

APPROVED

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairman Kenneth Long, Treasurer Richard Redmond, Neil Angell, Steven Boucher, James D’Onofrio, James Franco, Barbara Freeman, Nancy Novak and James Williams

Board Members Absent: Vice Chairman Vincent Bono

Authority Staff Present: William Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Joshua Olbrys, Joseph Artessa, Eileen Brinck, Justin Fitch and Pat Lisandrelli

Others Present: Authority Counsel Kevin Martin

Chairman Kenneth Long called the May 15, 2023 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Ms. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Williams, and passed to approve the March 20, 2023 Authority Minutes.

There were no speakers or comments received for the public comment period.

Chairman Long introduced newly appointed Board member Steven Boucher who was appointed by the Oneida County Legislature to fill the vacancy of Harry Hertline.

Executive Director William Rabbia reported that the Village of Whitesboro applied for the Authority’s reduced tip fee program for disposal of disaster debris at a rate of \$42.00 per ton from localized flooding that occurred on April 6th and 7th, 2023 in the Village. Mr. Rabbia stated that the Village suffered flood damage to 35 properties/homes, resulting in an estimated 9.16 tons of disaster debris. He noted that this is the first time the Village has applied under this program. The Finance Committee reviewed the applications and recommended approval by the full Board of Directors. Discussion ensued.

Resolution No. 14 was introduced by Mr. Franco, seconded by Mr. Angell, and passed approving the Application submitted by the Village of Whitesboro for the reduced tip fee program for disposal of 9.16 tons of disaster debris at a rate of \$42.00 per ton resulting from the April 2023 flooding. (Ayes 9; Nays 0; Absent: Mr. Bono)

Comptroller Joseph Artessa presented the Authority’s First Quarter 2023 Financial and Investment Report through a PowerPoint presentation. The Authority’s operating surplus was \$49,652 for the quarter ended March 31, 2023. This is a decrease of \$896,851 in comparison to 2022 first quarter results. The decrease in operating surplus is related to a decrease in system tip fees and sales of recyclables.

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James A. Franco

Barbara Freeman
Nancy A. Novak
James M. Williams

William A. Rabbia
Executive Director
Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

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He noted that in the first quarter of 2022, the Authority received extraordinary tonnage from a NYS remediation project in Herkimer, NY. Overall material received in the first quarter of 2023 was 65,618 tons in comparison to 91,512 tons in 2022. The percentage of material received compared to budgeted tonnage was 22.35% for 2023 compared to 31.87% for 2022. Authority expenses for the three months were \$5,228,620, an increase of \$317,509 or 6.47% in comparison to 2022 first quarter. Mr. Artesa next reviewed revenues and expenses for the City of Utica and Villages of Ilion, Mohawk, Dolgeville, Herkimer, and Frankfort, managed by the Authority. Each municipality is accounted for separately to ensure revenues and expenses are charged according to the respective community. Discussion ensued.

Deputy Executive Director Joshua Olbrys provided an update on the new landfill gas wells/phase 2 of the landfill capping project through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Olbrys said that a total of 12 new wells have been drilled by Recovery Drilling, the company that was awarded the bid and specializes in landfill drilling. They drilled a total of 793' at depths that ranged from 50' to 96'. The new wells have been hooked up and the Authority has already seen an increase in flow of 75 scfm. Mr. Olbrys noted that flow will continue to increase as wells are developed. Mr. Olbrys next reported on the Phase 2 closure/capping project. He stated that Powis has taken the necessary soil samples and mobilization has begun. Soil screening and clearing is scheduled to start on May 22nd with excavation of waste after Memorial Day. Mr. Olbrys said that the 7th landfill cell was completed in 2021. The Authority will begin filling cell 4 with waste mid to late June. Discussion ensued.

Recycling Coordinator Eileen Brinck provided an update on the Authority's public education efforts. She reported that the Authority held its annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 22nd. Approximately 300 vehicles delivered a total of 4,520 pounds of paper, 140 pounds of pharmaceuticals, and 1,800 pounds of electronics for recycling. The Utica Zoomobile and Cornell Cooperative Extension were in attendance and the event was broadcast Facebook Live. Ms. Brinck reported that 29 school classrooms/clubs signed up to participate in the Authority's *"Decorate a Bin Challenge"*. This spring, students will decorate boxes with recyclable material and send in a photo to be judged by the Authority. Based on creativity and recycling efforts, winners from elementary, middle, and high school categories will receive an ice cream sundae party donated by Stewart's Shops. In October, the Authority will be holding another *"Trash Can Film Festival"* for students to create an original 60-second film to promote and educate the community on reducing, reusing, and recycling. This event is being promoted in schools and through social media. Winners will be announced on America Recycles Day (November 15, 2023). On May 6, 2023, the Authority held a spring compost workshop, in recognition of International Compost Awareness Week. The workshop included tours of the compost site, followed by a presentation from Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. This event was broadcast Facebook Live. Ms. Brinck said that this is the seventh season that Roser Communications has held its food truck event--*What the Truck*. This year, Roser has teamed up with the Authority and will be collecting food waste from these events to be delivered to the Authority's Food2Energy facility. Lastly, Ms. Brinck updated the Board on the Authority's social media strategy which will include Facebook and Instagram two to three times per week; a new LinkedIn page posting once per week; and new Facebook Live once per month. She will use a scheduling program for more consistent posts of programs/events. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rabbia updated the Board on the Draft New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, *"Building the Circular Economy through Sustainable Materials Management"*. He said that the new Plan is a ten-year plan (2023-2032) and builds upon the State's 2010 *"Beyond Waste Plan"*. The Draft was released March 16, 2023, with comments due June 14, 2023.

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Authority staff is preparing comments on behalf of the Authority and is also working with NYSAC [New York State Association of Counties] and NYSASWM [New York State Association for Solid Waste Management] on Associations' comments. The Plan sets forth six major focus areas: waste prevention, reduction, and reuse; recycling and recycling market development and resiliency; product stewardship and extended producer responsibility; organics reduction and recycling; toxics reduction in products; and design and operation of solid waste management facilities and related activities. The Plan also highlights New York's waste management vision for 2050. Action items include developing extended producer responsibility for paper and packaging, and ultimately, framework legislation that allows the addition of other products; expanding and amending the existing Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law ; and requiring a per-ton disposal disincentive surcharge on all waste landfilled or combusted in New York State and all waste generated in New York State being sent for landfilling or combustion out-of-state, to provide financial support for reduction, reuse, and recycling projects. Mr. Rabbia said that the Draft Plan was discussed with the Finance Committee prior to this meeting. Discussion ensued on the fact that New York State wants to impose a solid waste surcharge on any disposal of waste. The Authority has provided an incentive for recycling since day one. Mr. Rabbia also noted that he spoke with Oneida County and Herkimer County regarding resolutions in opposition to a state surcharge. Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority will draft a resolution in opposition to the proposed surcharge, for the Board's consideration at the June Board meeting. Mr. Rabbia highlighted the Plan's additional legislative recommendations that will assist in reduction and recycling efforts.

Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority represents the planning unit for Oneida and Herkimer Counties, related to the Oneida-Herkimer Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP). He noted that all elements have been fully implanted in the first Oneida-Herkimer Plan (1991-2010). The current Oneida-Herkimer Plan covers the period 2010-2030 (2010-2020 plus five two-year extensions). The Authority recently submitted its LSWMP Biennial Update (April 2023) for the planning period of 2021-2022, as well as a planning period extension for the years 2025-2026 to NYSDEC. It is also posted on the Board portal. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Rabbia announced that the new signage for the *Harry A. Hertline Administrative Building* has been installed.

At 5:39 PM, with no further business, a motion was made by Mr. D'Onofrio, seconded by Mr. Redmond, and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi M. Tuttle

Authority Secretary