

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
September 16, 2014**

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 16, 2014, 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. Tony Rymar
Mr. Tony Sacco
Ms. Dale-Ann Farina
Charles Jones, PE

Absent were Mr. Brian Clements, John Pagerly, CPA and John Bradley, Esquire.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Douglas Paul Rauch, 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 Mr. Sacco, seconded by Mr. Jones, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 15, 2014, 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. Farina, seconded by Ms. Kircher, the Board unanimously 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 he has been working with the County Solicitor on the Commissioners' approval of the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan Revision, which was approved on August 28, 2014 and forwarded to DEP for their approval.

In addition, Mr. Rauch reported that he has been working on updating the Financing Statement related to our 2009 Bond refinancing, which is required every five years. In addition, Mr. Rauch indicated that the Bond Trustee is requiring that we file an Opinion on those Bonds, which he will take care of. Mr. Rauch indicated that the cost of that Opinion is estimated at \$2,500, which will be invoiced separately from his monthly retainer.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on fall collection events

Ms. Meeks reported that the Pharmaceutical collection, 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.

B. 2015 Collection dates and locations

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has secured the sites for our 2015 events, which will once again be held at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School and FirstEnergy Stadium. She indicated that the Authority has received approval from the Governor Mifflin School District to use their site on April 11, 2015 for our Household Hazardous Waste Collection and April 18, 2015 for our Paper Shredding Event. In addition, we have received permission to use the parking lot at FirstEnergy Stadium on October 17, 2015 for our Paper Shredding Event and October 24, 2015 for our Household Hazardous Waste Collections. As previously agreed upon, the Authority will discontinue pharmaceutical collections in 2015, due to the success of the District Attorney Drop Box program, currently operating in 24 Police Stations throughout Berks County. The Board unanimously agreed to this collection schedule for 2015.

C. Repairs at Recycling Center

Ms. Meeks indicated that the four (4) new roll-off containers have been received and are currently in use at our Hilltop Road Recycling Center. It is estimated that the larger roll-off containers for our commingled materials will save the Authority approximately \$6,000 per year, in transportation fees. She indicated that the painting, gutters and stone work are being completed this week and that DEP has approved the reallocation of our grant funds to cover this project and approximately \$24,000 in additional funding towards other possible repairs at the Center. The Authority will have until July of 2016 to use these funds.

Ms. Meeks also recommended that we look at the possibility of paving the parking and driveway area at the Electronic Recycling Center, which will require additional permits and engineering since this area was never paved. She indicated that a portion of this project could possibly be paid out of Act 198 Grants, which have a \$100,000 per County maximum each year, for reimbursement of Hazardous Waste, Electronic and Pharmaceutical collections. She indicated that she does not anticipate exceeding the \$100,000 in 2014/2015 due to the revenues now being received for our electronics and also the termination of our pharmaceutical collections.

Mr. Rymar offered his assistance in this process and requested that their Executive Director forward him a sketch and a google earth map of the proposed area.

The Board unanimously agreed to obtain additional information on this project for future discussions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks indicated that the Solid Waste Management Plan Revision was sent to DEP for approval on September 1, 2014 and she is currently awaiting their response. She indicated that our Regional Coordinator for DEP is changing positions and he will now be our contact for our Hazardous Waste and Electronic Recycling programs. She indicated that it is uncertain how long the Regional Coordinator position for our Region will be vacant.

Ms. Meeks indicated that 32,000 residents have participated in our full-time electronic recycling center since opening in July of 2010, recycling over 3 million pounds of electronics. 9,300 of those residents used the site during the first eight months of 2014, recycling 845,000 pounds of electronic waste.

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. 200 tons of paper has been baled during the first eight months of this year, generating \$12,000 in revenue to be used for Authority projects.

Ms. Meeks reported that she has assisted fifteen 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 Office currently has full-time drop-off programs for pharmaceuticals in twenty-four police stations, an increase of eight so far this year. This program is very well received with approximately 1,600 pounds of medications collected every two months.

Ms. Meeks indicated that ten municipalities in Berks submitted 902 Recycling Grant applications to DEP in August totaling \$1.6 million in requests. She indicated that she anticipates those grants being awarded sometime early next spring.

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 18, 2014 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:45 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Sacco, seconded by Ms. Kircher the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.