

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2020

APPROVED

Board Members Present (Zoom/Video Conference): Chairman Ken Long, Vice Chairman Vincent Bono, Treasurer Harry Hertline, Neil Angell, James Franco (in-person), Barbara Freeman, Nancy Novak and Jim Williams

Board Members Absent: James D’Onofrio and Richard Redmond

Authority Staff Present: Bill Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Samantha Brown and [via video conference] Joseph Artessa

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was conducted via video conference.

Chairman Long called the November 16, 2020 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Hertline and passed [8 Ayes; 2 Absent] to approve the September 21, 2020 Authority Minutes.

At 4:32 PM Chairman Long called the public hearing on the proposed 2021 Authority budget to order.

Executive Director Bill Rabbia and Comptroller Joe Artessa presented an overview of the proposed 2021 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. The 2021 draft budget was released to the public prior to the November 1, 2020 deadline. Mr. Rabbia stated that 2021 will be the 4th consecutive year that the Authority will hold the line on tipping fees, after five previous tipping fee reductions. For the 30th consecutive year, recyclables will continue to be accepted at no charge. Rate reductions for direct haul bulk asbestos to the Regional Landfill will continue in 2021. Mr. Rabbia highlighted two new reduced tip fee programs that will be introduced in 2021 to assist Oneida-Herkimer Counties and its municipalities. One program provides for reduced tip fees for disposal of debris following a disaster, such as a flood (\$42.00 per ton for 2021). 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 2021). Both programs will be included in the 2021 fee schedule and budget and will require an application and Board approval. Applications would be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Board would vote annually to approve tonnage for Brownfield/IDA Projects (5,000 tons is being proposed for 2021). There is no cap being placed on the disaster debris program, at this time. Applications/Projects would not be guaranteed a discounted rate. 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 – 2021 (proposed) and historical msw tipping fees versus the rate of inflation for the period 1990 - 2020 were reviewed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenneth A. Long
Chairman

Harry A. Hertline
Treasurer

James M. D’Onofrio

Nancy A. Novak

William A. Rabbia
Executive Director

Vincent J. Bono
Vice Chairman

Neil C. Angell

James A. Franco
Barbara Freeman

Richard G. Redmond
James M. Williams

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2020

Page 2

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 will be charging a fee for recyclables in 2021. Mr. Rabbia said that Authority will continue to provide economic incentive to take recyclables at no charge in Oneida-Herkimer Counties. An analysis of 2019 actual, 2020 (6-month data) and 2021 projected tonnage by waste class was reviewed. Projected waste tonnage for 2021 is 295,000, compared to 286,000 in 2020. An overview of system revenues comparing 2019 actual, 2020 (6-month data) and 2021 proposed was presented. Mr. Rabbia reviewed proposed 2021 revenue assumptions for system tip fees (\$16,347,300); sale of recyclables (\$1,380,000); landfill gas (\$320,000), recyclables' processing fees (\$840,000), sale of carbon credits (\$540,000) and miscellaneous revenues which include interest earnings, State grants, compost tip fees and sales, tire fees, etc. (\$1,672,700). Overall proposed 2021 system revenues total \$21,100,000.

Mr. Artessa reviewed system expenditures by cost center outlining 2019 actual, 2020 (6-month data) and 2021 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 \$413,000 for 2021. Debt Service is reduced based upon proposed redemption of the Authority's 2011 bonds (interest expense for 2021 budgeted at \$322,369, compared to \$528,880 for 2020). Proposed landfill reserves for 2021 total \$2,400,000 (\$800,000 for Regional Landfill equipment replacement and \$1,600,000 for Regional Landfill liner extension). The 2021 proposed capital plan with projections through 2025 will be \$6,531,200. Mr. Artessa noted that the capital plan also includes projected expenditures for cell liner extension and 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 2021 were reviewed. The total proposed 2021 system revenues/expenses total \$21,100,000; and municipal revenues/expenses total \$5,719,000. The total proposed 2021 Authority budget is \$26,819,000. The proposed 2021 budget for the six municipalities in which the Authority administers the respective municipal programs was presented by Mr. Rabbia.

Board members commented that Mr. Rabbia and staff prepared a fiscally responsible budget for 2021.

Authority Secretary Jodi Tuttle relayed that there were no public comments received on the proposed 2021 budget.

At 5:10 PM 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 stated that a draft Board policy and procedure related to the reduced tip fee programs was posted on the Board portal. He reviewed the key points of the draft policy. Applications would be reviewed and verified by the Executive Director and then referred to the Finance Committee for its consideration. The Finance Committee would then review and present its recommendation(s) to the full Board for its consideration. Rate structure and tonnage would be established through the Board's annual budget process. For 2021, the proposed tonnage for Brownfield/IDA Projects is 5,000 tons. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Bono inquired as to how the 5,000-ton limit on Brownfield/IDA Projects would be divided between the two Counties.

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2020

Page 3

Mr. Rabbia responded that applications would be evaluated and awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Based upon its individual merits, each application will be approved or disapproved by the Board through resolution.

Treasurer Hertline noted that Authority Counsel Kevin Martin helped draft the language in the Board Policy.

Mr. Rabbia announced that the Authority is the recipient of the Recycling Leadership Award from the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR³) for 2020. The Authority is being recognized by NYSAR³ with the Innovation Award for its food waste diversion program, Food2Energy. Mr. Rabbia stated that Recycling Coordinator Samantha Brown applied for the award which will be virtually presented on November 19, 2020.

The Board commended Miss Brown on this initiative.

Mr. Rabbia reported that Contracting Officer Jim Biamonte issued a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) in October 2020 to identify companies that will make beneficial use of biosolids [sludge] generated by certain wastewater treatment plants that is going to the Regional Landfill. Respondents will have an opportunity to submit comments on the draft RFP before a final RFP is released.

Mr. Rabbia stated that the Authority will also be issuing a draft (RFP for transportation of solid waste to the Regional Landfill, in accordance with 120w of the General Municipal Law. The current five-year contract will expire in 2021. A resolution for issuance of the draft RFP will be presented at the December Board meeting.

At 5:23 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Hertline, seconded by Mr. Williams, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary