

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
July 24, 2018**

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 July 24, 2018, in the Commissioners’ meeting room, 13th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray
Mr. Brian Clements
Ms. Michelle Kircher
Mr. Tony Sacco
John Pagerly, CPA

Absent were, Mr. Tony Rymar, Ms. Dale-Ann Farina, Charles Jones, PE and Michael Gombar, Jr. Esquire.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Douglas Paul Rauch, Esquire, Georgeadis/Setley

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present for this meeting.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Ms. Kircher, the minutes of the regular meetings of May 15, 2018, were 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 Ms. Kircher, the Board unanimously approved the payment of all invoices and ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rauch reported that since the Authority's last Board meeting, he has been working on various Authority matters along with the Executive Director, including the drafting of the Commendation for United Document Destruction & Storage.

Mr. Rauch then recommended that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the current litigation with New Morgan Landfill Company.

At 3:15 PM, the meeting reconvened.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling Markets

Ms. Meeks distributed copies of an article that appeared on Lancasteronline.com regarding the current collapse of recycling markets and the approach that Lancaster County will be taking regarding the issue. Ms. Meeks explained that Eagle Disposal is the only Company servicing Berks County, that she is aware of, that is looking to make similar changes. She explained that because paper materials are collected and stored separately at our drop-off center we are not currently affected, to the same degree. She explained that we are currently being paid \$50 per ton for our cardboard and are paying \$20 per ton to dispose of our baled mixed paper. She indicated that she will continue to monitor this situation and will keep the Board informed of any new developments.

B. Will Jarrett – Annual Review

Ms. Meeks recommended a \$1.00 per hour increase for William Jarrett effective July 20, 2018, which would increase his hourly rate to \$21.80 per hour. Ms. Meeks reminded the Board that the only benefits that William Jarrett currently receives is vacation and sick time. Will does not current accept any Health Insurance from the Authority, which is offered. Ms. Meeks indicated that Will does an exceptional job operating the recycling center and takes great pride in his job. Upon a motion by Mr. Pagerly, seconded by Mr. Clements, the Board unanimously approved this increase.

C. Foam Recycling

Ms. Meeks indicated that the Authority spends an enormous amount of time dealing with Styrofoam that is illegally disposed of at our recycling center. This includes removing it from both the paper and commingled containers and in many cases spending time reviewing video to notify the police of this issue, so they can contact the resident and file citations at the local District Justice office. Ms. Meeks indicated that foam is not currently accepted by Cogle's recycling which is our current recycler. Ms. Meeks indicated that the Foam Recycling Coalition currently has a grant program available to fund up to \$50,000 of startup costs for the implementation of a Foam recycling collection program. Ms. Meeks indicated that she visited Sussex County in New Jersey to tour their recycling center, where they are currently collecting

foam for recycling and processing it with a foam densifier. The equipment is available through Foam Cycle which includes storage containers as well as the densifier and small trailer for the operation of the program. Ms. Meeks recommended applying for the \$50,000 grant which along with our current DEP 902 equipment grant would cover all costs except for electric hookup. The Board unanimously agreed to submit an application for these funds.

D. Top coating e-waste parking lot

Ms. Meeks indicated that we currently have \$2,400 in our existing 902 recycling grant which will expire on October 5, 2018 and recommended that we use those funds to repair and sealcoat the parking area at the electronic recycling center. She indicated that she has received a quote from Sloan Paving to complete this work at a cost of \$2,925.00. The Board unanimously recommended moving forward with this work.

E. City of Reading – Harris Piranha baler

Ms. Meeks indicated that the City of Reading has a baler that was paid for entirely through a 902 recycling grant that they have never really used. They have been instructed by DEP to either use the equipment or transfer it to another program. Ms. Meeks indicated that she is interested in obtaining this baler for use at our recycling center. She indicated that she has received a quote of \$8,100.00 to move this 11 ton baler from the City facility on Hill Road to our Center on Hilltop Road in Leesport. She indicated that the Authority had previously submitted a grant application for a roof over the area where she would recommend the placement of this unit and recommended contacting DEP to see about amending the application to allow for a building to be constructed to house this equipment, rather than just a roof. The Board unanimously agreed to move forward with the acquisition of this baler and authorized their Executive Director to contact DEP regarding the update to our existing grant application.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will have greater detail on this acquisition and costs associated with it, for our September Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Proclamation for United Document Destruction

Mr. Rauch distributed copies of the Proclamation which had previously been distributed to the Board electronically. Mr. Rauch indicated that he had received a few comments which he will incorporate and then forward this Proclamation to the County Solicitor for her comments and suggestions. The Board requested that the Solicitor make arrangements to have it framed prior to presentation at a Commissioners' meeting. Upon a motion by Ms. Kircher seconded by Mr. Pagerly the Board unanimously approved awarding this Proclamation to Mr. Joseph Spencer.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks requested that the Authority set our 2019 special event collection dates as follows:

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

April 13, 2019 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

October 19, 2019 – Berks County Ag Center

Paper Shredding Event

April 20, 2019 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

October 12, 2019 – Berks County Ag Center

The Board unanimously approved the 2019 special event collection dates and locations.

Ms. Meeks updated the Board on the electronic recycling center. She indicated that 733,000 pounds of material were collected during the first six month of this year from 11,000 residents. She indicated that this was an increase of 1,000 residents and a decrease of 133,000 pounds from this same period in 2017. She indicated that this is the first time since opening the center that the weights of electronics have gone down, which reflects on the number of old televisions and monitors that we are receiving.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she filed the 2017 performance grant on behalf of the County. She is continuing to assist our municipalities with their grants which are due September 28, 2018.

Ms. Meeks indicated that on November 2, 2018 the Berks County Conservation District will once again be holding a free tire collection. She indicated that 33.4 tons of tires were collected at their collection on May 16, 2018 and are hoping for an even larger collection this fall.

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, September 18, 2018 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:20 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Ms. Kircher the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.