

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
September 15, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the "Authority") was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on September 15, 2015, in the Planning Commission meeting room, 14th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray  
Ms. Dale-Ann Farina  
Mr. Brian Clements  
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire  
Charles Jones, PE

Absent were Ms. Michelle Kircher, Mr. Tony Rymar, Mr. Tony Sacco and John Pagerly, CPA.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority  
Matthew Setley, Esquire, Geogeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors

The Chairman declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public chose to speak.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Farina, seconded by Mr. Clements, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 21, 2015, were unanimously approved.

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Meeks distributed the Treasurer's Report and invoices for payment and reviewed them with the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Gombar, the Board unanimously approved the payment of all invoices, ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Ms. Dale-Ann Farina noted that First National Bank is currently in the process of acquiring Metro Bank and it is anticipated to be final by the first quarter of 2016.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Setley reported that Mr. Rauch has been working on issues related to the possible upcoming paving project and Bond issues, related to the use of the \$60,739 remaining in the Bond Redemption Fund, to be used towards the final Bond payment in April of 2016, as requested by the County. Mr. Setley requested that a motion be made authorizing the use of these funds, and a copy of these minutes be forwarded to our Trustee, US Bank, National Association.

Upon a motion by Mr. Gombar, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously authorized and directed our Bond Trustee, US Bank, National Association, to apply \$60,739 in the Bond Redemption Fund towards the final Bond payment, due in April of 2016.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Update on fall collection events

Ms. Meeks reported that the Paper Shredding and Household Hazardous Waste collections are all on schedule with all arrangements completed. She indicated that the Authority will once again partner with Opportunity House to collect used books for their initiative. She indicated that she is still working on securing volunteers to assist during the events.

Ms. Meeks also, reported that the 2016 collection dates and locations have been confirmed and that information on those collections will be distributed at our fall collection events. Those events will be held on the following dates, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

#### Paper Shredding

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
October 15<sup>th</sup> – FirstEnergy Stadium

#### Household Hazardous Waste

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> – FirstEnergy Stadium

### B. Update on paving project

Ms. Meeks indicated that Great Valley Consultants has completed the plans for the paving project, as well as submitting the permit to Bern Township for this work to be completed. Great Valley also developed draft bid specifications and provided a cost estimate to determine if this project could be completed without going through the bidding process. She indicated that the estimates that we received from Great Valley for this project were \$17,557 for labor and equipment costs and \$22,678 for materials. Based on this information, Ms. Meeks recommended, with our Solicitors approval, to move forward with this project, without going through the formal bidding process. Ms. Meeks explained that she will request three (3) quotes on this project for labor and equipment and can purchase the materials through the COSTAR Contract from both EJB Paving & Materials, Co. and Berks Products.

Upon a motion by Ms. Farina, seconded by Mr. Clements the Board approved moving forward with the paving project, without soliciting bids, as long as the quotes for the labor and equipment costs, do not exceed \$19,000. All materials needed for this project are to be purchased separately through the State COSTAR Contracts. Mr. Jones Abstained from this vote.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the County is moving forward with the land transfer at the Recycling Center on Hilltop Rd., which would give the Authority additional storage space, as well as land needed for Land Development Planning, as we continue to expand our operations. She indicated that Carl Geffken, Chief Operations Officer for the County of Berks has instructed Heidi Masano, Assistant Berks County Solicitor, to move forward with this transfer.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks indicated that 48,000 residents have participated in our full-time electronic recycling center since opening in July of 2010, recycling over 4.5 million pounds of electronics. Over 10,000 of those residents used the site during the first eight months of 2015, recycling nearly one million pounds of electronic waste. Ms. Meeks indicated that we have exceeded our quarterly maximum weight of televisions, allowed for under our Contract with ECOvanta during the last two quarters and will most likely exceed our annual allowable limits for the 2015 calendar year. She indicated that she has had many discussions with Dave Peterson, Sales Manager at ECOvanta regarding this issue and he has assured me that because the Authority is implementing programs to limit the amount of televisions we are receiving, they will continue to accept them without penalty. He also indicated that all of our current Contract conditions will remain unchanged for 2016, the final year of our contract. The Board requested that their Executive Director contact ECOvanta to receive this information in writing. She indicated that the Authority has the right to extend the contract for one additional year, if we so choose, for 2017. She recommended that the Authority solicit bids in July of 2016, to see what interest there may be in our materials.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the prisoners are continuing to bale both our cardboard and mixed paper on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at our Recycling Center on Hilltop Road.

Ms. Meeks reported that she has assisted twelve municipalities with their 904 Performance Grant application. The applications are due to PADEP on September 30, 2014.

Ms. Meeks reported that the Berks County District Attorney's full-time drop-off programs for pharmaceuticals is continuing to get more and more materials and that they have recently partnered with the National Guard to collect their pharmaceuticals on an as need basis, which will reduce their labor costs, while eliminate our disposal costs entirely. This program is very well received with approximately 1,600 pounds of medications collected every month.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the 902 Recycling Grant applications that were originally anticipated to be announced in July, have now been pushed back until October. She indicated that this date may change again, depending on the status of the State Budget approval.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she had met with the Greenwich Township Supervisors on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to discuss the ongoing problems we are having, with the recycling drop-off located at their municipal

building, as we had discussed at our July meeting. She indicated that at that meeting the Board of Supervisors agreed to put up signs, security cameras and improve the communication between the Township and the Authority, to promptly notify the Authority when service is needed, so that the containers are not overflowing, adding to the illegal dumping problem. She indicated that over the past month, no changes have been made and recommended that we notify the Township of the termination of the program. The Board agreed and recommended sending a formal letter to the Township Supervisors stating the reasons for termination and also asked our Solicitor to contact the Township Solicitor to discuss this as well. The Board also recommended that their Executive Director communicate this with the County Board of Commissioners' so they are aware of this issue.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she found an error in the Western Berks Landfill host fee payment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015, in the amount of \$17,125. She indicated that Advanced Disposal, the owner of the Western Berks Landfill, has agreed with this calculation and will be sending the check this week.

Ms. Meeks indicated that most of the other items outlined in her report have been discussed throughout today's meeting and offered to answer any questions that members may have, regarding her report.

#### Next Meeting Date

Mr. Mowbray indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Gombar the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.