

APPROVED

**AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2016**

Board Members Present: Chairman Neil Angell, Vice Chairman Ken Long, Treasurer Harry Hertline, James D’Onofrio, James Franco, Barbara Freeman, Nancy Novak and Jim Williams

Board Members Absent: Vincent Bono and Robert Roberts

Authority Staff Present: William Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Joe Artessa, Jim Biamonte, Patrick Donovan, Andrew Opperman and William Schrader

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin; two members from the general public

Chairman Angell called the May 9, 2016 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Hertline and passed to approve the March 28, 2016 Authority Minutes.

Chairman Angell asked if anyone from the general public was interested in speaking during public comment period. There was no one interested in speaking.

Comptroller Patrick Donovan provided an overview of the Authority’s First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2016. Mr. Donovan said that Authority operations have generated an operating surplus for the first three months of \$559,065. This is an increase of approximately \$400,000 from 2015 first quarter results. The Authority generated \$4,528,078 of revenues (23.2% of budget) for the first three months of 2016, in comparison to \$4,092,066 (20.4% of budget) for the first quarter in 2015. Tipping fee revenue increased over \$485,000 over first quarter 2015. Tonnages increased by 16% over prior year first quarter. The Authority posted a \$175,000 gain on the sale of equipment from the trade-in of a green waste compost grinder. The sale of landfill gas decreased by \$200,000 over 2015 first quarter as a result of a reduced power purchase agreement. The 2016 first quarter expenses were \$3,969,012 (20.3% of budget), in comparison to \$3,928,968 (19.6% of budget) for the first quarter in 2015. Mr. Donovan stated that overall expenses are in-line with 2016 budget assumptions. Total assets increased by about \$2,048,000 from first quarter 2015. The Authority has seen growth within its current assets as cash and investments increased over \$4.4 million as a result of 2015 and 2016 first quarter activity. Total long-term liabilities decreased as a result of Authority debt payments being made. Retained earnings increased as a result of the 2015 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.

Executive Director Bill Rabbia said that Resolution No. 10 before the Board would award a contract to Central Paving, Inc. for improvements to the intersection NYS Routes 294 and 46 and Erwin Library site in the Village of Boonville. On April 12, 2016, sealed bids were solicited in compliance with General Municipal Law Section 103; a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on April 22, 2016, with four companies in attendance; and on May 4, 2016 one sealed bid was received and opened.

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William A. Rabbia
Executive Director

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2016

Page 2

The qualified bidder was Central Paving, Inc. of Frankfort, NY in the amount of \$254,361.70. Mr. Rabbia stated that the bid has been evaluated for compliance with the specifications for the project; analyzed by Barton & Loguidice (B&L); qualifications have been confirmed; and referenced projects have been checked. Mr. Rabbia said that the bid is in line with the projected budget amount.

Resolution No. 10 was introduced by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Franco and passed awarding the contract for improvements to the intersection of NYS Route 294/46 and Erwin Library Site to Central Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$254,361.70.

Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority had been working to obtain grant money, to no avail, to fund a feasibility study related to the Authority receiving and processing source separated organic waste and then conveying such waste to the planned Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) anaerobic digester. Mr. Rabbia said that New York State and other states are targeting organics as the next recyclable. Mr. Rabbia provided an overview of OCSD's project. He stated that the County is involved in a major project to improve the sewer lines and waste water treatment plant which is adjacent to the Authority's Utica facility. The project includes the addition of large anaerobic digesters to process the sludge and then utilize the electricity generated in-house. Mr. Rabbia said that potentially the Authority could accept source separated organic waste from restaurants and cafeterias and process it with new equipment, adjacent to the Authority's Utica Transfer Station. The processed waste would then be sent to fuel the OCSD digesters. Mr. Rabbia solicited a proposal from B & L to initiate the feasibility study. The study would include costs associated with building an addition to the Authority's tip floor, a cost benefit analysis for purchasing additional equipment, and associated tipping fees. B & L would determine the capital cost associated with the project to determine whether it would be feasible for the Authority. B & L's proposal to conduct the study is \$39,100. Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority currently has a Professional Services Agreement with B & L and the current budget line related to the Agreement could initially fund the study. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rabbia noted that he will have a budget modification related to the host community benefit with Boonville, for the Board's consideration at the June meeting.

Duane Ulrich, a member from the general public, asked if he could address the Board. Mr. Ulrich said that it looks like the Authority is doing fine but that the taxpayers in Ava are not. He said that the Authority keeps taking land for buffer and the Town is losing its tax base. He said that the Authority should have put solar panels in Ava instead of in Rome. Mr. Ulrich said that the Authority shouldn't bother lowering the tipping fee. He said that the City of Rome and the City of Utica are all living off of the Town of Ava and that Ava does more for the two Counties than any other municipality.

Mr. Rabbia provided an update on the proposed NYSDEC Part 360 regulations. He noted that the last time the regulations were revised was in 1993. The current revisions have been released for public comment. Mr. Rabbia attended a stakeholder meeting in Albany and one at the State Office Building in Utica. Authority staff is currently doing an internal review of how the potential changes will affect Authority operations. The Authority is also working closely with the New York State Association for Solid Waste Management and the New York State Association of Counties by providing them with a technical review of potential costs associated with some of the proposed changes. Mr. Rabbia identified some of the changes related to potential operational issues. Environmental Coordinator James Biamonte reviewed some of the local solid waste management planning issues that would affect local solid waste management plans and permitting. The Authority and the Associations are currently working on fine tuning their comments. Public comment period currently runs through July 15, 2016 but several large organizations have requested an extension period. Mr. Rabbia will keep the Board updated and provide written comments once finalized.

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2016

Page 3

Mr. Rabbia reported that Solar City has completed construction of the solar project but it is not yet operational. Solar City is currently working with National Grid on the interconnect process and anticipates a July start-up.

Mr. Rabbia reported that Lewis County has started delivering some of its recyclables to the Authority. Mr. Rabbia noted that the quality of the material is good. Lewis County has delivered approximately 250 tons of recyclables to the Authority since the beginning of 2016. Lewis County is in the process of procuring equipment to make transportation as efficient as possible and in the upcoming week will be transporting material utilizing Hamilton County transfer trailers. Hamilton County delivers its material to the Development Authority of the North Country and they hope to ease the backhaul. Mr. Rabbia will continue to keep the Board updated.

At 5:30 PM a motion was made by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Williams and passed to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

At 5:50 PM a motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Franco and passed to come out of executive session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary