



## **HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

**Newtown Municipal Center, Conference Room**

**3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470**

#### **Members or Alternates Present**

Bethel, Dan Carter	8
Bridgewater, Curtis Read	1
Brookfield, Steve Dunn	7
Danbury, Roberto Alves	32
Kent, Marty Lindenmayer	1
New Fairfield, Pat Del Monaco	5
New Milford, Suzanne Von Holt	11
Newtown, Herb Rosenthal	10
Redding, Julia Pemberton	3
Ridgefield, Rudy Marconi	9
Roxbury, Patrick Roy	1
Sherman, Don Lowe	1
Weston, Larry Roberts (Remote)	4
Wilton, Matthew Knickerbocker	7
	<hr/>
	100

#### **Others Present:**

8	Jeff Capeci, First Selectman, Newtown
1	Fred Hurley, Newtown
7	Barbara Henry, Roxbury Alternate (Remote)
32	All American Waste
1	Jennifer Heaton-Jones, HRRR
5	Jennifer Baum, HRRR

#### **Members Absent:**

None

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman M. Knickerbocker at 10:33 a.m. with 91 votes present from 13 towns. R. Marconi entered the meeting at 10:39 after item 5a. bringing the total votes to 100.

#### **Public Comment:**

No Public Comment

#### **Chairman and Members' Comment:**

M. Knickerbocker thanked HRRR staff for a successful 2024 Recycling Billboard Contest Awards Ceremony.

---

### **HOUSATONIC RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

162 WHISCONIER ROAD, OLD TOWN HALL, BROOKFIELD CT 06752

203.775.4539 | [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org) | [info@hrra.org](mailto:info@hrra.org)

BRIDGEWATER | BETHEL | BROOKFIELD | DANBURY | KENT | NEW FAIRFIELD | NEW MILFORD  
NEWTOWN | REDDING | RIDGEFIELD | ROXBURY | SHERMAN | WESTON | WILTON

H. Rosenthal welcomed Roberto Alves, Mayor of Danbury, as a new HRRRA member and expressed his gratitude for his participation

**Director's and Tonnage Report:**

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

- Tonnage has increased:
  - MSW tonnage to date is currently 106% for the FY, compared to 102% the same month last year.
  - Recycling tonnage to date is 111% for the FY and 108% compared to the same month last year.
  - Glass collected from March 2019 to date 3,766,020 lbs. / 1883.01 tons.
- The Director expressed gratitude to the HRRRA member municipalities for signing and returning the hazardous waste event contract in time for the Danbury April event. The contract extends the current contract by two years with an addition two one-year renewals and holds the pricing. Many towns across the northeast are seeing a 30-40% increase.
- The first Household Hazardous Waste event was held in Danbury and was successful with 890 cars.
- The HRRRA hauler recycling tip was reduced to \$54.24 for Q2. With the current value of commodities the actual recycling tip fee is \$26.64, the additional \$27.59 is the cost for residual also known as contamination in the mixed stream.
- The Director extended congratulations to the Town of Weston for launching an organics program, the 9<sup>th</sup> food scraps recycling program in the HRRRA region.
- 2024 marks the tenth year since the launch of the first HRRRA organics program in the Town of Bridgewater.

**Administrative Approvals:**

**Minutes: Motion** by M. Lindenmayer second by S. Von Holt, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2024, (Attachment B). **Vote: The motion passed;** with 84 votes in favor with abstention from S. Dunn.

**Financial Statements:** J. Heaton-Jones reviewed the financial statements through March 31, 2024 (Attachment C). **Motion** by H. Rosenthal, second by D. Lowe, to approve the financial statements through March 31, 2024 (Attachment C), as presented. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor. J. Heaton-Jones commented that there will be a request for transfers in the budget at the June meeting, specifically to cover the increase in taxes for Connecticut Unemployment.

**New Business:**

**6a.) Nomination Committee – Appointed by the Chairman**

The Chairman appointed Suzanne Von Holt, Steve Dunn, and Rudy Marconi to the 2024-25 nomination committee.

**Old Business:**

**7a.) HRRRA Regional SW&R Contract, beyond 2029 – discussion**

The Chairman stated the current contract with Oak Ridge, soon to be known as Interstate Waste Services will expire in 2029. The current contract that was negotiated with Winters Brothers took approximately four years to finalize. This is the time to begin working on the new contract and suggested the Authority add an additional hour to future HRRRA meetings to discuss the matter R. Marconi suggested forming a subcommittee..

The Chairman inquired the members if a subcommittee was preferred or review as a collective.

A discussion ensued on forming a subcommittee.

The consensus was that a subcommittee is preferred.

M. Knickerbocker, H. Rosenthal, R. Marconi, and J. Pemberton and Pat DelMonaco volunteered for the subcommittee to review the SW&R contract beyond 2029.

### **7b.) HRRRA Member policy and local ordinance changes – discussion**

J. Heaton-Jones gave an update from the directive given in January to have Legal Counsel draft a model ordinance that would address the concerns of non-compliant haulers. After speaking with legal it was suggested to get a specific list of items (. i.e. hours of operation, enforcement policy on non-registered haulers, etc.) to be addressed in the draft ordinance. In addition, J. Heaton-Jones clarified that a Member Policy would outline the member municipalities responsibilities pertaining to enforcement of a non-compliant hauler such as legal fees accrued or follow-up and enforcement of a non-compliant hauler that HRRRA staff has identified on the members behalf.

Discussion ensued that members are in favor of uniformed language, and it would be valuable for all to have the same language that forms a united front for the bad actors. It was suggested that the Director get member feedback and provide to legal counsel in order to draft both the ordinance and the member policy.

### **7c.) By-laws – Changing the by-laws to one town one vote (Attachment D)**

The Chairman shared that it is still in question when the by-laws will take effect as there is conflicting legal advice on what the local ordinance need to include.

C. Read suggested the member admission vote under Article III, item B. stating “the municipality shall be admitted upon affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of all units present and voting” should be the same as member termination vote under 5 a.) “No decision to terminate a member municipality shall be effective unless it has been approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership.”.

A discussion ensued on whether the member admission vote should be based on members present or full membership.

**Motion** by S. Dunn, second by D. Lowe, to make an amendment to the bylaws under Article III, Section B., last sentence, to state “*No later than 180 days following the request for admission, the officers shall present the request to a meeting of the full Authority, which shall include all relevant*”

*information provided to or obtained by the officers, and the municipality shall be admitted upon affirmative vote of **two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership** present and voting. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.*

**Motion** by M. Lindenmayer, second by S. Dunn, to change the bylaws to one town one vote as presented in attachment D and with amendments to Article III, Section B **Vote: The motion passed;** with 68 votes in favor, R. Alves (DA) voted nay.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by S. Dunn, second by D. Carter, to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. **Vote: The motion passed unanimously;** with 100 votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted.  
Jennifer Baum