

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2022

ADOPTED

Board Members Present: Chairman Ken Long, Vice Chairman Vincent Bono, Neil Angell, James D’Onofrio, James Franco, Barbara Freeman, Nancy Novak, Richard Redmond and Jim Williams

Board Members Absent: Treasurer Harry Hertline

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

Others Present: Kevin Martin, Authority Counsel

Chairman Long called the November 21, 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 Ms. Freeman and passed to approve the September 12, 2022 Authority Minutes

At 4:32 PM Chairman Long called the public hearing on the proposed 2023 Authority budget to order.

Executive Director Bill Rabbia, Deputy Executive Director Joshua Olbrys, and Comptroller Joe Artessa presented an overview of the proposed 2023 budget through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rabbia reported 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 review. Following input from the Finance Committee, the 2023 draft budget was released to the public prior to the November 1, 2022 deadline. Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority will maintain tipping fees for municipal solid waste (MSW) and sludge at \$60 per ton, construction and demolition debris (C&D) at \$58 per ton, and local solid waste at \$50 per ton. The Authority will maintain the rate for source separated organics (SSO) [food waste] of \$40 per ton. All other rates will also remain the same. Volume based rate reductions for direct haul bulk asbestos to the Regional Landfill will continue in 2023. In 2023, the Authority will continue to offer two reduced tip fee programs to assist Oneida-Herkimer Counties and its municipalities. The first program provides for reduced tip fees for disposal of debris following a disaster, such as a flood (\$42.00 per ton). The second program provides for reduced tipping fees to assist Industrial Development Agencies and Developers related to Brownfield clean-up and Industrial Development Projects (\$42.00 per ton). Mr. Rabbia noted that 72% of the Authority’s revenue comes from solid waste tipping fees. The Authority is projecting that MSW and alternative daily cover tonnages for 2023 will be higher, compared to 2022 budgeted tonnage. Total projected tonnage for all waste classes in 2023 is projected to be 293,600.

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Graphs illustrating historical MSW tipping fees for the period 1990 - 2023 (proposed) and historical MSW tipping fees versus the rate of inflation for the period 1990 - 2022 were reviewed. A chart outlining neighboring County tip fees was also reviewed. Mr. Rabbia commented that 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. For the 32nd consecutive year, recyclables will continue to be accepted at no charge. Total projected system revenues for 2023 total \$22,360,000, compared to the 2022 budgeted amount of \$21,881,000. Mr. Rabbia stated that 2023 tip fees remain stable, noting that the Authority has reduced tipping fees 6 times in the past 10 years.

Deputy Executive Director Joshua Olbrys said that the 2023 proposed landfill reserves total \$2,400,000 [\$800,000 landfill equipment replacement and \$1,600,000 landfill liner extension]. The 2023 proposed capital plan totals \$7,725,000 with projections through 2027 and includes system-wide loaders, forklift, roll-off truck, tanker trailer, excavator, bulldozer and landfill cell closures and expenditures for landfill gas system expansion that will be funded through an established reserve.

Comptroller Joseph Artessa reviewed 2023 proposed revenues by category, 2023 expenses by departments, and 2023 expenses minus capital by category. Mr. Artessa reported that the Authority is reaching the end of its debt service on the 2006 bonds and that the Authority will have no debt after 2026.

Mr. Rabbia said that the 2023 proposed budget totals \$22,360,00 in system revenues/expenses and \$6,621,000 in municipal revenues/expenses. He then reviewed the proposed 2023 budget for the six municipalities in which the Authority administers the respective municipal programs. The proposed 2023 Authority Budget totals \$28,981,000. Mr. Rabbia will have a resolution for the Board to approve the 2023 proposed budget at the December 19th meeting of the Authority.

Chairman Long stated that Authority Secretary Jodi Tuttle confirmed that there were no public comments received on the proposed 2023 budget.

At 5:16 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.

Solid Waste Engineer Andrew Opperman reported on the Authority's Utica truck scale replacement project. The Authority is demolishing and replacing scales #1 and #4. The bid was released in April 2022 and awarded to Scales Services, Inc. of Troy, NY. The scales and materials arrived in October. Scale #1 was completed on November 8th with Oneida County Weights and Measures and Scale #4 is scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2022.

Recycling Coordinator Eileen Brinck provided a recycling education update on the Authority's Halloween Costume Contest and Plastic Film Challenge. There were 15 entries for the costume contest. The first place winner was awarded a \$200 Amazon gift card and the second place winner received a \$100 Amazon gift card. All participants received a goodie bag for participating. Seventeen schools are participating in this year's plastic film challenge. Collection began on America Recycles Day (November 15th) and will run through December 23rd.

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Winners will be announced January 2, 2023. The winning elementary school will receive a visit from the Utica Zoomobile. The winning middle/high school will receive the choice of a KISS FM DJ lunch or a Trex Cornhole board set.

Mr. Olbrys reported on the Landfill Phase II closure. The 7-acre closure is located on the north side of cell 2 into the east side of cell 2. Once completed, the total acreage capped and closed will total 12 acres. A mandatory pre-bid meeting for this project was held on October 28th at the Landfill. Eight companies were present at the pre-bid which included a site walk-through. The bid opening was held on November 18th with 4 bids received. The Authority is currently canvassing bids and anticipates a bid award at the December 19th Board meeting.

Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority is continuing its regional demolition program offered to all municipalities in the two-County region. Annually, the Authority sends correspondence to all legislators and city, village and town mayors and supervisors inviting them to participate in the program. Under the program, the Authority makes available a demolition crew and equipment, during the slower winter season, to demolish fully abated structures owned by a municipality. The Authority provides for transportation and demolition at no charge. The municipality(ies) is required to pay for the disposal of the demolition debris to be landfilled. The Town of Western is the only community that has expressed interest in the program this year. However, the Authority has been in communication with the Village of Herkimer and Village of Ilion who are considering condemning some properties.

At 5:29 PM a motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Angell and passed to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Chairman Long said that there will be no business conducted following executive session.

At 5:56 PM a motion was made by Mr. Redmond, seconded by Mr. Bono and passed to come out of executive session.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi M. Tuttle

Authority Secretary