

AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2019

APPROVED

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

Authority Staff Present: Bill Rabbia, Jodi Tuttle, Joe Artessa, Jim Biamonte, Samantha Brown, Pat Lisandrelli, Joshua Olbrys, Andrew Opperman and William Schrader

Chairman Long called the November 18, 2019 Authority Board meeting to order at 4:30 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Long welcomed new Board Member Richard Redmond who was appointed by Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente.

A motion was made by Mr. Hertline, seconded by Mr. Williams and passed [8 Ayes; 1 Abstention (Mr. Redmond); 1 Absent for Vote (Mr. D’Onofrio)] to approve the September 16, 2019 Authority Minutes.

At 4:32 PM Chairman Long called the public hearing on the proposed 2020 Authority budget to order.

Executive Director Bill Rabbia and Comptroller Joe Artessa presented an overview of the proposed 2020 budget through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rabbia said that Authority staff began working on the proposed budget in August of this year and a draft budget was provided to the Finance Committee for its review. The 2020 draft budget was released to the public prior to the November 1, 2019 deadline. Mr. Rabbia stated that 2020 will be the third consecutive year that the Authority will hold the line on tipping fees, with no increases. For the 29th consecutive year, recyclables will continue to be accepted at no charge. Mr. Rabbia said that despite poor recycling market conditions, the Board is committed to maintaining long-term stable rates. Graphs illustrating historical municipal solid waste (msw) tipping fees for the period 1990 - 2020 (proposed) and historical msw tipping fees versus the rate of inflation for the period 1990 - 2019 were reviewed. A chart outlining neighboring County tip fees was also reviewed. An analysis of 2018 actual, 2019 (6-month data) and 2020 projected tonnage by waste class was reviewed. An overview of system revenues outlining 2018 actual, 2019 (6-month data) and 2020 proposed was reviewed. A historical review of recycling revenues and budget projections for 2020 was presented. Mr. Rabbia outlined proposed 2020 revenue assumptions for system tip fees (\$15,885,300); sale of recyclables (\$980,000); landfill gas (\$320,000), recyclables’ processing fees (\$810,000), sale of carbon credits (\$215,000) and miscellaneous revenues which include interest earnings, State grants, compost tip fees and sales, tire fees, etc. (\$1,739,700). Overall proposed 2019 revenues total \$19,950,000. Mr. Rabbia stated that 2020 projected tonnage estimates are based upon 8-month actual tonnage in 2019 and a review of historical data. Sale of recyclables’ revenues are forecasted based upon 8-month data from 2019, historical review and market projections for 2020. The Authority will continue to operate two engines at its power facility as per its agreement with WM Renewable Energy. The Authority will continue to waive the permit fee for haulers/businesses and municipalities for 2020. Out of county recyclables’ processing revenue is based upon annual tonnage from Oswego, Lewis and Fulton Counties.

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

Richard G. Redmond

Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Board Secretary

Barbara Freeman

James M. Williams

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Carbon credit revenue is only through July 14, 2020. Carbon credits are typically valued only for the first ten years of a project. The Solar Array and Source Separated Organics Processing revenue are incorporated in the 2020 budget.

Mr. Artessa reviewed system expenditures by cost center outlining 2018 actual, 2019 (6-month data) and 2020 proposed. The 2020 proposed expenditure assumptions include a 6% increase over 2019 employee health insurance premiums (depending upon plan selected). The budget reflects \$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; fuel expense budgeted at \$2.50 per gallon as the result of industry forecasts; capital projects funded through tipping fees will be \$281,000 for 2020; and public education expenses projected at \$75,000. The workers' compensation budget is based upon a five-year average of the Authority's actual claims. Annual contributions to the NYS Retirement System will stay consistent with 2019 costs as rates have remained relatively the same. It was noted that Tier 6 is providing some stability to retirement costs. Debt service is reduced based upon defeasance of the Authority's 2007 bonds. Proposed landfill reserves for 2020 total \$2,100,000 (\$550,000 for Regional Landfill equipment replacement and \$1,550,000 for Regional Landfill liner extension). The 2020 proposed capital plan with projections through 2024 will be \$5,491,000. 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 2020 were reviewed. The total proposed 2020 system revenues/expenses total \$19,950,000; and municipal revenues/expenses total \$5,425,000. The total proposed 2020 Authority budget is \$25,375,000. The proposed 2020 budget for the six municipalities in which the Authority administers the respective municipal programs was presented by Mr. Rabbia.

Discussion ensued.

There was no one present from the public at the public hearing on the proposed 2020 budget. At 5:05 PM Chairman Long closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting of the Authority.

There were no speakers for regular public comment period.

Mr. Rabbia reported that the Authority's current contract for the sale of fiber/printer material with WMRA expires December 2019. The Authority issued a draft RFP on September 4, 2019 requesting proposals from vendors to purchase and/or market recyclable paper commodities generated at the Recycling Center for a five-year term. A Final RFP will be issued on November 20, 2019 with responses to the Final RFP due December 2, 2019. Individual meetings and negotiations with the qualified respondent(s) will take place December 5th - December 12th with an anticipated award date of December 16, 2019 by the Authority Board. Mr. Rabbia noted that the procurement process will follow NYS General Municipal Law, Section 120-w.

Mr. Rabbia provided an update on the 2019 Halloween flood clean-up. Mr. Rabbia stated that the entire region received an average of 4" of precipitation in a short period, along with extremely high winds. This caused substantial flooding and both Counties declared a State of Emergency. The Authority had to close its Utica facility at 1:30 PM on November 1st due to rising flood waters at the intersection of Leland and Wurz Avenues. Mr. Rabbia said that November 2nd was the first time the Authority had to close its operations for an entire day, as a result of this event. Although there was significant damage throughout the two Counties, flood waters never reached the Utica facility, nor was there any damage to the facility. However, trash was diverted to the Authority's Rome facility.

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Mr. Rabbia said that the Authority would likely exceed its daily tonnage limit due to the flood-related debris from demolition and clean-ups. Therefore, he sought and received a waiver from NYSDEC to help effectuate efficient and immediate clean-up of both spill-related soils and flood debris.

Discussion related to FEMA and assisting local municipalities with clean-up ensued. Mr. Rabbia said that the flood-related debris would be identified and tracked separately from other tonnages. He will continue to keep the Board informed.

Mr. Rabbia said that Oneida County Water Quality and Water Pollution Control Facility and the Rome Water Pollution Control Facility have utilized the Authority's Regional Landfill for disposal of their wastewater treatment by-products generated and that the Authority has historically bid out the transportation of the byproducts. Pursuant to Section 103 of NYS General Municipal Law, Mr. Rabbia said that an RFP will be issued on November 19, 2019 inviting interested respondents to submit proposals for the transportation of the wastewater treatment by-products from these facilities. The transporter will be required to utilize Authority-owned trailers. Final proposals will be due on December 2, 2019. Mr. Rabbia anticipates bringing a recommended for bid award to the Board for consideration at the December 16, 2019 meeting. The contract term will be for a period of three years with two additional one-year extensions.

At 5:28 PM a motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Angell and passed to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation.

At 6:09 PM a motion was made by Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Franco and passed to go back into open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi M. Tuttle
Authority Secretary