

APPROVED

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
June 20, 2022

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

Authority Staff Present: William Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Joshua Olbrys, Joseph Artessa, Emily Albright, Samantha Brown, Justin Fitch, Pat Lisandrelli and Andrew Opperman

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin

Chairman Long called the June 20, 2022 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:31 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Williams and passed to approve the May 16, 2022 Authority Minutes.

Authority Board Secretary Jodi Tuttle relayed that there were no comments received for public comment period.

Comptroller Joe Artessa presented the City of Utica Solid Waste Fund Agreed Upon Procedures Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022 and reported that there were no exceptions noted. Mr. Artessa provided highlights from the revenue and expense summary. He stated that solid waste service charge revenue is \$71,590 more than it was in the prior fiscal year. The primary reason is that the Authority experienced improved collections on both the re-levied amounts and the current year's user fee amounts. Sales of City blue bags is up \$36,000. A total of 93 more cases of bags were sold in 2021-2022 than in 2020-2021. Total revenues increased by \$115,000 from the prior fiscal year. Expenses for waste tipping was down \$174,669 from the prior fiscal year as there were 776 less tons of municipal solid waste, 1,100 less tons of green waste and 112 less tons of select construction and demolition (C&D). Also, there were three months of the reduced tipping fee that the Board approved when the Authority put forth its 2022 budget, which helped lead to the decrease. Waste collection fees are in line with the prior year. Salaries and benefits are up \$22,000 which has to do with Union contract wages. Other fees and services expense was up \$88,215, which is related to the cost of the City blue bags and the price of petroleum. Mr. Artessa noted that there was a refund of prior year surplus of \$230,396 requested by the City of Utica to purchase a leaf truck. Total expenses equal \$4,522,658 and total revenue is \$4,554,925. The surplus this year was \$32,267.

Mr. Artessa said that the NYS Authorities Budget Office requires public authorities to annually review their Investment Policy and Investment Guidelines. The Authority is not proposing or recommending any modifications be made to its current Policy and Guidelines at this time.

Resolution No. 11 was introduced by Mr. Hertline, seconded by Mr. Angell, and passed [10 Ayes; 0 Nays] approving the Authority's Investment Policy and Investment Guidelines without modification.

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Executive Director William Rabbia explained that Resolution No. 12 would approve reduced tipping fees under the Board's Brownfield/IDA clean-up relief program. The City of Utica is currently working with the Utica Harbor Point Development Corporation to clean-up the Harbor by demolishing some properties. The Authority received an application from the City for the reduced tipping fee rate of \$42 per ton for approximately 486 tons of construction and demolition debris (C&D). Mr. Rabbia stated that the buildings are abated, and the C&D is clean. He reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the application at its meeting preceding this meeting and that this project meets the intent of the Board's Policy.

Resolution No. 12 was introduced by Mr. Franco and seconded by Mr. Bono to approve the application submitted by the City of Utica for the Reduced Tip Fee Program for Clean-Up/Disposal of Demolition Debris at a rate of \$42 per ton resulting from the work at the Utica Harbor.

Following discussion, Resolution No. 12 was approved. [9 Ayes; 0 Nays; and 1 Abstention (Mr. Redmond)]

Recycling Coordinator Samantha Brown reported on this year's plastic film recycling challenge. Ms. Brown reported that after a two-year delay due to COVID restrictions, the Authority resumed its annual plastic film recycling challenge for local schools to promote and re-educate youth and the community on proper recycling of plastic film (i.e., plastic bags, zip top storage bags, bubble wrap, plastic wrap, bread bags) which cannot be recycled through the Authority's regular curbside recycling program. Fourteen schools participated in the challenge and had six weeks to collect plastic film for recycling. Participating schools partnered with local grocery/retail stores and delivered the plastic film directly to them for proper recycling. The initiative focused on collecting clean, dry, plastic film to keep it out of our region's landfill. With the efforts of these schools combined, over 4,511 pounds of plastic film was collected. Since the onset of the program in 2016, approximately 1.8 million plastic bags were collected. The 2022 first-place winners were E.R. Hughes Elementary School of New Hartford with 1,443 pounds of plastic film and Remsen Jr./Sr. High School with 694 pounds of plastic film. E.R. Hughes was awarded a visit from the Utica Zoomobile and Remsen received a Trex Decking Cornhole Set made from recycled plastic film. All participating schools received a Trex board made from recycled plastic film with the school's name engraved.

Ms. Brown continued with an update on the 2022 Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful (KMVB) Clean & Green program. Once again, the Authority helped promote this year's KMVB Great American Clean Up and hosted the sign-up page on the Authority's website and through social media. There was a total of 2,200 registrants this year, compared to approximately 250 in 2021 (an increase of more than 800%) with 1,500 volunteers and 1,800 bags of litter collected.

Mr. Rabbia introduced Superintendent of Waste Collection Justin Fitch. Mr. Fitch joined the Authority in 2016 as its Environmental Compliance Coordinator. He now manages the Authority's household hazardous waste and electronics program along with his responsibilities for the coordination and management of region-wide compliance activities at the Regional Landfill. He holds a B.S. from Paul Smith's college of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Fitch highlighted some of the services provided through the Authority's household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program for residents and small quantity hazardous waste generators (i.e., small businesses, municipalities). Under this program, the Authority accepts paints, chemicals, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, and other hazardous wastes. These materials are accepted Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday 7 AM to 2 PM, April 1st through September 30th at its Utica Facility. There is no fee charged to residents for this material. Small quantity generators require an appointment and are charged a disposal fee. The Authority currently utilizes Clean Harbors for transportation and disposal services of the HHW. This program is partially funded through a NYSDEC grant reimbursement at 50%. Mr. Fitch said that in an effort to comply with New York State's Paint Stewardship Law, the American Coatings Association created PaintCare, a program to manage leftover paint.

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In May 2022, the Authority became a registered PaintCare drop-off site. By doing so, PaintCare will cover the costs associated with the disposal of any paint (including packing material, shipping costs and final disposal of all paint collected). PaintCare is post-consumer funded by a fee that is applied to each container of paint that is purchased and applied toward the disposal fee. Fee structure varies by state and container size. The main paint products the Authority sees are both latex and oil-based, primers, stains, urethanes, and polyurethanes. Paint products the Authority receives and but are not included through PaintCare include aerosol paint cans, automotive paints, roofing coating, driveway sealants, etc. Prior to participating with PaintCare, any paint [can] received at the Authority's facility that was less than 75% full was poured into 55-gallon drums to deter costs for shipping. Paint cans were packaged in large bins and shipped out. Mr. Fitch stated that this process was very labor intensive. The cost of paint disposal (over 19,000 gallons recycled) in 2021, before the NYS Paint Stewardship Law and PaintCare became operational, was \$74,428. The NYSDEC grant reimbursement will be \$37,214.

Vice Chairman Bono inquired about the possibility of giving collected paint away.

Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority has studied this option and found that many times residents deliver latex paints mixed with oil-based paints or other contaminants and, therefore, there could be some liability issues. Storage space would also be a factor.

Mr. Fitch said that with the PaintCare arrangement, operations are less time consuming, not as labor-intensive and that there is a financial savings to the Authority. PaintCare also provides additional options such as large volume pick-up services (minimum of 100 gallons or more) and drop-off sites through local paint retailers.

Mr. Rabbia said that the goal of the producer responsibility legislation helps take the burden off municipalities and noted that the 2023 budget will reflect fees for paint disposal differently than in the past.

Mr. Rabbia continued with an update on the Landfill Gas Beneficial use Request For Proposals. Six proposals were received from large energy companies/developers that would like to utilize the landfill's excess gas and potentially turn it into renewable natural gas. Authority staff and consultants have been interviewing respondents with additional meetings scheduled the week of June 20th. Five of the six firms that submitted proposals have been interviewed. The Authority is now down to two or three that it is considering. Mr. Rabbia said that the long-term, most sustainable development would be a physical pipeline. The Authority is doing its due diligence and Mr. Rabbia will continue to keep the Board apprised. He stated that the goal is to have a recommendation for Board award at the September Authority meeting.

At 5:10 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. D'Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Bono, and passed to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for September 12, 2022 [4:30 PM].

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi M. Tuttle

Authority Secretary