Wintersville and pay that amount and does not want to see them dumped over a hill.

Ms. Petrella explained that Infinite Electronics is already overwhelmed with TV's and have a stockpile needing processed now. The process takes a lot of manpower and it's only a small percentage of the TV that is recyclable. She believes if we publicly announce that we take TV's we will have them being dumped at every Community Drop-off site by the public and businesses. She stated we recently had a guy buy 3 skids of TV's and brought them back to resell locally, he then dumped an entire skid of them at one of our business bins Wayne Doors in Wintersville and luckily was caught on the business's security camera. The owner is pursuing charges and working with our Jefferson Environmental Officer. The issue is there is no place to take them even if we took them from the public. Mr. Fabian stated they will not take a TV if it is wet. The Board discussed. Mr. Bianconi would like to look around the State or other organizations to see if there are other avenues for getting rid of them. Ms. Petrella stated that it was a big discussion at the KOB Conference, everyone has the same issue with TV's across the State, along with mattresses and Styrofoam.

Craig Petrella was asked if Apex took TV's. He answered they do not take TV's and charge \$40 per piece for mattresses and box springs because they don't compact and take up air space. He agreed with the Board one hundred percent, electronics are going to become a major problem in the future, as well as batteries because lithium batteries are a fire hazard. Ms. Petrella stated that was why we had to discontinue our battery program.

Mr. Bianconi wanted to know in regard to salary increases, where it is located in the Solid Waste Plan that we can only give so much of an increase at a time. That reason was given previously, and he has been unable to find it. He would like to know where to find it before next month's meeting of the Personnel & Finance Committees.

The Finance & Personnel Committee members will meet jointly on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4PM at the Belmont building.

Mr. Fabian informed members that the 2-year appointments for non-statutory members will need to be made this January and asked individual members present if they wished to remain on the board. All answered yes. The members not present will need to be asked.

Mr. Bianconi made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(3) possible Court Action Exception. Mr. Irvin seconded. **Roll Call Vote: All said Yes. Motion approved.**

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

Mr. Fabian stated after the Executive Session the action to be taken will be discussions with the Boards Legal Advisor Albin Bauer.

The next Board meeting is set for Monday, December 11, 2023 at the Belmont JB Green Team building at 5:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

ATTEST:



Scott Fabian, Chair



Mike Bianconi, Secretary