



H·R·R·A
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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, October 17, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Brookfield Town Hall – First Floor - Room 133

Members or Alternates Present and Voting:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Bethel, Robert Burke | 8 |
| Bridgewater, William Stuart | 1 |
| Brookfield, Joni Park | 7 |
| Danbury, Mark Boughton | 35 |
| Kent, Ruth Epstein | 1 |
| New Fairfield, Mike Gill | 6 |
| New Milford, Patricia Murphy | 13 |
| Newtown, Herbert Rosenthal | 12 |
| Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi | 11 |
| Sherman, Andrea O'Connor | <u>2</u> |
| | 96 |

Members Not Present

Redding, Natalie Ketcham

Others Present:

Cheryl Reedy, HRRRA Director
 Joel Urice, Danbury Alternate
 Lynn Waller, Public
 Dave Dunleavy, AWD
 Ed Hayes, Sherman Alternate
 Suzanne Von Holt, New Milford Alt.
 Vin Langone, WES
 Rob Pedersen, WES
 Paul Nonnenmacher, CRRA
 Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
 Dave Stevenson, State Rep Candidate
 Bob Miller, NewsTimes
 Pat Caruso, Associated Refuse
 Bob Patterson, All American Waste
 Robert Silvaggi, Brookfield (11:45 a.m.)
 Robert Metzler, HRRRA legal counsel
 Frank D'Ercole, HRRRA bond counsel

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:37 a.m. with a quorum of 96 votes present from ten towns. R. Silvaggi entered the meeting at 11:45 a.m. during agenda item 6 but did not replace J. Park as the voting member from Brookfield and did not change the quorum or votes present.

Public Comment

- L. Waller expressed her opinion that it was very important for HRRRA to obtain ownership of the White Street transfer station at all costs.
- P. Caruso of Associated Refuse asked the Authority to please purchase the transfer station and indicated that there are some local haulers interested in purchasing some of the collection routes that will be auctioned off by the federal government.

Motion by R. Marconi, second by J. Park, to move agenda item 7(a) to item 2(a). **Vote:** All in favor.

Potential Acquisition of Real Property in the City of Danbury

Motion by R. Marconi, second by R. Burke, to enter into executive session to discuss the potential acquisition of real property in the City of Danbury and invite into the executive session all full and alternate HRRRA members, HRRRA legal counsel, HRRRA bond counsel and HRRRA Director. **Vote:** All in favor. The HRRRA entered executive session at 10:45 a.m. and came out of executive session at 11:26 a.m... No votes were taken on the issue discussed in executive session. Chairman Gill stated for the public record that based on the discussion in executive session all Authority members remain in agreement that the region should continue to pursue public ownership of the White Street transfer station and the purchase, through eminent domain if required, of the real property located at 307 White Street in Danbury.

Chairman's and Members' Comments

- Chairman Gill welcomed back Bridgewater First Selectman Bill Stuart to a HRRRA meeting and thanked Mr. Stuart for his 18 year leadership as Chairman of HRRRA.
- M. Gill suggested that the Authority consider accepting (without advertising), as a convenience to the public, used motor oil, antifreeze, latex paint, etc. at future household hazardous waste collections after his experiences working at the Danbury collection for the last few years.
- W. Stuart recommended that member municipalities take a look at heating their public works facilities with a waste oil furnace as Bridgewater does. Using waste oil reduces heating costs to zero.
- M. Gill asked members of HRRRA should get a legal opinion on whether or not the MSW collection contracts entered into by small businesses with the former Galante-owned companies that contain automatic renewal clauses are valid. Members did not choose to get an opinion. Mr. Gill then suggested that any municipality with a similar contract that was signed more than three years ago ask its town counsel to review the contract for enforceability.

Director's Report

- C. Reedy reviewed some of the highlights of the written Director's Report through October 15, 2008.
- MSW tonnage is down 2% from the prior year due to the slowing economy.
 - The solid waste system in the region is starting to see increased collection competition. Eleven new haulers have been permitted in the last three years, with four new haulers permitted since July 1, 2008.
 - Seven small businesses trying to change MSW collectors from former Galante-owned companies to a new company offering lower costs by as much as 50% have contacted HRRRA for assistance since they are being sued by the now federal government owned collection companies for breach of contract. HRRRA has collected information from those who called and passed their concerns on to the Attorney General's office for review.

Consent Action Items

- a. **Motion** by A. O'Connor, second by P. Murphy, to approve the minutes of August 22, 2008 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor, except R. Burke who abstained because he was not at the August meeting.
- b. **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by J. Park, to approve the HRRRA financial statements through September 30, 2008 as presented and recommended by the Executive Committee. **Vote:** All in favor.
- c. **Motion** by A. O'Connor, second by R. Burke, to approve the 2008 special meeting and 2009 regular meeting schedules as presented and recommended by the Executive Committee. **Vote:** All in favor.

- d. **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by A. O'Connor, to approve a budget transfer of \$13,000 from public education to professional services, \$4,000 from contingency to professional services, \$500 from miscellaneous to professional services, \$500 from insurance to professional services, and an additional appropriation of \$100,000 from fund balance to professional services, all as recommended by the Executive Committee. **Vote:** All in favor.
- e. **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by A. O'Connor, to approve an additional appropriation of \$4,000 from hauler permits excess unbudgeted revenue to municipal hauler registrations reimbursement expense. **Vote:** All in favor.

New Business:

- a. 2009 Legislative Agenda– The Executive Committee recommended adoption of the 2009 legislative agenda as presented with two additions, changing the statutory requirement for bonding by a regional resource recovery authority to require approval of the legislative bodies of two-thirds of member municipalities for revenue bonds, and request for a grant or some other type of state funding to partially cover the costs of bid preparation and purchase of the White Street transfer station. **Motion** by J. Park, second by M. Gill, to approve the 2009 legislative agenda as recommended by the Executive Committee except for the statutory change for bonding. **Vote:** All in favor.
- b. **Motion** by A. O'Connor, second by R. Marconi, to table items 6. (b), (c), and (d) under new business. **Vote:** All in favor.

Adjournment: Without comment or opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at Noon.