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HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Room 133, Brookfield Town Hall

100 Pocono Rd, Brookfield, CT 06804

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Matthew Knickerbocker	8
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Joel Urice	36
Kent, Bruce Adams	1
New Fairfield, Susan Chapman	6
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	12
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	11
Sherman, Ruth Byrnes	2

Others Present:

Lynn Waller, Public
Robert Metzler, HRRA Legal Counsel
Ken Vallera, All American Waste
Pat Llodra, Newtown First Selectman
Kevin Nolan, Winters Bros.
Harry Winters, Winters Bros.

83

Members Absent: Newtown, Bridgewater, Redding

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marconi at 10:33 a.m. with a quorum of 75 votes present from 7 municipalities. He led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. M. Knickerbocker arrived at 10:38 a.m. before any votes were taken bringing the total in attendance to 83 votes from 8 municipalities.

Public Comment: Lynn Waller asked who is Granite Acquisition. J. Heaton-Jones responded that Granite Acquisition is Wheelabrator's parent company and legal name and she will elaborate more during the upcoming New Business discussion.

Chairman and Members' Comments: B. Adams thanked S. Von Holt for a very well run HHW collection in New Milford on Saturday, September 23rd serving 930 cars. He also said that he was very impressed with the vendor, MXI, and that the residents were happy customers. Chairman Marconi asked for a comparison of Brookfield's HHW numbers and J. Heaton-Jones responded that there were 854 cars at the 7/29/17 HHW Day. Chairman Marconi inquired who would be liable in case of an accident with employees and volunteers, and S. Von Holt replied that it would be MXI.

Director's Report: J. Heaton-Jones highlighted the following items from her written report:

- MSW is running at 103% of the same time last year and recycling tonnage at 85% of the same time last year.
- T. Carlson renewed her Education contract with HRRA but will not be organizing the Billboard Contest. The portion of the contract that addresses the Billboard contest was crossed out.

- Many HRRA member and alternate appointments have expired. Currently, only 3 towns have members that have not expired, Newtown, Ridgefield and New Milford. Chairman Marconi asked if the by-laws state that this will affect future voting. She replied that it does not affect the voting and that it is assumed that the current members have been appointed. She will send out an email to the towns that need to appoint members and alternates.
- Brookfield's HHW Collection on 7/29/17 was successful although the wait time was high due to MXI's shortage of staff. There were 854 cars serviced with a majority from Brookfield. Going forward, MXI's staffing will be addressed prior to all upcoming HHW events.
- J. Heaton-Jones reminded all of the members that the HHW event in Danbury had been rescheduled from 9/30/17 to 11/4/17 and asked that the towns make sure to publicize the new date in order to avoid public confusion and possible dumping of illegal material.
- On 9/14/17 HRRA hosted an Annual Municipal Recycling Report meeting for all 11 towns to go over DEEP's required forms. Submission of these reports is due on 9/30/17. Some towns have received non-compliance notices from DEEP. The DEEP letters were a result of how the 2015-16 AMRR questions were answered. It is important to answer truthfully, even if it might mean non-compliance, so that DEEP and HRRA can see where help is needed.
- Towns that collect plastic film and textiles need to send a letter to the DEEP commissioner notifying DEEP that they are collecting such items at their transfer station. These items are not part of the Transfer Station General Permit. DEEP is expected to send out a template letter. J. Heaton-Jones will forward it to the towns to use as soon as it is posted. S. Conn asked if this also included towns that collect in other municipal locations. J. Heaton-Jones said it only applies to transfer stations.
- There is a new "What's In, What's Out" recycling campaign from RecycleCT that aims to send out a consistent message to guide residents on recycling do's and don'ts. Single Stream recycling is now referred to as Mixed Recycling. J. Heaton-Jones will be updating flyers and the WOW guide to reflect the changes.
- MIRA has selected 3 companies who have submitted bids to upgrade the Resource Recovery facility in Hartford: Covanta, Mustang Renewal Power Ventures and Sacyr Rooney. A public comment forum will be held 9/28/17 in Hartford.
- HRRA will be starting a series of backyard compost workshops in October and will continue them through November and December.

B. Adams thanked the Director for conducting the municipal recycling report meeting as it was very helpful. R. Byrnes asked about the possibility of recycling Styrofoam. J. Heaton-Jones replied that there is currently no market and is not financially feasible to purchase the machines required to reduce it to a hard foam and transport the material out of state. At this time, waste to energy continues to be the best option.

Administrative Approvals

- a) **Minutes - Motion** by J. Urice, second by S. Dunn, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2017 meeting. **Vote:** All in favor. (83 yes.)
- b) **Financial Statements - Motion** by Chairman Marconi, second by S. Dunn, to approve the financial statements through August 31, 2017, as presented. **Vote:** All in favor. (83 yes votes.)

Old Business

- a) **Recycling Ordinances** – J. Heaton-Jones asked if any towns other than Bethel have worked on updating their recycling ordinance. J. Urice reported that it was in the queue. J. Heaton-Jones noted that the deadline for compliance with DEEP is December, 2018. Peter Brunelli of DEEP is willing to review any draft ordinances and she will send out his contact information. She will also be submitting to him R. Metzler's draft ordinance.

- b) **HRRA Investment Policy** - S. Dunn reported that there HRRA currently holds 3 investment accounts through Vanguard with the primary goal to achieve long-term growth and the secondary goal as income. One of the funds is a mid-tier credit investment that includes junk bonds with a 5.9% average return. To date, the account hasn't lost money, but there is a risk. He recommends that HRRA change it to a high yield corporate account with an annualized return. He also recommends keeping all 3 accounts with Vanguard because they do excellent work. Chairman Marconi commented that he thought HRRA is directed to not have any investment holding junk bonds. J. Urice said he recollects a past discussion that HRRA should change any investments that invest in junk bonds.

Motion by S. Dunn, second by J. Urice, to transfer the account to a Vanguard high yield corporate VWEAX investment fund and he will work with H. Rosenthal in the decision-making process. **Vote:** All in favor. (83 yes.)

New Business

Wheelabrator Parent Company Guarantee – Wheelabrator has requested that HRRA accept Granite Acquisition, Inc. as the new guarantor of Wheelabrator Connecticut's obligations under the disposal agreement of January 1, 2004. Chairman R. Marconi read an email from HRRA's auditor, G. Nanavaty regarding Wheelabrator's request to change their Guarantee from Waste Management, Inc. to Granite Acquisition. G. Nanavaty wrote that the auditors' notes concluded that despite losses in the past 2 years and accumulated losses, positive operating cash flows and prudent debt arrangements have allowed the company to continue to meet its obligations. Chairman Marconi opened the floor to any questions or comments. J. Urice commented that the footnote "despite of losses" does not give him comfort and he is inclined to not give consent. R. Metzler said that HRRA has no obligation to give consent. Chairman Marconi agreed with J. Urice that they should not sign. **Motion** J. Urice, second by R. Byrnes, to decline to sign consent order. **Vote:** All in favor. (83 yes votes.)

Executive Session: **Motion** by S. Dunn, second by M. Knickerbocker, to go into executive to review the draft Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement with Winters Bros. and to invite B. Metzler, J. Heaton-Jones and R. Bennett into the executive session. **Vote:** All in favor. (83 yes votes.) The full Authority entered executive session at 11:20 a.m. The full Authority came out of executive session at 12:05 p.m. The full Authority returned to public session and there were no votes taken.

Adjournment: On a **Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by J. Urice, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. **Vote:** All in favor of adjournment. (83 yes votes.)

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bennett
Administrative Assistant