



## HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

### MINUTES

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

#### Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Matt Knickerbocker  
Bridgewater, Curtis Read  
Brookfield, Steve Dunn  
Danbury, Joel Urice  
Kent, Jean Speck  
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco  
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt  
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal  
Redding, Julia Pemberton  
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi  
Sherman, Don Lowe  
Weston, Chris Spaulding

#### Others Present:

8 Sheldon Conn, Brookfield Alternate  
1 Kim Hanson, New Fairfield Alternate  
7 Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate  
34 Jeff Hansen, Redding Alternate  
1 Barbara Henry, Town of Roxbury  
6 Brian Creighton, All American Waste  
12 Patti Oberg, All American Waste  
12 BJ Liberty, Bethel Lynn Waller, Public  
4 Lynn Waller, Public  
10 860-463-7103, Public  
1 Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRR  
4 Jennifer Baum, HRRR

100

#### Members Absent

None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order via zoom by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:31 a.m. with a quorum of 100 votes present from twelve towns. M. Knickerbocker led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Comment:** B. Henry, First Selectman of Roxbury, introduced herself and asked members to consider the Town of Roxbury becoming a member of the HRRR. The Town of Roxbury will be ending their membership with MIRA at the end of June 2021.

#### Chairman and Members' Comments:

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by R. Marconi, to modify agenda item 7A to include the Town of Wilton's request to join the HRRR. Vote: **The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

M. Knickerbocker provided a brief update on the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM). The effort's by the CCSMM have resulted in several proposals are pending before legislature. The proposals include:

- A modernization of the bottle bill that may be voted on this year.
- Incentives for aerobic digestion.
- EPR for gas cylinders, tires and smoke alarms.

### **Director's and Tonnage Report:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed highlights from the written Directors Report and tonnage reports (Attachment A).

- J. Heaton-Jones reviewed MSW and recycling tonnage as of January 31, 2021.  
R. Marconi commented on recycling rebate and glass recycling, attachment A.
- CT Product Stewardship - J. Heaton-Jones announced that the CT Product Stewardship Council in partnership with the Product Stewardship Institute, facilitated a virtual two-day stakeholder meeting to discuss propane cylinders. Utilizing the elements of the meeting, a bill was drafted for propane cylinders and incorporated EPR framework for tires and smoke detectors. **Action Item:** J. Heaton-Jones asked HRRRA Members to reach out to their Senators and Representative serving on the Environmental Committee to request their support of HB6386 with modifications.
- Newtown Glass Collection Study - J. Heaton-Jones presented the results of the glass study conducted at the Newtown Transfer Station on January 20, 2021 (Attachment A3).
- Public Access to Refuse and Recycling Information - J. Heaton-Jones reminded members of the importance of having easy access to refuse and recycling information for residents. The HRRRA has worked with all the towns in 2020 to have a button on the home page of each municipal website. Since then, many towns have removed the button making it difficult for folks to easily find disposal information. **Action Item:** J. Heaton-Jones asked the CEO's to support HRRRA staff working with local website administrators to have the button added back to the home page.

R. Marconi requested to begin the steps to form a subcommittee to address how the MIRA closure may impact the HRRRA and the future of solid waste and recycling in Connecticut beyond the HRRRA's current contract with Oak Ridge.

### **Administrative Approvals:**

**Minutes: Motion** by J. Urice, second by J. Pemberton, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2020 (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

### **Financial Statements:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through January 30, 2021.

**Motion** by D. Lowe, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the financial statements through January 30, 2021 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

### **Old Business:**

**Recycling market update** – J. Heaton-Jones gave a brief market update (Attachment D).  
Commodity markets are currently doing well.

**Glass program update** – The Director shared that eleven transfer stations have received a container to collect glass. The final container is scheduled for delivery the week of March 1, 2021.

The Chairman thanked the Director for her diligence in maintaining communications and negotiating the recycling tip fee.

## **New Business:**

### **7a.) Town of Roxbury request to join the HRRRA**

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by H. Rosenthal, approval for the Town of Roxbury to join the HRRRA, subject to the provisions and requirements within the HRRRA By-laws.

**Discussion:** J. Urice requested an amendment to add data as a provision, J. Urice would like more information on the Town of Roxbury's tonnage data to understand what the Authority should expect for volume from the town. The Director reviewed the amount of tonnage the Town of Roxbury produces each year and the revenue it would bring to the HRRRA. J. Urice withdrew his request.

**Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor. B. Henry expressed gratitude and clarified that the time frame of joining the Authority would be July 1, 2021.

### **Town of Wilton request to join the HRRRA**

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by P. Del Monaco, to approve the Town of Wilton joining the HRRRA subject to the provisions and requirements within the HRRRA By-laws.

**Discussion:** J. Urice expressed concern on the amount of tonnage produced in Wilton and the potential traffic that it would generate coming into Danbury. J. Urice requested the Authority table the vote until there is more information to understand the impact to Danbury or any other regional town. Director expressed she does not have the same concern and believes the addition of Wilton would have more benefit to the Authority than harm. The transportation of tonnage from Wilton would be direct hauled to Bridgeport, as is the case with Weston. R. Marconi is not opposed to Wilton joining the HRRRA, however stated his concern on what the policies are of the HRRRA taking on more towns as members in the future. M. Knickerbocker made the point that it is important to revisit the By-laws and the membership provisions to address those concerns.

**Vote: The motion passed;** with 66 in favor and 34 against from Danbury (34).

### **7b.) Hauler Registration Policy Insurance Requirements (*Attachment E*)**

The Chairman presented revisions to the HRRRA hauler insurance requirement (*Attachment E2*). These revisions were created in consultation with Jason and William Guerrera from USI, who is also the Town of Bethel's insurance consultant.

**Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by J. Urice, to approve changes in hauler registration requirements as presented in attachment E2. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

### **7c.) Building Regional programs to address material management concerns.**

J. Heaton-Jones shared the current report on the study for regional services. HRRRA staff requested data from the municipal transfer stations to review operational and disposal costs. The goal is to utilize one vendor for similar services and leverage disposal rates. HRRRA staff will continue to gather and analyze data to make recommendations at the next full authority meeting.

### **7d.) Personnel and Budget**

**Motion** by S. Dunn, second by R. Marconi, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, inviting all board members and alternates. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

The Executive Committee entered executive session at 11:40 a.m. and came out of executive session at 11:48 a.m.

The Chairman announced full support of the board to increase compensation for the Executive Director to \$130,000 annual salary effective March 1, 2021

The Chairman requested the Director share the impact to the current fiscal budget. J. Heaton-Jones presented the revised 2020-2021 budget with the following adjustments: Directors Salary increases to \$116,666.67 for the FY, Federal payroll taxes increase \$516.30 for a total of \$13,601.41, Pension increases \$500 for a total of \$13,173. Total Salaries equal \$175,626.67 with a net revenue of \$17,016.25

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by D. Lowe, to approve and adopt the amendment of the budget as presented for 2020-2021. Vote: **The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by J. Urice, second by C. Spaulding, to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. **The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Baum