

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Authority Board of Directors

**FROM:** William A. Rabbia, Executive Director

**DATE:** June 5, 2015

**RE:** Meeting Notice & Tentative Agenda - Monday, June 15, 2015 at 4:30 PM

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of May 18, 2015 Authority Minutes
3. Public Comment Period
4. Utica Audit
5. Budget Transfers – Resolution
6. NYS Electronic Equipment and Recycling Act – Resolution
7. Updates:
  - Recycling Center Addition
  - Boonville Transportation Improvements/Dollar General Project
8. Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and real property purchase.

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**DRAFT**

**AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2015**

Board Members Present: Chairman Neil Angell, Vice Chairman Ken Long, Treasurer Harry Hertline, Vincent Bono, James D’Onofrio, James Franco, Barbara Freeman (via teleconference), Nancy Novak, Robert Roberts and Jim Williams

Authority Staff Present: Bill Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Joe Artessa, Jim Biamonte, Patrick Donovan, David Lupinski, Andrew Opperman, Bill Schrader and Jamie Tuttle

Others Present: Kevin Martin, Esq.

Chairman Angell called the May 18, 2015 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. D’Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed to approve the March 23, 2015 Authority Minutes.

There were no speakers for public comment period.

Comptroller Patrick Donovan provided an overview of the Authority’s First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2015. Mr. Donovan said that Authority operations have generated an operating surplus for the first three months of \$163,098. This is a decrease of approximately \$125,000 in comparison to 2014 first quarter results. The Authority generated \$4,092,066 of revenues for the first three months of 2015 (20.4% of the 2015 budgeted revenue). The 2014 first quarter revenues were \$4,421,175 (22.1% of budget). Mr. Donovan said that the sale of recyclables and tipping fee reductions contributed to lower revenues. The sale of landfill gas increased by \$95,000 over 2014 first quarter. The 2015 first quarter expenses were \$3,928,968 (19.6% of budget) in comparison to \$4,130,550 (20.7% of budget) for the first quarter in 2014. Expenses decreased as the result of fuel costs (\$70,000); transportation (\$45,000); and overtime (\$11,000). Utility costs decreased over 40% for the first three months of 2015, in comparison to first quarter of 2014. Total assets decreased by about \$1,910,000 from first quarter 2014. This is the result of paying off the Authority’s 1990 Bonds in April 2014. The Authority has seen growth within its current assets as cash and investments increased over \$3.3 million as a result of 2014 activity. Total long-term liabilities decreased as a result of Authority debt payments being made. Retained earnings increased as a result of the 2014 final audit report. Mr. Donovan reviewed the income statement which includes all Authority and local governments’ (City of Utica and Villages of Ilion, Frankfort, Mohawk, Herkimer and Dolgeville) revenues and expenses. Overall 2015 revenues have declined by \$250,000. Overall 2015 expenses have declined by \$182,000. Changes in net assets were \$155,598.

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Mr. Rabbia noted that the Villages of Dolgeville, Herkimer and Frankfort will be bidding out their collection this year.

Mr. Rabbia said that Resolution No. 9 would approve the purchase of a 5.23 acre parcel at 2390 Gleasman Road in Boonville, for \$55,000.

Resolution No. 9 was introduced by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Hertline and passed approving the purchase of property at 2390 Gleasman Road, Boonville, NY, in the Town of Ava, owned by Bridget Emert and Steven Prosser, identified as tax map no. 45.000-2.21, including a total of 5.23 acres.

School Recycling Coordinator Jamie Tuttle provided an update on school recycling. She stated that 21 out of 24 districts are currently participating in the Authority's "Go Green" school recycling program. In 2015, more than 70 presentations/assemblies and over 25 tours of Authority facilities were given. The Authority held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual "zero waste lunch challenge" in which 15 schools participated in 2015. Currently 19 schools have composting units and are participating in the Authority's food waste composting program. Miss Tuttle reported on the Authority's Earth Day events held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Events included the sale of green waste compost, backyard compost bins (232 bins sold), food scrap containers (107 containers sold), compost turners (118 turners sold) and rain barrels (217 barrels sold); free tours of the Recycling Center (100 residents toured); free paper shredding in cooperation with Confidata (93 residents participated; 4,820 pounds of paper was shredded); free collection and disposal of unused medication and pharmaceuticals (76 residents participated; 260 pounds of pharmaceuticals collected); free Utica Zoo "Zoomobile" demonstrations; free Oneida County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Composting Seminars; and free drop-off of bulky rigid plastics, paints/chemicals/household hazardous waste and electronics. In addition, the Authority participated in the Utica Zoo's Earth Day event held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Miss Tuttle said that the Authority also assisted with the One World Flower Fest sponsored by Cornell University's Rust to Green Program, and Keep America Beautiful [Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful] Great American Cleanup.

Ms. Freeman thanked Mr. Rabbia, Miss Tuttle and Mr. Lupinski for assisting the Boonville Environmental Council with their Earth Day event.

Solid Waste Engineer Andrew Opperman provided an update on the MRF [Recycling Center] warehouse construction. Mr. Opperman said that the contractor, Beebe Construction, was on-site and preliminary construction began on May 11<sup>th</sup>. A total of 24 piles were installed and pile testing was completed. On May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> the old scale at the Eastern Transfer Station was removed and concrete poured to fill-in the void. On May 20<sup>th</sup> Beebe will excavate and place the stormwater structure outside the building. On May 26<sup>th</sup> Beebe will begin work on the pile caps, grade beams and foundations. The building frame has been ordered and should be delivered late July. The completion date built into the contract is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Opperman provided an update on the solar project. The Authority has a contract with Solar City for building solar panels between River Road, Rome and Route 49. All the permitting is complete and testing performed. Solar City will drive in the necessary posts and place the solar cells on top. Solar City is currently waiting on a utility impact study from National grid. The start-date is anticipated for July 20<sup>th</sup> with completion scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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Mr. Rabbia reported that Lewis County approached the Authority on a recyclables' processing and marketing arrangement, similar to the arrangement the Authority has with Oswego County, in which the Authority would accept Lewis County recyclables at a fixed rate of \$70 per ton in 2015 to process and market their recyclables. Mr. Rabbia said that it's the Authority's goal to process their recyclables within the Authority's fixed operating costs. Lewis County is currently doing research on retrofitting their former MRF and transfer station to be able to compact recyclables. Lewis County sent two trial loads of compacted recyclables to the Authority's MRF. Mr. Rabbia said that the quality of the loads was good. Mr. Rabbia estimates an additional 6,000 tons per year excess capacity at the Recycling Center even after accepting Lewis County's recyclables. Mr. Rabbia will continue to keep the Board updated.

At 5:05 PM a motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and real property purchase.

At 5:24 PM a motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Long and passed to come out of executive session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. D'Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Long and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle  
Authority Secretary

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

**Introductory No.**

**Resolution No. 10**

Introduced by:

Seconded by:

**RE: 2015 BUDGET TRANSFER**

**WHEREAS**, the Authority Board, by Resolution No. 21 of 2014 adopted the 2015 Operating and Capital Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that a budget transfer is needed for temporary labor as indicated below; now, therefore, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, the following 2015 Budget Transfer is approved:

From: 601-8165 MRF - Salaries \$60,000.00

To: 608-8165 MRF – Temporary Help \$60,000.00

Explanation: To cover costs of temporary help needed at the Recycling Center.

AYES\_\_\_ NAYS\_\_\_

Dated:

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**Introductory No.**

**Resolution No. 11**

Introduced by:

Seconded by:

**RE: RESOLUTION URGING STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO AMEND THE NEW YORK STATE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RECYCLING AND REUSE ACT**

**WHEREAS,** the main reasons for the adoption of the New York State Electronic Equipment Recycling and Reuse Act (Act) were to assist local governments with managing the fast-growing electronics waste stream by relying on electronics manufacturers to fund a recycling infrastructure and relieve municipalities from the recycling and end-of-life management costs; and

**WHEREAS,** the Act has succeeded in significantly increasing electronics recovery and recycling in the state, but the collection infrastructure is unstable and local governments and other collectors are faced with mounting fees in the absence of consistent manufacturer funding and limited markets for cathode ray tubes (CRTs); and

**WHEREAS,** the consequence, specifically following the January 2015 Disposal Ban, is significant as a growing number of planning units such as the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority are faced with bearing more of the financial responsibility for continued e-scrap collection in their communities; and

**WHEREAS,** the Act requires, and the state relies on, electronics manufacturers to fund e-scrap recycling programs that are effective, continuous and reasonably convenient to all consumers across the state; and

**WHEREAS,** once manufacturers have met their performance standard (goal), which in a number of cases is midway through the year, they no longer provide financial support to continue their collection programs, thus shifting management costs to unexpected, cash-strapped local governments; and

**WHEREAS,** the issue is worsened by the fact that electronics sold today weigh much less than the obsolete CRT devices that make up approximately 70% of the weight of e-scrap generated, which are cost intensive to responsibly manage; and

**WHEREAS,** this has resulted in many local governments across the state having grappled with the burden to fund or cease e-scrap collection, which has been particularly difficult in rural communities that do not benefit from retail collectors or economies of scale; now, therefore, be it

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**Introductory No.**  
**Resolution No.**

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**RESOLVED,** that the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority does hereby call upon Governor Cuomo, the New York State Assembly, the New York State Senate and the State Department of Environmental Conservation to improve the current law intended to build toward the long-term goals of creating a more stable and comprehensive, manufacturer implemented electronics recycling infrastructure by implementing actions to strengthen communication among stakeholders, clarify key statutory provisions in their present rulemaking efforts, and promote the adoption of the Proposed Statutory Changes to the Act to provide for year round, no-cost collection of electronics, consistent with convenience standards for both rural and urban populations—that help alleviate the immediate financial pressures faced by local governments; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Thomas O’Mara; New York State Senators Joseph Griffo, James Seward, David Valesky and Hugh Farley; Members of the New York State Assembly Ken Blankenbush, Marc Butler, Anthony Brindisi, William Magee and Claudia Tenney; and the New York State Association of Counties and its Board of Directors.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES \_\_\_ NAYS \_\_\_

Dated: