

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
September 19, 2017**

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 19, 2017, in the Commissioners' meeting room, 13th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray
Ms. Michelle Kircher
Mr. Brian Clements
Ms. Dale-Ann Farina
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire
Charles Jones, PE
John Pagerly, CPA

Absent were, Mr. Tony Rymar and Mr. Tony Sacco.

Also present:

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Jones, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2017, 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 Ms. Kircher, seconded by Ms. Farina, the Board approved the payment of all invoices, 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, including the Electronic Waste Recycling Agreement and finalizing the Lease Agreement with Upper Tulpehocken Township. Mr. Rauch then recommended having the Chairman execute the Lease Agreement between the Authority and Upper Tulpehocken Township for the equipment and startup costs of their recycling program, which will be paid for by the Authority, as previously discussed and approved by the Board. Mr. Rauch indicated that this Agreement is similar to the Agreement the Authority has with the Reading School District for the use of the Authority’s baler. Mr. Clements recommended that pictures of the equipment and the site be taken upon startup of that program, for documentation purposes.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pagerly, seconded by Mr. Gombar the Board unanimously approved the Agreement and authorized their Chairman to sign the Agreement.

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

At 3:20 PM, the meeting reconvened.

NEW BUSINESS

A. County comments – Conestoga Landfill – Major Permit Modification

Ms. Meeks briefly reviewed the comment letter submitted to DEP on behalf of Berks County, which was prepared by Manko Gold Katcher Fox, LLP. Ms. Meeks also reviewed and distributed a copy of the letter sent to the Secretary of the DEP by Senator Schwank, of which the Authority was copied on.

B. 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 currently has volunteers from the Conrad Weiser football team, Bern Twp. Fire Police and the Adult probation, in addition to other volunteers.

Ms. Meeks also, reported that the 2018 collection dates and locations have been confirmed and that information 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 21, 2018 Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
October 13, 2018 – Berks County Ag Center

Household Hazardous Waste

April 14, 2018 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School

October 20, 2018 – Berks County Ag Center

C. Update on public education

Ms. Meeks informed the Board that our education grant application for 2018 and 2019 has been approved by DEP and will be executed by the County Commissioners at their meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017. The grant is in the amount of \$66,558, with 80% reimbursement. This grant will cover our education costs for our Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Pharmaceutical collection programs.

D. Electronic Recycling Contract

Mr. Rauch indicated that as previously discussed in his Solicitor's report, the Agreement with ECOvanta has been finalized which is nearly identical in language to our current Agreement, as originally executed in 2014. This Agreement is a one year contract with two, one year options for renewal at the 2018 pricing.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kircher, seconded by Ms. Farina the Board unanimously authorized awarding this Contract and authorized their Chairman to sign the Agreement.

E. Status of Recycling Fund

Ms. Meeks indicated that the current State budget that was approved by the House of Representatives last week calls for transferring \$630,500,000 from Special Funds, including \$70,000,000 from the Recycling Fund, showing a balance of \$86,606,000. However, like several other funds listed, the transfers appear to earmark money that has already been contractually committed to grants or other initiatives. This amount for the Recycling Fund is at least \$55 million. Ms. Meeks reviewed how the transfer of these funds will impact both the Authority and County of Berks.

901 Education Grants – Current award for 2018/2019 is approximately \$33,000 per year

902 Equipment Grants – Municipalities in Berks have typically received between 1 million and 1.5 million each grant cycle for the purchase of equipment and to conduct public education.

903 Coordinator Grants – The Authority currently receives approximately \$57,000 per year to cover 50% of my salary and expenses.

904 Performance Grants – Berks County currently receives approximately \$45,000 per year with Berks County Municipalities receiving approximately \$700,000 per year.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has contacted our State Representatives and Senators regarding this issue.

Mr. Mowbray indicated that this would have approximately \$100,000 per year effect on the Authority's \$700,000 yearly budget, if passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks indicated that our mower is no longer working and is not worth repairing at this time. She reviewed the costs associated with the purchase of a new mower and operating costs compared to hiring a landscape service to provide this service. The difference over a five year period is between \$700 and \$1,300 per year, cheaper for this to be done in house. She indicated that of the five landscape companies she contacted only one responded and is currently cutting grass weekly at the Recycling Center at a cost of \$150 per week. After much discussion the Board agreed to continue with weekly mowing service through the landscape company and to revisit this issue in March for the next growing season.

Ms. Meeks indicated that 90,000 residents have participated in our full-time electronic recycling center since opening in July of 2010, recycling over 8 million pounds of electronics. Over 15,000 of those residents used the site during the first eight months of 2017, recycling over one million pounds of electronic waste.

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 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:00 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Jones the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.