



HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 29, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room

3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

Members or Alternates Present

Bethel, Dan Carter (remote)
Kent, Jean Speck
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi
Roxbury, Patrick Roy
Sherman, Ruth Byrnes (remote)
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker

Others Present:

7	Dan Rosenthal, First Selectman, Newtown
1	Fred Hurley, Newtown Alternate
5	Larry Roberts, Weston
11	Pat Caruso, Associated Refuse
11	Rick Daigle, All American Waste
10	Patti Oberg, All American Waste
1	Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRRA
1	Jennifer Baum, HRRRA
<u>7</u>	
54	

Members Absent:

Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Redding, Weston

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:39 a.m. with 45 votes present from 6 towns. M. Knickerbocker called a recess at 10:51 am.

D. Carter joined the meeting at 10:47 am.; J. Speck joined at 10:54 am.; R. Byrnes joined at 10:56 am. A quorum was established with 54 votes present from 9 towns. M. Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 10:56 am.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Chairman and Members' Comment:

- The Chairman welcomed Larry Roberts, soon to be appointed HRRRA alternate for the Town of Weston.
- M. Knickerbocker thanked colleagues for their support with HB6486 EPR for tires and acknowledged J. Heaton-Jones for her efforts in helping to get the bill passed.

Director's and Tonnage Report:

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

- The Director shared L. Keefe has stepped down from HRRRA and T. Thornton has joined the HRRRA staff. T. Thornton is leading efforts in public education and social media.
- The Towns of Bethel, Kent, and Newtown have received their grant contracts from CT DEEP for their Organics (food scrap) drop-off and Unit Base Pricing pilot programs. They have been signed by the respective towns and are now awaiting final approval from the AG's office. The HRRRA also received a grant contract for a pilot project manager to oversee the implementation. Bethel received \$42,400, Kent \$55,400, Newtown \$203,000, HRRRA \$130,000 for a total of \$439,800.
- HRRRA received notice from the EPA that HRRRA was found to be eligible to move on to the Merit Review for both the SWIFR and REO grant. EPA anticipates announcing the selection of grant recipients in the fall of 2023.

Administrative Approvals:

Minutes: Motion by R. Marconi second by P. Roy, to approve the minutes of May 17, 2023 (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor.

Financial Statements: J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through May 31, 2023 (Attachment C). **Motion** by P. Roy, second by J. Speck, to approve the financial statements through May 31, 2023 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor.

Old Business:

6a.) By-laws – Resolution to support one-town, one-vote. (*Attachment D*)

Motion by H. Rosenthal, second by P. Del Monaco, to adopt the resolution to support one-town, one-vote (Attachment D). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor

New Business:

7a.) Nomination Committee (Attachment E)

R. Marconi read the Nominating Committee report nominating M. Knickerbocker to serve as Chairman, P. Del Monaco as Vice Chairwoman, H. Rosenthal as Secretary, J. Pemberton as Treasurer, and J. Speck as Assistant Treasurer for 2023-2024.

Election of Officers for the 2023-24 FY: **Motion** by R. Marconi, second by S. Von Holt to endorse the slate of officers for the 2023-24 FY. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor (Attachment E).

7b.) Consider and approve the HRRRA budget for the FY ending June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Executive Committee (Attachment F)

Motion by P. Del Monaco, second by P. Roy to approve the HRRRA 2023-24 fiscal year budget as presented with total revenue projected at \$907,400 and expenditures totaling \$907,400. (Attachment E). **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor.

H. Rosenthal stated the executive committee conducted personnel reviews for HRRRA staff and recommended a 3.5% salary increase for J. Heaton-Jones and J. Baum.

7c.) HRRRA Hauler Registration and Permits for all trucks operating within the region.

J. Heaton-Jones stated the HRRRA will proceed with adding a permit to every hauler vehicle for 2023-24 fiscal year. Permits that will not be used to access the transfer stations for tipping will not have an active status and will be issued at no charge. The purpose of issuing a permit sticker to every HRRRA Hauler vehicle is to ensure accountability from each hauler. There are issues currently with haulers who have multiple trucks who swap out the permit numbers to avoid fees. Every issued permit must be affixed to the vehicle it is assigned. If a hauler chooses to activate the permit for access to the transfer station, they may pay the appropriate permit fee. The stickers will also serve as a registration permit.

Motion by R. Marconi, second by H. Rosenthal to register and permit every hauler truck operating in the HRRRA region. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor.

7d.) By Laws – Discussion - Legal fees associated with non-compliant haulers related to violations of local ordinances to be the responsibility of member municipalities.

A discussion ensued regarding responsibility of legal fees when a municipality requests assistance from the HRRRA regarding a hauler that results in litigation. The Chairman requested suggestions on who should be liable, HRRRA vs. the municipality, and proposed adding a policy to the HRRRA bylaws.

7e.) HRRRA Enforcement Policy – Discussion, update Section XII

This agenda item was skipped and not discussed

7f.) Member Municipalities Local ordinances pertaining to solid waste need updating.

J. Heaton-Jones shared that apart from the Town of Kent, all HRRRA municipalities have not updated their local ordinance since 1991.

J. Heaton-Jones suggested that each town update their local ordinance to reflect consistent hauler enforcement policies and appeal process that align with the HRRRA enforcement policy.

R. Marconi questioned if the HRRRA attorney could draft language for the towns to utilize.

J. Heaton-Jones will request the attorney to draft language to present to the authority for towns to implement if they choose.

Adjournment

J. Speck thanked the HRRRA staff for public education support in the Town of Kent.

Motion by J. Speck, second by P. Roy, to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 54 votes in favor.