

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
January 19, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the “Authority”) was held virtually and was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on January 19, 2021.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray
Ms. Michelle Kircher
Mr. Brian W. Clements
Mr. Don Moll
Charles Jones, PE
John Pagerly, CPA
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire

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

Also present:

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

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

Reorganization

a. Election of Officers:

The Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers for 2021:

Charles Mowbray – Chairman
Michelle Kircher – Vice Chairman
John Pagerly – Treasurer
Charles Jones – Secretary
Tony Sacco – Assistant Secretary

Mr. Jones moved and Mr. Clements seconded the closing of nominations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Clements, the above slate of officers were unanimously elected and approved.

b. Appointment of Solicitor:

Upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board unanimously resolved to retain the services of Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors, for the fiscal year 2021, at an annual retainer of \$25,000. It was also agreed that Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors will invoice the Authority separately for any large projects that will require the assistance of Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors that are or are not anticipated at this time, as was the case in 2014 through 2020.

c. Appointment of Auditor:

Upon a motion by Mr. Pagerly, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously resolved to retain the services of RKL, to conduct our 2020 Audit, at a rate of \$9,000.

Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Clements, the minutes of the regular meetings of November 17, 2020, were unanimously approved.

Finance

a. Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Meeks distributed the Treasurer's Report and reviewed it with the Board. Upon a motion by Ms. Kircher, seconded by Mr. Pagerly, the Board unanimously approved the payment of all invoices, ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Year End Treasurer's Report, subject to Audit.

b. 2021 Authority Budget

Mr. Mowbray indicated that the Finance Committee, which is made up of Mr. Pagerly, Mr. Jones, Ms. Meeks and himself met to review and develop the 2021 Authority Budget. Attorney Georgeadis, was also present for the Committee meeting. Ms. Meeks then reviewed the projected revenue and expenses for the proposed 2021 operating budget with the Board. Ms. Meeks indicated that the 2021 Budget as presented anticipates the use of approximately \$34,143 of Authority reserve funds to balance the proposed budget. Ms. Meeks indicated that the Authority has received our \$300,000 allocation from the County for 2021.

Upon a motion by Mr. Pagerly, seconded by Mr. Clements, the Board unanimously approved the 2021 Budget, as proposed. A copy of the 2021 operating Budget is attached hereto.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Georgeadis indicated that he continues to assist our Executive Director with any questions and projects that arise, but had nothing new to report for today's meeting. Mr.

Georgeadis reported that the Conestoga appeal is currently scheduled to be heard in March and we will learn more as that date approaches.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Meeks indicated that the Authority paid over \$4,000 to market our mixed paper in 2020, which was approximately \$1,000 less than in 2019. We are continuing to pay \$20 per ton for transportation costs to market our mixed paper. We received \$3,400 for the sale of our cardboard down from \$6,300 in 2019. We are currently receiving \$45 per ton for our baled cardboard.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the 902 Recycling Grants that were submitted in the spring of 2020 have been awarded to all nine of the municipalities in Berks County that applied. She indicated that there was \$26.8 million dollars awarded statewide and that \$1.39 million was awarded to our nine applicants. She indicated that a few of these applications will allow for new yard waste collection programs to begin and looks forward to working with those municipalities in completing their projects.

Ms. Meeks reported that she is working with Attorney Gombar, who represents Wernersville Borough, regarding the transfer of a loader from Wernersville Borough to Shillington Borough. This equipment was originally purchased through a 902 Recycling Grant by Wernersville Borough for a new yard waste collection sit. That project is no longer moving forward, therefore that equipment must be transferred to an eligible municipality for use in their yard waste collection program. Shillington Borough will use this loader at their permitted yard waste drop-off site and also during their fall leaf collection season.

Ms. Meeks indicated that DEP also announced a new round of 902 equipment grants in November of 2020 but has since canceled that round due to budget cuts.

Ms. Meeks reported that 17,800 residents have used our electronic recycling center in 2020, recycling 1.35 million pounds of electronics, a decrease of 200,000 pounds of material from roughly the same number of residents as 2019, even though the center was closed for ten weeks during the spring. Since opening in July of 2010, 155,300 residents have used our center bringing nearly 6,495 tons of electronics for recycling. The weight of the televisions we are receiving has decreased by 259,000 pounds over the past two years from 876,600 pounds in 2018 to 617,700 pounds in 2020.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the 2020 Annual Recycling reports are due on April 1, 2021 from our 73 municipalities and that she is working with the larger haulers and MRF's to obtain this data.

Ms. Meeks reported that we have received written approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to participate in the State Contract for our 2021 Household Hazardous Waste collections. We are currently awaiting our permit from DEP to hold the collection in April at the Governor Mifflin School District, but anticipate approval early next week.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will continue to work on scheduling a paper shredding event for 2021 depending on the availability of a responsible contractor.

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, March 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM and will be held virtually by Microsoft Team Meeting.

Adjournment

At 4:05 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Pagerly, the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.