



H·R·R·A
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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 13, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Danbury Crowne Plaza

18 Old Ridgebury Road, Danbury

Members or Alternates Present and Voting

Bethel, Matt Knickerbocker	8
Brookfield, Bill Tinsley	7
Danbury, Joel Urice	36
New Fairfield, Mike Gill	6
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	12
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	12
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi	11
Sherman, Clay Cope	2

94

Other Present:

Glenn Lockhart, Wheelabrator
 Jodi Barnell-Drescher, Winters Brothers
 Eric Fredericksen, All American Waste
 Glenn Nanavaty, Auditor
 Lynn Waller, Public
 Tom Tibolla, Brookfield Alternate
 Ryan Bingham, Winters
 Rich Straiton, Bethel Alternate

Members Not Present

Bridgewater, Kent, and Redding

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gill at 10:40 a.m. with a quorum of 80 votes present from six municipalities. H. Rosenthal entered the meeting at 10:44 and C. Cope entered the meeting at 10:47 during the Chairman's comments bringing the quorum to 94 from eight municipalities

Public Comment

L. Waller expressed her gratitude to the HRRRA for accepting and listening to her at meetings. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chairman's and Members' Comments

M. Gill wished everyone a happy holiday and welcomed Bill Tinsley, new First Selectman from the town of Brookfield.

M. Gill shared that C. Reedy has written a letter on behalf of the HRRRA to DEEP regarding the Notice of Tentative Determination for a new Transfer Station in Danbury located at 14 Plumtrees Road. The NOTD was published in the Danbury News Times on 12-02-13. One concern is the details in the DEEP application are not the same as the application sent to the City of Danbury. There is also a petition to request a public hearing. The new transfer station could have a negative effect on the HRRRA system. The Put or Pay contract with Wheelabrator could be in jeopardy. Losing tonnage to the new TS could

have a financial impact on member towns. The HRRRA will seek legal counsel to determine if there are any other actions that can be taken to protect the members' interests. G. Lockhart suggested speaking to DEEP directly. The State also does not want to lose tonnage to out of state landfills. R. Marconi expressed that he does not want us to give the impression we are against free enterprise, but rather to address the negative impact on the new transfer station to the region.

M. Gill shared that the HRRRA spends \$105,000 annually or 27% of the HRRRA budget on public education. M. Gill felt members should be aware of how much public outreach the HRRRA provides to the region.

Director's Report

C. Reedy highlighted the fall off in MSW tonnage experienced at the start of the year has returned in the last quarter. We were down almost 2700 tons during November compared with the prior year. Year to date the system is at 93.5% of MSW compared to the same time in 2012. We will likely finish the year just a few thousand tons over our minimum guaranteed tonnage. The drop in tonnage is mostly attributable to All American Waste along with County Waste in Ridgefield and with all haulers showing a small decline year over year.

The recycling tonnage was again up in the months of September and October. November's report was not yet available as this report was being written. Recycling tonnage at the end of October was at 107% of the prior year at the same time. The reason for the increase in tonnage is mostly attributable to All American Waste. For reasons having to do with issues at its own facilities, the company has been bringing all recycling collected in the HRRRA region to Winters Bros. Again, this is not expected to continue indefinitely, but while it does it is good for the recycling system.

C. Reedy mentioned one item that was left out of the written report was the new DEEP permit for Wheelabrator to now accept invasive plants and medical marijuana residual waste for controlled burns.

G. Lockhart mentioned that 100% of the revenue to burn prescription medication (\$100 per load) is donated annually to youth organizations. This past year \$7500 in donations were given away.

J. Iannucci was accepted into the Danbury Chamber's Leadership Danbury program for 2014. The program helps train future regional leaders and involves meeting with speakers on regional issues one day per month from January through September 2014.

Administrative Approvals

- a. **Motion** by S. Von Holt, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor, R. Marconi, C. Cope and M. Knickerbocker abstained (Vote tally: 73 in favor, 21 abstained)
- b. **Motion** by J. Urice, second by C. Cope, to approve the HRRRA financial statements through November 30, 2013 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor. (Vote tally: 94 in favor.)

R. Marconi asked C. Reedy if there were any items on the financial report that need to be highlighted. C. Reedy said there were none. H. Rosenthal commented that he continues to watch the Bond Fund investments closely with possible changes in interest rates.

- c. **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by R. Marconi to approve an additional appropriation of \$5,000 to the reimbursement for collected fee line. **Vote:** All in favor (Vote tally: 94 in favor.)
- d. **Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by S. Von Holt to set the meeting dates for 2014 as proposed. (Attachment D) **Vote:** All in favor (Vote tally: 94 in favor.)

Old business

- a. C. Reedy is still waiting to get signed Municipal E-waste collection and recycling agreement assignments from the towns of Bridgewater, Newtown and Ridgefield.
- b. J. Iannucci updated the HRRRA on the pilot organics program for the town of Bridgewater. The program will be implemented in April and a kick-off meeting will take place in March. The Bridgewater local store, the elementary school and the Congregational Church are also interested in participating in the pilot program.

Members asked about the new organics law that will take effect in January and who is affected by the law. Both C. Reedy and J. Iannucci addressed the questions and clarified that the law is for businesses that generate 104 or more tons a year. The generators include food wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, supermarkets, resorts and conference centers.

C. Reedy sent a letter to the list of generators the state provided. There has been no response from the letters. The state has no plans to follow up on the generators and enforce the new law. C. Reedy will send a list of the generators to each member town.

The organics pilot program in Bridgewater is a residential program and has nothing to do with the state law.

- c. M. Knickerbocker shared news of the merger between HVCEO and SWRPA. The merger has been accepted by the state. For at least the next year, the two regions will maintain two satellite offices to better serve the member towns.

New business

- d. **Motion** by J. Urice, second by M. Knickerbocker, to approve Assignment and Assumption Agreement with Eco International and NewTech Recycling and authorize the HRRRA Chairman to sign. (Attachment E) **Vote:** All in favor (Vote tally: 94 in favor.)
- a. **Motion** by J. Urice, second by M. Knickerbocker, to approve the 2012-13 FY Audit as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Glenn Nanavaty, from Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport, reported that this was a clean audit with no management letter comments. He explained to the Authority that he recommended to the Executive Committee to continue oversight of operations through the following monitoring procedures:

- Treasurer's review of all bank statements and scanned check images
- Countersignatures on checks
- Review of investment account activities, review of monthly financial statements, specifically budget v. actual results

- Authorization and review of debit transactions
 - Authorization and review of payroll transactions including making sure the computation is correct
- e. C. Reedy shared that the HRRRA is looking to support battery product stewardship legislation for 2015. C. Reedy has been in contact with Duracell, CT DEEP, the CT Product Stewardship Council and the Product Stewardship Institute in this regard. The plan is to have a national meeting at Duracell in early 2014 facilitated by the Product Stewardship Institute to work on model legislation for batteries in cooperation with Duracell, the Corporation for Battery Recycling and other interested states from across the country. C. Reedy will notify M. Knickerbocker of the date so that he may attend as well as the state legislators who represent Bethel.
- f. The update on new food scrap composting law was addressed during item 6b.

Adjournment: Motion by M. Knickerbocker, second by R. Marconi, to adjourn the meeting at 11:52a.m. Vote: All in favor. (Vote tally: 94 in favor.)