



## HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

### MINUTES

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 10:00 a.m. Via Zoom

#### Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Matt Knickerbocker	7
Bridgewater, Curtis Read	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	6
Danbury, Joel Urice	31
Kent, Jean Speck	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Pete Bass	11
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	11
Redding, Julia Pemberton	4
Ridgefield, Rudolph Marconi	10
Roxbury, Barbara Henry	1
Weston, Samantha Nestor	4
Wilton, Lynne Vanderslice	7
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#### Others Present:

7	Joel Urice, Danbury Alternate
1	Suzanne Von Holt, New Milford Alternate
6	Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
31	Patrick Johnston, Danbury
1	Erik Fredericksen, All American Waste
5	Bob Hanna, Three Veterans LLC
11	Jack Jolls, Weston & Sampson
11	Mike Smith, Weston & Sampson
4	Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
10	Jennifer Baum, HRRRA

#### Members Absent

Sherman

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order via zoom by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:02 a.m. with a quorum of 98 votes present from twelve towns. M. Knickerbocker led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. B. Henry joined the meeting at 10:17 a.m. during the Director's Report, making the total votes present 99. During item 6c, S. Nestor left the meeting.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

#### Chairman and Members' Comments:

The Chairman offered condolences on behalf of the HRRRA to the LoStocco family on the loss of Joe LoStocco of LoStocco Refuse Services LLC.

The Chairman encouraged members to take the time to thoroughly read the Director's Report in the agenda packet due to challenges in the waste industry.

The Chairman stated the executive committee will meet with the insurance consultant to review the HRRRA insurance requirements.

The Chairman announced J. Urice is stepping down as an alternate for the City of Danbury. The Chairman thanked J. Urice for his involvement with the HRRRA.

J. Urice stated P. Johnston will be appointed as the new alternate during the council meeting on October 6, 2021.

The Chairman acknowledged B. Henry for her contributions to the HRRRA and announced that she will not be renewing her term as First Selectman.

H. Rosenthal stated Oak Ridge may be in violation of their contract and reported witnessing 18-wheeler trucks on main street. Per the contract, the trucks are to travel via interstate 84.

The Chairman acknowledged his concern and the HRRRA staff will investigate the issue.

J. Heaton-Jones extended her gratitude to J. Urice for his dedication and commitment to the Authority.

The Chairman congratulated J. Heaton-Jones on receiving the policy champion award from NAHMMA.

#### **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 August 31, 2021.
- MSW tonnage to date is running at 105% and 103% compared to same month last year.
- Recycling tonnage to date is running at 87% and 119% compared to the same month last year.
- E-waste tonnage is running at 93% compared to the same time last year.
- Glass collected from HRRRA separated glass from March 1, 2019, to August 30, 2021, is 640 tons.
- Encouraged members to promote the new RecycleCT app.
- J. Heaton-Jones thanked members who attended the press conference for glass.
- The Director will hold a meeting with transfer station operators and public works directors to provide more information on the grant as outlined in the packet.
- Markets are improving and the Director is hopeful there will be reduction in the recycling tip fee effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Administrative Approvals:**

**Minutes: Motion** by P. Del Monaco second by S. Dunn, to approve the minutes of June 30, 2021 (Attachment B).

**Vote: The motion passed;** with 99 votes in favor.

#### **Financial Statements:**

J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through August 31, 2021.

**Motion** by R. Marconi, second by H. Rosenthal, to approve the financial statements through August 31, 2021 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 99 votes in favor.

#### **New Business:**

##### **6a.) Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility Presentation**

J. Jolls and M. Smith made a presentation on anaerobic digestion planning considerations as outlined in the agenda (attachment D).

##### **6b.) Hauler Enforcement Policy**

J. Heaton-Jones presented language changes in the proposed hauler enforcement policy. J. Heaton-Jones stated legal counsel has reviewed and approved the proposed draft.

B. Henry questioned how contamination is determined.

J. Heaton-Jones confirmed the language regarding contamination is the current Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement and is included in the annual Hauler Registration Packet. Oak Ridge must prove contamination exist with photographs and inform the HRRRA. They may charge haulers for the cost to handle, process and or dispose of the contamination and make every effort to recycle the clean material.

B. Henry asked if the insurance requirements will remain the same.

J. Heaton-Jones confirmed that the insurance requirements have not changed, and all haulers are required to provide the same coverage. It is the plan to have the Executive Committee meet with the insurance consultant to review the policy requirements to ensure they are fair and equitable for all parties.

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by P. Bass to table the vote on the hauler enforcement policy to the full authority meeting in December (Attachment E). **The motion passed unanimously;** with 99 votes in favor.

The Director will send all members a blue line copy of the draft policy for their review.

#### **6c.) USDA Grant – Add to FY 2021-22 Budget**

HRRRA applied for a grant for an onsite composting project at the Ridgefield Transfer Station. The HRRRA was awarded a grant in the amount of \$89,657 for the project. The grant allows HRRRA to hire a consultant and cover equipment costs. The overall objective of this project is to demonstrate that municipalities can create a closed loop sustainable composting system to manage food waste locally, reducing the carbon footprint of offsite disposal and contributing to the waste diversion goals of the state.

The director requested to add a revenue and expenditure line to the 2021-22 Fiscal Budget called “Grant Special Project”. The added revenue totals \$87,657, which will be funded by two grants, one from the USDA for \$72,657 and the other from a possible CT DEEP Recycle CT Foundation Grant for \$15,000. In addition, the Director requested a \$2000 transfer from Contingency to Grant Special Project to give a safety net for the project for a total expenditure of \$89,657.

**Motion** by M. Knickerbocker, second by J. Urice to approve the HRRRA 2021-22 fiscal year budget adjustment as requested to reflect the grant amount and transfer of \$2000 from contingency to Grant Special Project. (Attachment F). **The motion passed unanimously;** with 95 votes in favor.

#### **6d.) Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement - MSW Tip Fee Increase Request**

The Chairman provided background information on the nationwide disruption in transportation and labor. Oak Ridge has experienced labor shortages resulting in financial issues. The current contract has an opener if the transportation cost increase is beyond a certain parameter, both parties agree to negotiate in good faith. However, the background data was not received. A discussion cannot be held without the data. It is expected that Oak Ridge will send the data next week. The Executive Committee will convene to review the data when received.

**Motion** by J. Urice, second by F. Hurley to table the discussion on MSW tip fee request. **The motion passed unanimously;** with 95 votes in favor.

#### **Adjournment**

B. Henry announced she will continue contributing to the HRRRA as a volunteer when her term ends.

**Motion** by S. Dunn, second by R. Marconi, to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. **The motion passed unanimously;** with 95 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Baum

*\*A full recording of the September 30, 2021 HRRRA Full Authority meeting is posted on the HRRRA website.*