

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2021

APPROVED

Board Members Present: Chairman Ken Long, Vice Chairman Vincent Bono [video conference], Neil Angell, James D’Onofrio [video conference], James Franco, Barbara Freeman, Treasurer Harry Hertline, Nancy Novak [video conference], Richard Redmond and Jim Williams

Authority Staff Present: William Rabbia, Joseph Artessa, James Biamonte, Joshua Olbrys and Andrew Opperman

Chairman Long called the November 15, 2021 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 September 20, 2021 Authority Minutes. [Mr. D’Onofrio was not present for this vote.]

At 4:31 PM Chairman Long called the public hearing on the proposed 2022 Authority budget to order.

Executive Director Bill Rabbia and Comptroller Joe Artessa presented an overview of the proposed 2022 budget through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rabbia said that Authority staff began working on the proposed budget in late July of this year and a draft budget was provided to the Finance Committee for its review. Following input from the Finance Committee, the 2022 draft budget was released to the public prior to the November 1, 2021 deadline. The 2022 draft budget includes a \$2 per ton decrease for municipal solid waste, local solid waste, and sludge tip fees. Mr. Rabbia noted that 2022 tip fees are the same as they were in 1990 and that 2022 is the sixth time in the past ten years that the Authority has reduced tipping fees. Rate reductions for direct haul bulk asbestos to the Regional Landfill will continue in 2022. For the 31st consecutive year, recyclables will continue to be accepted at no charge. Mr. Rabbia stated that the two new reduced tip fee programs that were introduced in 2021 to assist Oneida-Herkimer Counties and its municipalities are included in the 2022 fee schedule and draft budget. One program provides for reduced tip fees for disposal of debris following a disaster, such as a flood (\$42.00 per ton for 2022). The second program provides for reduced tipping fees to assist Industrial Development Agencies (IDA) and Developers related to Brownfield clean-up and Industrial Development Projects (\$42.00 per ton for 2022). Mr. Rabbia said that the Board remains committed to its goal of long-term stable rates. Graphs illustrating historical municipal solid waste (msw) tipping fees for the period 1990 – 2022 (proposed) and historical msw tipping fees versus the rate of inflation for the period 1990 - 2021 were reviewed. A chart outlining neighboring County tip fees was also reviewed. Mr. Rabbia commented that, although many of the neighboring planning units do not have the same services and/or facilities supported through the Authority’s integrated system, some charge a fee for recyclables.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Treasurer

James M. D’Onofrio

Nancy A. Novak

William A. Rabbia
Executive Director

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Vice Chairman

Neil C. Angell

James A. Franco

Richard G. Redmond

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

Barbara Freeman

James M. Williams

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2021 - Page 2

He said that the Authority will continue to provide economic incentive to take recyclables at no charge in Oneida-Herkimer Counties. An analysis of 2020 actual, 2021 (6-month data) and 2022 projected tonnage by waste class was reviewed. Projected waste tonnage for 2022 is 287,100, compared to 286,000 in 2020. An overview of system revenues comparing 2020 actual, 2021 (6-month data) and 2022 proposed was presented. Mr. Rabbia reviewed proposed 2022 revenue assumptions for system tip fees (\$15,806,300); sale of recyclables (\$2,641,000); landfill gas (\$320,000), recyclables' processing fees (\$890,000), sale of carbon credits (\$540,000) and miscellaneous revenues which include interest earnings, State grants, compost tip fees and sales, tire fees, etc. (\$1,683,700). Overall proposed 2022 system revenues total \$21,881,000.

Mr. Artessa reviewed system expenditures by cost center outlining 2020 actual, 2021 (6-month data) and 2022 proposed. He noted that the budget includes \$460,000 of contracted direct payments made to the Town of Ava and the Town and Villages of Boonville, consistent with the Host Community Agreements. Capital project funded through tipping fees will be \$1,321,000 for 2022. There is a reduction in debt service of \$1,029,342, based upon redemption of the Authority's 2011 bonds. 2021 debt service is \$2,881,369. Debt service for 2022 is \$1,852,027. Proposed landfill reserves for 2022 total \$2,400,000 (\$800,000 for Regional Landfill equipment replacement and \$1,600,000 for Regional Landfill liner extension). The 2022 proposed capital plan will be \$4,261,000, with projections through 2026. Mr. Artessa noted that the capital plan also includes projected expenditures for landfill gas system expansion that will be funded through an established reserve. Several charts that indicated revenues and expenses by category and cost centers projected for 2022 were reviewed. The total proposed 2022 system revenues/expenses total \$21,881,000; and municipal revenues/expenses total \$5,951,500. The total proposed 2022 Authority budget is \$27,832,500. The proposed 2022 budget for the six municipalities in which the Authority administers the respective municipal programs was presented by Mr. Rabbia.

Chairman Long stated that Authority Secretary Jodi Tuttle relayed that there were no public comments received on the proposed 2022 budget.

Chairman Long closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting of the Authority.

There were no comments submitted for regular public comment period.

Mr. Rabbia said that Records Management Officer Jodi Tuttle conveyed in a memo that the State Archives revised and consolidated its local government records retention and disposition schedules and issued Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) which supersedes and replaces the MI-1 schedule that the Authority had been using. Before any records listed on the new Retention and Disposition Schedule can be disposed of, the Authority must adopt the Schedule LGS-1. Resolution No. 14 would approve the new retention and disposition schedule.

Resolution No. 14 was introduced by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Franco, and passed adopting Retention and Disposition Schedule LGS-1. [10 Ayes, 0 Nays]

Mr. Rabbia said that Resolution No. 15 would approve a 2021 supplemental appropriation/budget amendment to purchase capital equipment [two tractors and two tanker trailers] in the amount of \$500,000 to transport leachate from the Regional Landfill (RLF).

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2021 - Page 3

Mr. Rabbia stated that the Authority rejected the two proposals submitted for transportation of leachate from the RLF to the Rome Water Pollution Control Facility and the Oneida County Department of Water Quality and Water Pollution Control, based upon the fact that the lowest bidder chose to withdraw its bid and the second bidder represented a 57% increase over current expenses. Mr. Rabbia said that after analyzing costs, it was determined that there would be a savings of approximately \$286,000 annually if the Authority took over this function in-house. However, new equipment will be needed to perform this function. Resolution No. 15 would approve a 2021 supplemental appropriation/budget amendment to purchase this equipment.

Resolution No. 15 was introduced by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Angell, and passed approving a 2021 supplemental appropriation/budget amendment in the amount of \$500,000 to purchase capital equipment for leachate haul. [10 Ayes; 0 Nays]

Vice Chairman Bono excused himself from the meeting.

Solid Waste Engineer Andrew Opperman provided an update on the Source Separated Organics slurry force main project. The Authority currently transfers the slurry from this facility by way of a tanker trailer that is sent to the neighboring Oneida County Wastewater Treatment Plant (OCWWTP) where it is discharged into two anaerobic digesters. The pipeline project was awarded in July 2021, but work had been pushed back due to material delays. Mr. Opperman stated that a new pump was installed last week and he anticipates that the pipeline will be up and running by the end of November.

Landfill Operations Manager Josh Olbrys provided an update on construction of Cell 4 at the Regional Landfill. Mr. Olbrys stated that Kubricky Construction is nearly 95% done with this project. Since the last update, everything has been stabilized, including the access roads. Electro-resistivity testing has been performed and the Authority is currently monitoring the flow that is coming into the secondary liner to ensure there are no leaks. This process takes several weeks. Once this process is complete, the scrim will be installed. The manhole work, which is being done in-house, is nearly complete. The Authority is also waiting on some electrical panels which will be installed in-house. Mr. Olbrys has been very pleased with the progress and anticipates having the project completed over the next several weeks.

Mr. Rabbia reported that in 2008, the Authority applied for a NYSDEC landfill capping assistance grant and was notified this week that the Authority will be receiving funding. The grant period covers the period 2010-2014 and will cover the original flare, active gas system and several wells at the Regional Landfill. The grant reimburses at 50%. Mr. Rabbia stated that the total amount the Authority spent during this period was a little over \$2 million. The Authority will be awarded \$1,024,469. Mr. Rabbia noted that this amount was not included in the 2022 budget, but he anticipates that the money will be received in the 2022 fiscal year.

At 5:26 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Redmond, seconded by Mr. Hertline and carried to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for December 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary