



Old Town Hall
162 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

203.775.6256 x304
203.740.9167
info@hrra.org

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HRRA Regular Meeting

Friday, January 19, 2007

10:30 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall

Draft Minutes

Members Present and Votes

Bob Burke, Bethel	8
Joni Park, Brookfield	7
Joel Urice, Danbury	35
Dolores Schiesel, Kent	1
Mike Gill, New Fairfield	6
Suzanne Von Holt, New Milford	13
Fred Hurley, Newtown	12
Tom Newsome, Redding	4
<u>Rudy Marconi, Ridgefield</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Votes	97

Members Absent

Bill Stuart, Bridgewater
Andrea O'Connor, Sherman

Guests

Ron Oliveri, Alt. New Fairfield
Lynn Waller, Public
Vin Langone, WESI
Rob Pedersen, WESI
Dave Dunleavy, RTI
Paul Nonnemacher, CRRRA
Gary Sumple, CDHM
John Walker, CDHM
Mike Strazza, CDHM

Chairman Mike Gill called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. with a quorum of 54 votes from 7 towns present. J. Urice from Danbury entered the meeting during public comment and R. Burke from Bethel entered the meeting during old business, for a total of 97 votes present.

Public Comment

L. Waller commented that she was upset that New Milford had already decided it would not participate in the regional hauler registration process and noted that in her opinion New Milford too often choose not to be a part of HRRA activities and work cooperatively with the other members of HRRA. She asked whether the certificates of insurance obtained by HRRA would cover New Milford and whether HRRA would charge New Milford for the time spent obtaining a certified list of haulers from the town. In addition she asked whether the hours for the Danbury Mom & Pop Recycle Center were changing (they are not), and noted that of the sample advertisements in the agenda packet she particularly liked the one with the mound of trash and kids in the photo. M. Gill thanked her for her comments and welcomed her back to the meeting.

C. Reedy noted that S. Von Holt made a concerted effort to answer questions in New Milford about the regional hauler registration program. S. Von Holt responded that Mayor Murphy prefers to look haulers in the eye when issuing them a registration to work in town. (J. Urice entered the meeting during this discussion.)

Chairman's and Members' Comments

- Chairman Gill encouraged member municipalities to contact the Director to set up a meeting in each town to review town government recycling practices as per one of the Authority's goals for the current fiscal year. So far only Ridgefield has taken advantage of this opportunity. R. Marconi said that the best way to lead is by example and that residents couldn't be expected to recycle if local government was not leading the way. The commitment, he said, has to be from the top down. Ridgefield has had its recycling audit; the First Selectman has communicated the importance of recycling to department heads and town employees; new bins for all offices have been ordered; and a committee has been formed to improve environmental sustainability in town, including improved recycling.
- M. Gill also asked members to consider using crushed glass from RTI for road sub base and drainage so that RTI would not have to pay to get rid of this material for which there is no other market at this time. Costs over the past year for disposal of the crushed glass, according to D. Dunleavy, have been more than \$80,000. That cuts into the revenue sharing that HRRA is paid from RTI. F. Hurley said it would be easier for the towns to work with Tilcon or O&G who could insure that the material met the appropriate standards and deliver to the towns. He volunteered to look into that possibility and get back to the Director with his findings.
- The final DEP Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment has been approved and calls for increased recycling and reuse to produce a MSW diversion rate of 58%.

Director's Report

- C. Reedy thanked the Authority for the opportunity to attend the National Recycling Convention in Atlanta in October and briefly noted some of the ideas and information she gathered at the conference that will be useful to the recycling program in the region.
- C. Reedy reviewed the current federal exemption from state and local regulations provided to railroads that operate transfer stations on their own property. The Housatonic Railroad is operating a bulky waste transfer station on Old Hawleyville Road in Newtown. Currently it is not a large operation and most of the waste is allegedly coming from lower Fairfield County. The owners of the railroad told C. Reedy that they were not interested in expanding into MSW. Newtown and DEP officials have been advised of what is happening at the site. The Authority asked the Director to follow up by requesting a site visit from DEP and by asking the region's Congressmen and Senators to support legislation that makes the railroad subject to the same environmental, planning and zoning regulations as other transfer stations.

Consent Action Items

1. **Minutes - Motion** by R. Marconi, second by J. Park to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2006 meeting as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.
2. **Financial Statements - Motion** by R. Marconi, second by D. Schiesel to approve the financial statements through January 11, 2007 as presented. **Vote:** All in favor.

3. **Clean Harbors Contract - Motion** by F. Hurley, second by R. Marconi, to recommend to the municipalities a two year contract with Clean Harbors for three household hazardous waste collections per year, contingent upon local legal review as required. **Vote:** 68 votes in favor. 21 votes abstaining (New Milford, Kent, Brookfield) because they do not participate in the HRRR household hazardous waste collections. (B. Burke had not yet entered the meeting and thus did not vote on this motion.)

Old Business

1. **Regional Hauler Registration** – After review of the revised proposal, all the HRRR municipalities have indicated their willingness to participate in a one-stop permitting program for haulers in which HRRR will collect the information necessary for municipal registration of haulers at the same time that the annual HRRR permits are renewed. The Chief Elected Official of each municipality will still be required to certify the list of registered haulers for his/her town, would still be able to deny certification to any hauler who does not meet the town's regulations, and would still be able to set the price for registration in their municipality. Basically municipal CEOs will use the HRRR Director as their agent for statutory-required hauler registrations rather than using a local employee. HRRR will send the local registration fees to each municipality. **Motion** by F. Hurley, second by J. Park to approve the regional hauler registration process as revised in the January 2, 1007 memo from the HRRR Director to HRRR members and alternates. **Vote:** 76 votes in favor. 13 votes (New Milford) abstaining. (B. Burke had not yet entered the meeting and thus did not vote on this motion.)
2. **Increase Minimum Insurance for Haulers for HRRR Permits** – **Motion** by D. Schiesel, second by R. Marconi, to increase the minimum insurance requirements for haulers to obtain an HRRR permit as proposed in the revised permit application with the proviso that it be reworded to make it clear that haulers have two options for insurance that include lower limits on general liability, motor vehicle and employer's liability by carrying an umbrella policy. (B. Burke entered the meeting during discussion of this motion.) **Vote:** 84 votes in favor. 13 votes (New Milford) abstaining.

C. Reedy asked the members to consider doubling the permit fee in 07-08 for haulers who renew their permit more than 15 days late and to halve the permit fee for haulers who add a new vehicle after January 1st of any fiscal year. The item will be on the agenda for a vote at the March HRRR meeting.

New Business

1. **Recycling Marketing Strategy** – Gary Sumple, Mike Strazza and John Walker gave an overview of the strategy prepared by CDHM for recycling education/advertising in the region. Two options were presented at the Director's request. One option was for a two-town pilot program with pre and post measurement of recycling to insure results. The other was for a region-wide program using primarily newspaper advertising and billboards, using regional tonnage to determine the result. The goals of the program are to teach people what and how to recycle, to show the benefits of recycling, and to teach through advertising that recycling is the responsible thing to do. Authority members overwhelmingly favored the regional plan so that all towns could benefit. M. Gill stressed the need to get smaller versions of the graphics in the form of posters, for example, into the schools to reach children. J. Urice suggested using the Newspaper in

Education program and sponsoring contests in the region's schools. He also suggested trying to place public service advertising at no cost in the newspapers and on the radio. R. Marconi noted that the municipalities can partner with the regional campaign by doing similar advertising in their own communities. **Motion** by J. Urice, second by R. Marconi, to approve the CDHM regional recycling marketing strategy and authorize the Director to proceed to work with CDHM to implement the plan. **Vote:** All in favor.

2. **Additional Appropriation for Pandemic Flu Supplies** – The Director asked for funding to purchase a pandemic flu kit, including nitrile gloves, hand sanitizer and N95 NIOSH compliant masks for each of the 220 HRRAs permitted vehicles to be purchased when a pandemic appears to be imminent and threatening in order to keep haulers on the job as much as possible and reduce the risk to public health of failure to collect MSW during a pandemic/public health emergency. R. Oliveri asked if that wasn't providing a benefit with HRRAs funds to the owners of private companies. C. Reedy said that it was unlikely that all haulers would have the time or the foresight to prepare on their own and that towns such as Ridgefield and Redding primarily served by a few smaller haulers were especially at risk in a pandemic. Even though the supplies would be provided to private companies, the goal is protection of the public and the public health for the residents of the region. J. Urice asked the Director to confirm that funds were available in fund balance to cover an additional appropriation, which she did. **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by F. Hurley, to appropriate \$4,000 from undesignated fund balance to the contingency line in the 2006-07 HRRAs budget for pandemic flu kit contents, and to authorize the Director to purchase such contents only with the approval of two members of the Executive Committee. **Vote:** All in favor.
3. **Additional Appropriation for R. W. Beck Consulting** – **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by B. Burke, to appropriate \$10,000 from undesignated fund balance to the professional services line in the 2006-07 HRRAs budget to engage the services of R. W. Beck to assist in preparing for the expiration of the RTI IPC contract on 6-30-11 contingent on Executive Committee approval of the proposal to be presented by R. W. Beck. **Vote:** All in favor. This additional appropriation will provide sufficient funding to allow the planning process to move forward prior to the Authority's March meeting if approved by the Executive Committee. R. W. Beck is a national solid waste and recycling consulting company who prepared the State Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment.

Motion by B. Burke, second by J. Park to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. **Vote:** All in favor.

