

**JEFFERSON BELMONT REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2023**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Mike Bianconi, Jerry Echemann, Scott Fabian, Andrew Henry, George Irvin Jr, Tony Kolanski, Robert Krajnyak, Dan Lima, Joe Luckino, Mitch Morelli, Rob Sproul

**ABSENT:** Chuck Dawson, John Davies, James Mavromatis

**OTHERS:** Anita Petrella, Dave Hays, Natalie Lysle, Domenick Mucci, Tammy Shepherd, Sharon Malin, Tony Morelli, Craig Petrella, Dave Cieply

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, 228 Technology Way, Steubenville, Ohio at 5:16PM on, Monday, January 9, 2023.

Jefferson County Commissioner Tony Morelli informed the Board that Mr. Luckino is representing Commissioner Maple on the Authority Board for 2023 and that a letter would arrive later for their records.

**MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the December 12, 2022 regular monthly meeting minutes was made by Mr. Mr. Krajnyak, and seconded by Mr. Kolanski. **Vote: 8 said Aye. Mr. Echemann, Mr. Henry and Mr. Morelli Abstained. Motion approved.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: Scott Fabian**

Thank You note's were received from the Daily Bread Center and WEBA Food Pantry for the Annual Stock The Pantry Drive donation to their food pantries this past Holiday Season.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Fiscal Report:**

Mr. Hays reported the December 2022 revenues were \$1,134,190.08 but that included an Intra-Fund transfer in of \$847,000.67 from the General Fund to the Rates & Charges fund so there wouldn't be a deficit at the end of the year. Total expenditures of \$1,007,116.01 which included the same transfer out. Net income of \$127,074.07.

Non-Payroll Expenditures were reviewed with Mr. Hays pointing out the transfers he just spoke about of \$500,000 from the General Fund and the \$347,256.67 out of the Contract Fee Fund. Mr. Luckino asked if they should consider moving more money into the Star Ohio Account since it is paying good interest. Mr. Hays stated he could do that, there is about \$3.5 million in the account currently, and can easily transfer the money back. The Finance Committee will meet just prior to next month's Board meeting to determine what should be done.

Apex Tonnage Report was reviewed by Mr. Hays, showing 13,548.18 In-District Tons, 21,575.21 Out-of-District tons, and 108,324.81 Out-of-State tons, for a Total tonnage of 143,448.20 yielding \$219,185.82 in Fees.

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report and approve Expenditures for December 2022 was made by Mr. Irvin and seconded by Mr. Luckino. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Craig Petrella Manager and Dave Cieply Executive Vice President of Operations both from Apex Landfill entered the meeting.

**Director's Report:**

2023 Recycling Initiatives Grants

Ms. Petrella asked if everyone on the Board was in agreement to do the Grant program this year. Last year's budget was set at \$100,000.

Mr. Krajnyak made the motion to again fund the Authority Grants for 2023 in the amount of \$100,000. Mr. Sproul seconded. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

2023 Community Cleanups

Ms. Petrella asked the Board if they wish to do the Annual Community Collections again this year, explaining we sponsored 14 Cleanup Collections in each County last year, and one (1) Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection in each County. Total cost of \$200,000.

Mr. Kolanski made a motion to again sponsor the Community Cleanups in 2023 and budget for \$200,000. Mr. Irvin seconded. **VOTE: Unanimous, Yea, by roll call. Motion passed.**

Jefferson EEO

Ms. Petrella explained that Officer Polaski got a promotion to the drug task force with the Sheriff's Department and a new deputy has been assigned to do the Environmental Enforcement for Jefferson County. The new officer is a Sergeant David Darago and has more longevity plus gets hospitalization which Mr. Polaski didn't need. His package will cost \$84,397, with the combined amounts of \$55,000 Salary, PERS \$10,000, Medicare \$800, Hospitalization \$18,000. She explained that the Sheriff apologized for the unexpected change after reaching an agreement for the \$60,000 package. Mr. Echemann asked if the Sheriff appoints these jobs or are they applied for by deputies. Commissioner Morelli explained how the jobs are posted internally by the Sheriff's Department and deputies apply and are then chosen from the applicants.

Mr. Bianconi stated the Authority has the funds and feels they should go with the increase. Mr. Luckino stated that the Sheriff's office receives no benefit from the increase, they provide us with a deputy. The increased amount was debated by the Board at length. Mr. Fabian question why the Authority couldn't hire their own personnel to do the investigations since the drop-off bins are not on private property, adding that we've already agreed to the \$60,000 Contract last month and now it will cost \$24,000 more. Mr. Fabian reported as a follow up, the Litter Enforcement lettering can go on a Sheriff's vehicle according to an email he received from Attorney Bauer, adding it was in last years contract, it is our vehicle and I think the lettering should be on the vehicle. Mr. Luckino reminded the Board that Sheriff Abdalla had said he would not allow the lettering for safety reasons and feels the Board should compromise for a good relationship with the new Sheriff. Commissioner Tony Morelli asked how much the Authority said they had in the bank, Mr. Luckino and Mr. Bianconi answered five and a half million dollars.

The discussion continued in regard to the vehicle lettering, the additional money needed for the new officer package, the money already spent on the program, the cost possibly increasing again, whether to mirror the program in Belmont or go by package costs, and the worthiness of the programs with very little restitution amounts being received in Jefferson and none in Belmont. Mr. Hays stated the County Commissioners have always given the Sheriff's office \$60,000 for the program but costs have gone up. The Contracts have not yet been received from Attorney Bauer since Mr. Hays was still uncertain what terms to have him include. Mr. Echemann will speak to Belmont County Sheriff since we have not heard from him regarding their contract. Mr. Irvin stated with the investment of \$85,000 plus the cost of the vehicle they should ask themselves if they can use the money in a more fruitful way to do the job going forward. Mr. Krajnyak agreed the lettering should be on the vehicles for awareness of the program, adding the possibility of hiring a retired Sheriff Deputy for less cost. Mr. Henry stated his department has similar programs and they do not see a financial return on their investment either, it is the nature of the business, but it is an investment into the community to help keep it clean. Ms. Petrella was asked about the quality of work the Belmont officer has done and if a new officer was wanted. She explained they had planned to meet with the Belmont County Sheriff once the Contract was approved about a few issues, and that Mrs. Shepherd had met with him today and worked a couple of them out with him, adding that he does hand in a daily sheet with Mrs. Shepherd. Mrs. Shepherd explained the difference in the Courts cooperation, with them not allowing names found in recycling bins to be used as evidence like in Jefferson, however the Deputy does go to the persons house informing them they cannot put trash in the bins. The issue of another change of the Deputy causing the salary amount to decrease or increase with the contract amount being set at a certain amount was discussed. The vehicle lettering was again debated.

Mr. Luckino made a motion to amend the previous motion and increase the approved amount by \$24,500 and agree to pay the Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Compensation Package up to \$84,500. Mr. Echemann seconded. **VOTE: 6 voting Yes. 5 voting No. Motion approved.**

#### Compactor Incident

Ms. Petrella stated she sent everyone an email regarding the incident that occurred at the Cell Yard. We have contacted PERP, VOTO and the company that manufactured the compactor Seabright about the Load binder part that broke and sprung off. She explained that it holds about 120,000 lbs of pressure. We replaced the part, but if anyone else had been standing near it when it broke it could have caused serious injury or death. All of the employees were at the Cell on Tuesday and Wednesday to go over what happened. She stated we had TS Electric move the switch to the other side where there is more room, because it was in a confined space and the compactor/roll off moved when the part broke it was lucky it wasn't the other side or it could have crushed the person at the switch. As already planned we are switching to the 40 yard roll-offs instead of the 66 yard this week so that should reduce the risk of it reoccurring with a lot less pressure on the compactor. We are also replacing the Load binder part on the other side since it is also 11 years old. The cold temperature may have played a roll in the incident but there is no way to tell. PERP recommended replacing them every 2 to 3 years. Mr. Fabian stated they have the same things on their hoppers and they snap every once in a while, and suggested putting it on some type of schedule to replace them on the compactor every 3-4 years.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Scott Fabian**

Mr. Fabian reported that the Committee didn't meet but we now have the signed Agreements from the Government Policy Group and RRS.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Rob Sproul**

None.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: George Irvin**

None.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Mucci stated that Mr. Mavromatis called him just before this meeting began and asked him to speak on his behalf, stating that Mr. Mavromatis has no Committee report but wanted to say that he supports Ms. Petrella one hundred percent.

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

None.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Joe Luckino**

Mr. Luckino stated they are still looking at those parcels in Belmont County. Mr. Bianconi still needs to get tree removal and excavation estimates. The property is still in Probate Court, but it is ours if we want it for \$7,000.

**LANDFILL REPORT: Andrew Henry**

Mr. Henry reported that Apex Landfill finished out 2022 with zero (0) Notice of Violations which makes three years for them. In December MSW was over 139,000 tons, C&D was over 69,000 tons. For Odor Intensity, which is odor control done by his staff, it was detected 5 times in 2022 but did not exceed a 2 on a scale of 1-5. There were 7 odor complaints in December, 162 for the year which is pretty good considering they were at 759 complaints in 2017.

Mr. Hays stated that at the last meeting it was approved to offer the Health Department the same terms in the 2023 contract which he has with him tonight. Mr. Henry will take it to his Board meeting next week.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Petrella stated with all due respect to the Board she would like to ask to have her contract renegotiated. Changing her 3% increase to 5% due to the fact that every other employee received a 5% increase in the last three (3) years except for her. She explained that in her Contract in Section 1 it says in addition to the Executive Director duties she will also be responsible for the Jefferson County Program Director duties, which is two jobs. She has been here 10 years and has never taken Hospitalization from the Authority which adds up to \$183,000 saved by the Authority. She holds herself to the same standards as the other staff in regard to

absence of leave. In the Personnel Manual under Section 4.01, Article G, she is not required to use leave if less than one day but has never utilized that and instead used her leave when taking less than a day for which Mr. Fabian can attest since he signs her Timesheets and leave form each month. She has her 2022 Time Sheets with her tonight if anyone wishes to view them.

Mr. Irvin made a motion to enter Executive Session under ORC 121.22(G)(1) Compensation for public employee. Mr. Luckino seconded. **VOTE: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Krajnyak made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mr. Luckino seconded. **VOTE: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Sproul made a Motion to rescind Executive Director Anita Petrella's Contract approved at the last meeting. Mr. Echemann seconded. **VOTE: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

Mr. Irvin made a motion to give Ms. Petrella a one (1) year Contract with a 5% salary increase. Mr. Henry seconded. **VOTE: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dave Cieply Apex Landfill EVP of Operations offered to answer any questions Board members may have about the Landfill since a lot has evolved since there 2021 tour. Mr. Bianconi thanked him for the tour and asked if they generate power at the Landfill. Mr. Cieply explained they do have a gas to energy plant that Montauk has the rights to with a 20-year agreement with them. They scrub the gas and send it to Williams who uses it as renewable energy for their units. Montauk is going to do a big plant expansion and will have another plant that will capture everything on site with the Landfill expansion. The Gondola operation which was approved when the Landfill got the expansion years ago will be starting the building phase this year. It will be one of the most state-of-the-art gondola facilities in the country, everything will be contained inside the building, he has challenged the teams of engineers/construction who are working on it to create the most respected and noted gondola facility in the country. He told the Board that anytime they had any questions he is happy to share information with them.

Commissioner Tony Morelli addressed the Board explaining that he tries to make his rounds to all of the different meetings and appreciates all the Board does. He stated that the new Sheriff is doing a really good job and had told him that he had chosen the deputy that he thought would do the best job for the Authority.

Mr. Bianconi reminded the Board that they gave money to Harrison County to fix a road leading to the Apex Landfill and stated he saw on the news that Harrison County got a bunch of money to fix that road. Mr. Hays stated we gave them \$108,000 and didn't see any improvement, they just bought aggregate and used it. Craig Petrella stated it did go on the road but it was a drop in the ocean for what was needed. He explained that the money Harrison County is receiving today is the same that was earmarked 7 years ago, but the new landfill owners are now paying for 75% of the cost, the total cost is approximately 1.5 million dollars of which IWS is giving \$750,000.

Next regular meeting set for Monday, February 13, 2023 at JBGT building in St. Clairsville at 5:30pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm. with a motion by Mr. Bianconi, seconded by Mr. Luckino.  
**VOTE: All said Aye. Motion passed.**

**ATTEST:**

  
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Scott Fabian, Chair

  
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Mike Bianconi, Secretary