

1. Chairman Phillips called to order the Rockland Green Board meeting for Thursday January 26, 2023, at 5:05 p.m.

\*\*\*

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Powers

\*\*\*

3. Roll call by clerk. There is a quorum.

Present

Chairman Phillips  
Commissioner Hochmann  
Commissioner Hofstein  
Commissioner Kenny  
Commissioner Kohut  
Commissioner Lynn

Present

Commissioner Monaghan  
Commissioner Paul  
Commissioner Powers  
Commissioner Soskin  
Commissioner Specht  
Commissioner Yeger

Absent

Commissioner Hood  
Commissioner Jobson  
Commissioner Moroney  
Commissioner Wieder

Staff

Jeremy Apotheker, Jerry Damiani, Izzy Eisenbach, Guy Festa, Noreen Gelok, Jeremy Goldstein, S Haggerty, Dee Louis, Ken Murphy

Others

Teno West

\*\*\*

4. Introduced by: Hoehmann/Specht

Unan.

January 26, 2023

**RESOLUTION No. 1 OF 2023  
ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF  
DECEMBER 20, 2022**

**RESOLVED**, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are approved for the meeting December 20, 2022, as recorded by the Clerk and are hereby adopted.

\*\*\*

**5. Introduced by: Kohut/Soskin**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION No. 2 of 2023**

**APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF ROCKLAND GREEN FOR THE YEAR 2023**

**WHEREAS**, Officers of the Rockland Green Board are chosen each year at the annual January meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the following Rockland Green Board Members served as Officers in the year 2022:

Chairman:	Comm. Howard Phillips
Vice-Chairman:	Comm. George Hoehmann
Vice-Chairman:	Comm. Michael Specht
Secretary:	Comm. Patrick Moroney
Treasurer:	Comm. Phil Soskin
Deputy Treasurer:	Comm. Michael Kohut; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board has held its Annual Meeting and selected the Officers to serve in the year 2023; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Officers of Rockland Green for the year 2023 shall be as follows:

Chairman:	Comm. Howard Phillips
Vice-Chairman:	Comm. George Hoehmann
Vice-Chairman:	Comm. Michael Specht
Secretary:	Comm. Patrick Moroney
Treasurer:	Comm. Phil Soskin
Deputy Treasurer:	Comm. Michael Kohut

Such Officers shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified at the next Annual Meeting in January 2024.

6. Introduced by: Monaghan/Kenny

Unan.

January 26, 2023

**Resolution No. 3 of 2023**  
**APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR 2023**  
**PURSUANT TO THE 2009 AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW**

**WHEREAS**, the 2009 amendments to the Public Authorities Law requires the Rockland Green Board to establish a finance committee to review proposals for the issuance of debt by the authority and make recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the finance committee is to oversee Rockland Green's debt and debt practices and to recommend policies concerning Rockland Green's issuance and management of debt; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board desires to comply with the provisions of Section 2824(8) of the Public Authorities Law, as amended; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board held its Annual Meeting and selected the Officers to serve in the year 2022;

Comm. Howard Phillips

Comm. Aron Wieder

Comm. Jim Monaghan

Comm. Jay Hood Jr.

Comm. George Hoehmann

Comm. Michael Kohut; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland green Board hereby reestablishes a Finance Committee in accordance with Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Finance Committee for the year 2023 shall be as follows:

Comm. Howard Phillips

Comm. Aron Wieder

Comm. Jim Monaghan

Comm. Jay Hood Jr.

Comm. George Hoehmann

Comm. Michael Kohut; now therefore be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the members of the Finance Committee shall generally serve for a term of one year, and that the members of such committee shall be selected at the Rockland Green's annual meeting held in January of each year.

\*\*\*

**7. Introduced by: Hofstein/Yeger**                   **Unan.**                   **January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No. 4 of 2023**

**APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2023  
PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES' ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005 (the "Act") requires the Rockland Green Board to establish an audit committee of independent members, who should be familiar with corporate financial and accounting practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that the audit committee shall recommend to the Board the hiring of a certified independent accounting firm for Rockland Green; establish the compensation to be paid to the accounting firm; and provide direct oversight of the performance of the independent audit performed by the accounting firm hired for such purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board desires to comply with the provisions of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the following Rockland Green Board Members served as Officers in the year 2022:

- Comm. Howard Phillips
- Comm. Lon Hofstein
- Comm. Michael Specht
- Comm. Phil Soskin
- Comm. George Hoehmann
- Comm. Michael Kohut; now therefor be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland Green Board hereby reestablishes an audit committee in accordance with Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Audit Committee for the year 2023 shall be as follows:

- Comm. Howard Phillips
- Comm. Lon Hofstein

Comm. Michael Specht

Comm. Phil Soskin

Comm. George Hoehmann

Comm. Michael Kohut; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the members of the Audit Committee shall generally serve for a term of one year, and that the members of such committee shall be selected at Rockland Green's annual meeting held in January of each year.

\*\*\*

**8. Introduced by: Paul/Kenny                  Unan.                  January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No. 5 of 2023**

**APPOINTING COMMISSIONERS TO THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR 2023  
PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES' ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005 (the "Act") requires the Authority Board to establish a governance committee of independent members, who should advise on any matter incident to the function of the Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires the Rockland Green Board to establish a governance committee of independent members, which shall keep the Board informed of current best governance practices; review corporate governance trends; update Rockland Green's corporate governance principles; and advise appointing authorities on the skills and experiences required of potential board members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board desires to comply with the provisions of the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the following Rockland Green Board Members served as Officers in the year 2022:

Comm. Howard Phillips

Comm. Larry Lynn

Comm. Mike Kohut

Comm. Stephen Powers

Comm. George Hoehmann

Comm. Phil Soskin; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland Green Board hereby reestablishes a governance committee in accordance with Section 2824 of the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Governance Committee for the year 2023 shall be as follows:

Comm. Howard Phillips

Comm. Larry Lynn

Comm. Mike Kohut

Comm. Stephen Powers

Comm. George Hoehmann

Comm. Phil Soskin; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the members of the Governance Committee shall generally serve for a term of one year, and that the members of such committee shall be selected at Rockland Green's annual meeting held in January of each year.

\*\*\*

**9. Introduced By: RG Board/RG Board**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

### **RESOLUTION No. 6 of 2023**

#### **ADOPTION OF ROCKLAND GREEN'S MISSION STATEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green is required to annually adopt a mission statement in accordance with the Public Authorities Law; and

**WHEREAS**, such mission statement was drafted and provides as follows:

*"To develop the education, programs and technology to lead the waste prevention, recovery, and responsible disposal movement in Rockland County."*

(the "Mission Statement"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board members have read and amended the Mission Statement as follows:

*"Our mission is to develop the education, programs, and technology to lead the waste prevention, recovery, responsible disposal movement, and animal management services in Rockland County."*

; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby adopts the Mission Statement.

**Phillips:** Our mission is to develop the education, programs, and technology to lead the waste prevention, recovery, and responsible disposal movement, and animal management services in Rockland County.

\*\*\*

**10. Introduced by: Hofstein/Yeger**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2023**

**ADOPT REVISED PROCUREMENT POLICY  
FOR THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green was formed in accordance with section 2053(c) et seq. of the Public Authority Law of the State of New York (the "Act"), and resolution no. 301 of 1994 of the County Legislature to implement certain provisions of the SWMP/GEIS and to construct solid waste management facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green adopted policies and procedures for the procurement of goods and services on January, 26, 1995 and

**WHEREAS**, the policy has been previously revised and amended on June, 24, 1999, July, 27, 2000, September 23, 2004, July 24, 2014 and January 24, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green has determined it would be in its best interests to adopt a revised policies and procedures for the procurement of goods and services ("Procurement Policy"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Procurement Policy is attached hereto; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland Green Board hereby authorizes and approves the Procurement Policy, and such policy replaces any procurement policies previously approved by the Authority Board; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director has the responsibility to administer Rockland Green's Procurement Policy and shall establish any written procedures for the operation of the Procurement Policy deemed necessary or proper in connection therewith.

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, I know we are making a minor change here, would you just explain what we are doing?

**Damiani:** We are proposing to increase the amount for non-recurring small purchases not requiring competitive quotes from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

**Phillips:** I think that is very appropriate.

\*\*\*

**11. Introduced by: Hoehmann/Specht**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2023**

**AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF  
THE WEST GROUP LAW PLLC  
FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO ROCKLAND GREEN**

**WHEREAS**, by board resolution the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green engaged West Group Law, PLLC to provide legal services; and

**WHEREAS**, such legal services performed by West Group Law, PLLC have been led by principal Teno A. West, Esq.; and

**WHEREAS**, Teno A. West, Esq., has been providing legal services to Rockland Green since 1994 and is nationally recognized for his representation of local governments with solid waste management related matters; and

**WHEREAS**, West Group Law PLLC will provide such legal services to Rockland Green under the terms and conditions as explained in the agreement attached hereto; and now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute a letter of engagement with the West Group Law PLLC for the year 2023,

Source of Funds: Legal SWM Admin 6530-00

\*\*\*

**12. Tabled**

\*\*\*

13. Introduced by: Soskin/Kohut

Unan.

January 26, 2023

**RESOLUTION No. 9 OF 2023**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH RRT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTIONS FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES AT THE HILLBURN MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a/ Rockland Green is in need of continuing, on-call consulting engineering services at the Materials Recovery Facility (“MRF”); and

**WHEREAS**, RRT Design & Constructions (“RRT”) has rendered on-call engineering consulting services to the Authority for the MRF since 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, RRT has submitted a proposed professional services agreement to provide design, engineering, construction management, operations management consulting and technical consulting services; and

**WHEREAS**, RRT has demonstrated professionalism, expertise and specialized knowledge that has benefitted Rockland Green; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into the proposed Professional Services Agreement with RRT for the year 2023.

Funding Source: Capital Fund

\*\*\*

**14. Introduced By: Kenny/Paul**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION No. 10 of 2023**

**AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF  
STERLING ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, P.C.  
FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C. (“Sterling”) provides engineering and permit compliance services to the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green and has worked to reduce the cost and scope of various capital projects, regulatory enforcement matters, spill response, construction supervision and services involving routine solid waste management operations improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, Sterling is an engineering firm that has rendered other engineering consulting services to Rockland Green, and is well qualified to perform these services; and

**WHEREAS**, additional advice and engineering consultations may be required to complete various projects for the year 2023 under the terms and conditions as explained in the agreement as attached hereto; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland Green Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director to execute such documents and perform other activities that may be necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Funding Source:      Engineering 6506-00

\*\*\*

**15. Introduced by: Hofstein/Powers**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No. 11 of 2023**

**AUTHORIZING RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH  
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & RESEARCH  
FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the engineering consulting firm of Environmental Design and Research Services (“EDR”) has been providing the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green with ongoing engineering advisory services; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green is in need of continuing, on-call consulting engineering services; and

**WHEREAS**, EDR will provide such services to Rockland Green under the terms and conditions as explained in the agreement attached hereto; and now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute a letter of engagement with Environmental Design & Research for the year 2023,

Funding Source: Engineering 6506-00

\*\*\*

**16. Introduced by: Specht/Monaghan              Unan.**              **January 26, 2023**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2023**

#### **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH D&B ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, P.C.**

**WHEREAS**, D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C., (“D&B”) has been providing the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green with engineering consulting services since 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, D&B has substantial experience and particularized knowledge of Rockland Green’s facilities and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green received from D&B a letter dated August 23, 2022 entitled “Scope and Budget for Year 2022” attached hereto, for ADG Facility Project Development Services; and

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with D&B for engineering consulting services for the year 2023.

Funding Source: Engineering 6506-00

\*\*\*

**17. Introduced by: Kohut/Monaghan**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No.13 of 2023**

**AUTHORIZING RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH  
CAPITAL MARKETS ADVISORY, LLC  
FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the financial consulting firm of Capital Markets Advisory, LLC (“CMA”) has been providing the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green with financial advisory services; and

**WHEREAS**, CMA has proposed in a letter dated January 9, 2023, to provide such services, such as:

- a. analysis of the cost of the financing of potential Agency capital improvements,
- b. analysis of various business plans,
- c. analysis of public versus private ownership and financing for Authority facilities,
- d. financial modeling,
- e. assistance with developing and implementing any bonding or borrowing needs,
- f. analysis of potential bond refundings,
- g. analysis of potential investment vehicles for bond funds, and
- h. advice on such other matters as the Agency may require from time to time; and

**WHEREAS**, CMA will be compensated for its services for general Rockland Green work at the following hourly rates:

Senior Director -	\$275 per hour
Vice President -	\$225 per hour
Analyst -	\$150 per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, the letter of agreement shall commence upon the execution of both parties and continue until terminated by either party in writing; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is authorized to execute the attached letter of agreement to retain the financial advisory services of CMA for the year 2023.

Funding Source: Accounting & Finance 6501-00

\*\*\*

**18. Introduced by:** Specht/Kenny

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF 2023**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BDA ARCHITECTURE, P.C.**

**WHERERAS**, on December 20, 2022, by Resolution 115 of 2022, Rockland Green entered into a Lease Agreement with obligation to purchase the property and structure located at 10 Ecology Lane in the Town of Haverstraw; and

**WHERERAS**, Rockland Green intends to renovate the existing building for use as an animal shelter; and

**WHEREAS**, BDA Architecture, P.C., (“BDA”) has substantial experience and particularized knowledge of animal shelter facilities and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green received from BDA a letter dated December 1, 2022 entitled “Design services for the renovation of an existing building for an animal shelter” attached hereto; and

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with BDA for architectural design services.

Funding Source: Future Bond Proceeds

\*\*\*

**19. Introduced By:** Yeger/Hofstein

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2023**

**ENGAGING GREEN SUCCESS COMPLIANCE CONSULTANTS, LLC TO PERFORM MARKET RESEARCH SERVICES FOR ROCKLAND GREEN**

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green (hereinafter “Rockland Green”) has determined that it requires market research consulting services to assist with marketing research activities for Rockland Green; and

**WHEREAS**, Green Success Compliance Consultants, LLC (“Green Success”) is able to provide such marketing research consulting services in order to provide assistance with the marketing of materials produced and the services offered by Rockland Green, and the coordination with other governmental entities including the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Green Success is hereby engaged to perform such services as a research data analyst consultant; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the compensation for such consulting services for the calendar year 2023 shall not exceed \$100,000; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute documents to effectuate such arrangement consistent with this Resolution.

Funding Source: Management Advisory Services 6502-00

\*\*\*

**20. Introduced By: Specht/Hoehmann                      Unan.                      January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No. 16 of 2023**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ROCKLAND GREEN  
AND/OR DESIGNATED STAFF TO ATTEND LIVE CONFERENCES  
PERTAINING TO THE MANAGEMENT/ FINANCING OF MUNICIPAL WASTE SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of Rockland Green to continue to develop the programs, technology and education to lead the waste prevention, recovery and responsible disposal movement and animal management services in Rockland County; and

**WHEREAS**, the attendance at selective live industry conferences by the Executive Director and or staff members designated by the Executive Director would be highly beneficial in enabling Rockland Green to remain abreast of all industry developments relating to technology innovations, safety and compliance standards, marketing of materials, networking and leveraging of relationships, financial efficiency models, all helping to enable Rockland Green to meet the myriad of challenges to continue its mission; now therefore be

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to attend select waste management and recyclable industry conferences and animal management conferences, or designate Rockland Green staff to attend said conferences, particularly informative to their respective departments.

Funding Source: Conferences & Schools 6411-00

\*\*\*

**21. Introduced by: Kohut/Soskin**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION No. 17 of 2023**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR ROCKLAND GREEN TO SUPPORT THE KEEP ROCKLAND BEAUTIFUL “GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP”**

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green has received a request from Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc. (“KRB”) to support the “Great American Clean Up” taking place in Spring 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, KRB has proposed to recognize Rockland Green’s support in the following ways: the Rockland Green logo will be displayed on the back of t-shirts given to volunteers; the Rockland Green logo will be placed on banners for volunteer recruitment; listing the Rockland Green on the KRB website and all social media outlets, including but not limited to email blasts, Facebook and Twitter; the KRB website will include a link to the Rockland Green’s website; Rockland Green will be listed as a partner in all events and presentations related to the Spring 2023 cleanup; and Rockland Green’s brochures and literature will be included in volunteer packets; and

**WHEREAS**, KRB cleanup crews will bag recyclables separately to be delivered to Rockland Green’s Materials Recovery Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, within sixty days following the event, KRB will provide Rockland Green with a report on the number of bags of waste and recycling collected as a result of the cleanup; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green wishes to be a supporter of the 2023 event; and

**WHEREAS**, the above terms will be memorialized in a letter agreement between Rockland Green and KRB; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green will support the Keep Rockland Beautiful “Great American Clean Up” taking place in the spring of 2023 for an amount of \$2,500.

Source of Funds: Community Partnerships 6512-00

\*\*\*

**22. Introduced by: Hochmann/Specht**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 18 OF 2023  
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TO  
THE CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –  
ELECTRICAL AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY  
IN HILLBURN, NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 67 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the Contract for Facility Improvements – Electrical at the Materials Recovery Facility in Hillburn, New York between Rockland Green and Fanshawe, Inc. d/b/a Rockland Electric (the “Contractor”), dated as of October 18, 2021, (the “Contract”); and

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-02 and EC-03 pursuant to Resolution No. 23 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a certain modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order 5R1 pursuant to Resolution No. 42 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-09 and EC-06 pursuant to Resolution No. 51 of 2022 and Change Order EC-10 pursuant to Resolution No. 55 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 11 and 7 pursuant to Resolution No. 60 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a certain modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order EC-04 pursuant to Resolution No. 70 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-12 and EC-08 pursuant to Resolution No. 77 of 2022 and Change Order 14 pursuant to Resolution 82 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 16 and 17 pursuant to Resolution No. 102 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 18, 19 and 20 pursuant to Resolution No. 107 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, tie-in to temporary generators provided by Rockland Green during the utility shutdown were required to maintain the building temperature and provide power for continued construction during such shutdown, and the Contractor agreed to perform such work on a time and materials basis, the total of which equaled \$4,498.50, to be designated as Change Order 21; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green’s Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed this change order, a copy of which is attached hereto, and agrees with the Change Order for the modifications to the work for the value stated therein; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 21 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$4,498.50; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the approval of Change Order 21 shall result in an overall increase of the Contract Price by \$4,498.50 for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,561,914.63.

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, can you tell us and the public what the change orders are?

**Damiani:** Change Order #21 is specific to Contract #5 Rockland Electric in coordinating with installing a new transformer. We had a scheduled shutdown at the Materials Recovery Facility and required temporary generators to be installed. This change order is specific to tying in those generators to the existing electrical panels at \$4,498.50.

**Yeger:** Are those temporary; or are they there so if we have to do it again, they are already there?

**Damiani:** They are only temporary. We only had to deenergize once.

**Yeger:** So, we deenergized and they did a hard tying in?

**Damiani:** Yes, because we had to install a new 2,500 kbw transformer to increase the electrical demand to the facility from 1,500 amps to 2,500 amps. It was a temporary tie in while we deenergized. Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric coordinated between themselves, and we are back online.

**Yeger:** In some applications you can have a tie-in that stays there so if they ever have to do it again, they can just shut down.

**Damiani:** No, these are only temporary generators.

\*\*\*

**23. Introduced by: Yeger/Hofstein**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO 19 OF 2023  
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TO  
CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –  
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 56 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the contract for Facility Improvements – General Construction at the Materials Recovery Facility (“MRF”) to Butler Construction Group, Inc. (the “Contractor”) dated as of October 13, 2021 (the “Contract”); and

**WHEREAS**, on December 7, 2021, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 pursuant to Resolution No. 79 of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 pursuant to Resolution No. 14 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 16 and 17 pursuant to Resolution No. 27 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 18 and 19 pursuant to Resolution No. 31 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 20 and 22 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 39 and 48 of 2022, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 31, 11 and 13 pursuant to Resolution No. 50 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 33 pursuant to Resolution No. 57 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 39 pursuant to Resolution No. 68 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 44, 45, 46, and 43 pursuant to Resolution No. 76 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 55 pursuant to Resolution No. 88 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 17, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 58, 60, 64 and 56 pursuant to Resolution No. 102 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on this December 20, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 50, 61, 65, 67, 72, 74, and 59, and Change Orders 57, 62, and 68 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 105 and 116 of 2022, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green and the Contractor agreed at a meeting held on January 17, 2023 that the Contractor would complete the work associated with overhead doors, the environmental wall, and the Area 3 roof, and that the Contractor would achieve the Substantial Completion Date by February 28, 2023, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$130,000.00, to be designated as Change Order 76; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green's Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed this change order, a copy of which is attached hereto, and agrees with the change order for the modifications to the work for the values stated therein; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 76 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$130,000.00; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the approval of Change Order 76 shall result in an overall increase in the Contract Price by an amount equal to \$130,000.00 for a total amended Contract Price of \$8,214,250.55 for the Contract.

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, will you state what we are doing here.

**Damiani:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. This change order will memorialize the following conditions as negotiated during a meeting held with Rockland Green staff, general counsel, general contractor Butler, outside consulting engineers RRT and architects Anderson on January 17, 2023. Substantial Completion of Date is February 28, 2023 related to the Materials Recovery Facility capital improvements. Change Order #75 in the amount of \$79,398.00 to be withdrawn. The contractor will be responsible for installing all trim around the door jams to be provided by the contractor. Change Order #63 in the amount of \$6,110.15 will be withdrawn and addressed as a punch list item for the flashing. Change Order #76 revised from \$149,343.40 to \$130,000. We mitigated and avoided the additional cost of \$104,851.55 through this negotiation.

\*\*\*

**24. Introduced by: Kenny/Monaghan**

**Unan.**

**January 26, 2023**

**Resolution No. 20 of 2023**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR BULK PICK-UP, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLE OF THE  
MRF CONTAINER GLASS**

**RFP NO. 2022-08**

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2022, Rockland Green issued a Request for Proposal RFP 2022-08 for the purpose of seeking to award a contract for the bulk pick-up, transport and recycling of the container glass being received at Rockland Green's new Material Recycling Facility ("MRF"), located at 420 Torne Valley Road, Hillburn, N.Y.; and

**WHEREAS**, two proposals were submitted in response to RFP 2022-08; those proposers being Sims Municipal Recycling (SMR), 1 Linden Avenue East, Jersey City, N.J. and Urban Mining (UM), 105 Breault Road, Beacon Falls, Ct. and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green conducted an extensive evaluation of both proposals, which included site visits to each of the proposer's glass plants, and multiple negotiations with the proposers that resulted in revised pricing that benefitted Rockland Green; and

**WHEREAS**, after careful consideration it was ultimately determined that it would be in Rockland Green's best interest to award the contract to Urban Mining, a prime determining factor being that Urban Mining will be able to take 100% of the glass received by Rockland Green at a 15% lower cost than SMR ; and now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Rockland Green Board awards the contract for the bulk pick-up, transport and recycling of the MRF container glass to Urban Mining and authorizes the Executive Director to execute an agreement, for the performance of the work specified in the proposal and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green, in its sole discretion, has the right to rescind this award at any time prior to the execution of the agreement for the bulk pick-up, transport and recycling of the MRF container glass at 420 Torne Valley Road, Hillburn, NY and such agreement shall not be binding and valid until executed by the parties.

Funding Source: Operations MRF

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, I find this interesting. Would you inform the public of what we are doing here?

**Damiani:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. As you are aware we will generate substantial amounts of recovered glass when we are back online. Approximately 5,000 tons a year. Out of that, approximately 1,000 tons

will be considered residue like paper plastic that is mixed in with the glass that is not recovered. We submitted an RFP in September of 2022 and received two proposals back from SMR and Urban Mining. We are recommending to award to Urban Mining the pricing beneficial to Rockland Green \$38 a ton versus \$45 a ton. What is interesting with Urban Mining is they will take the recovered glass, clean it up, and mill it down into a white powder substance which is called a glass pozzolan which will be introduced as a substitute for cement in the manufacturing of concrete. This will be beneficial to Rockland Green because it is less than the \$45 a ton that was proposed by SMR. However, in the manufacturing of concrete, there is heavy energy utilization. By utilizing the glass pozzolan it will reduce the amount of cement required to 50% in certain design mix and it will have a substantial reduction in carbon emissions.

**Phillips:** That is very interesting.

**Damiani:** I think it is very beneficial for Rockland Green to proceed in this manner and award it to Urban Mining.

**Phillips:** Is it as strong or stronger than concrete?

**Damiani:** Reports say it is stronger than concrete.

\*\*\*

## 25. New Business

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, do you have anything under new business.

**Damiani:** No.

**Phillips:** Mr. Attorney do you have anything at this time?

**Murphy:** No.

\*\*\*

**Phillips:** Before we go out to the public, I would just like our Executive Director to bring us up to speed on what you have been doing now that we have contracted with Hi-Tor and the County has signed the lease. What has our staff been doing at that facility in Pomona?

**Damiani:** Staff Jeremy Apotheker is onsite every day for a portion of the day. Rockland Green to date has accomplished the following or is in the process of the following. Under the lease agreement, Rockland Green is to provide a ten-day notice to Rockland County. We provided clean up of the yard waste around the facility. We removed 66 cubic yards of debris and bulky materials of lawn mowers,

snow blowers, tires, empty 55-gallon drums, and animal crates and bird cages that Hi-Tor no longer needs or wants to use. They did bring in volunteers to provide the labor and we provided the containers. We swept the paved surfaces to remove all the fine dirt and rock that has accumulated over the years. We secured pet-friendly snow melt to be applied in leu of traditional salt that was used in the past. We improved the drainage issues on the South side of the facility to minimize standing water. We resealed a portion of the main building to prevent infiltration of water and further damage to the buildings ceiling tiles. We completed repair of one of the dog enclosures because the latch was broken by one of the dogs. We resolved a no power issue to the rabbit shed. We provided for the cleaning of all the HVAC installed in the outside animal containers and sheds. We replaced a door slab within the facility and installed a large metal diamond plate kick plate to prevent any future reoccurring damage. We provided for and installed a total of ten air and surface purifiers that deactivate dangerous pathogens within the enclosures and the sheds. We repaired through Veolia a leaking water meter that has been leaking for a number of years. On Monday January 30, Rockland Green, through its contractor, will commence the following repairs. Repair to the buildings damaged plywood and vinyl soffits; repair damaged ceiling tiles; repair two broken glass windows; patch wall areas identified during our site visit; repair southside exterior block wall to the main kennel structure and clean out all gutters and down spouts. We are continuing to source kennel dividers to prevent fence fighting within the dog kennel area. We are looking to provide thirty 36" X 72" visual barriers and thirty 72" X 72" visual barriers. We were informed on January 23 that Hi-Tor has indicated that they hired a veterinarian on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. Veterinarian be onsite on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We discussed the provision of an isolation trailer and features which need to be incorporated into the trailer. Discussed the provision of catios and location of each catio. As of January 6, the inventory of animals in the care and custody of Hi-Tor dogs 31 in the shelter and 17 in foster care. Cats 167 in the shelter and 15 in foster care. Rabbits 12 in the shelter and 3 in foster care. Guinea pigs 2 in the shelter and none in foster care. Rats 2 in the shelter and none in foster care. Out of the 167 cats 32 are housed in the ringworm shed.

**Phillips:** We house rats too?

**Damiani:** Yes.

**Hoehmann:** Great job, I know there was an enormous amount of refuge that was taken out so congratulations and good first start on trying to get the place cleaned up.

**Damiani:** We are working well together we want it to be a successful operation and we are committed as well as Hi-Tor.

**Phillips:** I do appreciate it and as Commissioner Hoehmann speaks for all of us that you are doing a great job there.

\*\*\*

26. Comments from Commissioners  
No comments offered

27. Comment from Public

**Phillips:** Rick why don't you begin by telling people your new position?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** Some of you know me, my name is Rick Tannenbaum, and I am the Executive Director at Hi-Tor. I came to do something similar as to what Jerry did, I want to talk a little bit about when I joined the center in the first week of January we had about a 40-45% vaccination rate. We hired a veterinarian to do in-house vaccinations and we are well on our way to 100% for rabies and distemper throughout the shelter. We hired some new staff and implemented some new training and protocols. We eliminated the adoption application backlog that we have been suffering for some time and have looked for a Cat Adoption Coordinator. We have implemented new procedures and had a very successful month of dog and cat adoptions. I don't have the numbers with me, I would have brought them if I knew we were doing that. We have established new protocols in accordance with the Association of Shelter Veterinarians which is the best practices that we are aiming to achieve and also with the Best Friends Organization who we have been using their manuals for operations and management. One of our greatest challenges is to keep the dogs safe. We are looking forward to and waiting for those kennel dividers which will improve not just the lives of the dogs but the lives of our staff. As you probably know, we have had quite a few dog bites over time and some can be quite serious. We are really looking forward to the receipt of the quarantine trailer which is something we need in our County where we don't have a municipal system for TNR we get overwhelmed with kittens in March, April and May and the quarantine trailer will help us manage ringworm that we have onsite as well as other issues in quarantine. We are also seeking to clarify our intake and surrender policies to make sure that we are serving the residents of the Towns that participate with us. We do that by checking drivers licenses and I.D.'s which also protects tax dollars that fund us. Our goal clearly is to adhere to our mission which we provide a space for adoptable animals that are sheltered in comfort, safety and security and we want you to join us in that mission. Thank you.

**Phillips:** I heard Cat Adoption Coordinator. How are you advertising the available jobs?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** We've put ads on Indeed, iHire is what we use for vet techs and through Facebook which passes through our Instagram.

**Phillips:** May I ask, I understand because it was only a couple of months ago that Linsey came here and she was the new shelter manager. I understand she is no longer there. Can you tell us what happened because the Board at the time was very high on her.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I cannot, I joined in January, and she was already gone.

**Phillips:** She was gone before you joined?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** Yes, I have no idea what happened.

**Phillips:** How did you hear about the position of Executive Director?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** As you know I was involved in the negotiations with your staff and your attorneys for the contract.

**Phillips:** Was it advertised?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I don't know the answer to that.

**Phillips:** You are the Executive Director you must know if they advertised.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I cannot answer that.

**Phillips:** You just stated three different hiring agencies for the Cat Adoption Coordinator. Did you by chance read in one of those three about an opening for an Executive Director?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** So you are asking me before I was there?

**Phillips:** I am asking you; you are now the Executive Director; how did you find out? Was it open to the public that the position of Executive Director was available and open?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I cannot answer that question. I know that I did not read it on any of those.

**Phillips:** Are there any Board members of Hi-Tor here tonight? No? I think just for our sakes we would like to know how Hi-Tor, I mean we are contracted with you for \$1.4 million dollars. If you didn't find it through a hiring agency, you are telling us you found it because you were involved with Hi-Tor. Did they take anybody else's resume Rick? Were you the only person?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I don't involve myself in the methods of the Board. I report to the Board, but I don't sit on the Board, and I don't discuss what they do.

**Phillips:** Where did they interview you?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I was interviewed over the phone.

**Phillips:** You were interviewed over the phone and the job pays \$75,000?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** That is correct.

**Phillips:** Is that full time?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** Yes, it is.

**Phillips:** It's full time?

**Rick Tannenbaum:** It is more than full time, I probably work seven days a week and 12 to 18 hours a day.

**Phillips:** In either case, let me ask you, we want transparency, I am sure you understand that. You have been here at a number of meetings and you have been involved in a number of meetings. As a matter of fact, your wife has reported on the shelter for months now if not well over a year or years. I think that in all fairness to the taxpayers you are now collecting \$1.4 million in taxpayer money. If you have an obligation, Hi-Tor has an obligation to the public to make everything transparent, so when you are telling us that you just found out about it and we don't know if there were any other means that they advertised this position, I find that highly unusual that for an Executive Director \$75,000 that an organization wouldn't go out and search for an Executive Director.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I don't think that these questions are appropriate for me having been hired as the Executive Director. I was not involved in this search.

**Phillips:** I think as the Executive Director you would have some knowledge on how they went about seeking. Excuse me audience. If you would like to come up and speak you are more than welcome. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers. Rick, I think you answered the questions or at least you attempted to. I think we are still owed an explanation of how they went out and sought to seek an Executive Director and I would like you to come back at the next meeting and give us that information on how Hi-Tor went out and advertised for the Executive Director.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** That is a question for the Board.

**Phillips:** I think as the Executive Director you can go back and say we are asking.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I don't think you would ask Mr. Damiani to report on other people who competed for his job. So if you have a question for the Board, you should ask the Board, not me.

**Phillips:** You are the Executive Director.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** Yes.

**Phillips:** If you can't, or for some reason are unable to ask them, we will send a letter and ask them.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** I invite you to do that.

**Kohut:** I just want to know the name of the veterinarian that was hired.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** Diedre Howard.

**Kohut:** Someone from Rockland County.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** She is licensed in New York State.

**Kohut:** She is not in Rockland. I am just curious.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** She lives in Nyack and works in another facility somewhere else.

**Marcy Denker:** Hi, I am Marcy Denker. I am the Sustainability Coordinator for the Village of Nyack and I am really happy to hear what you said about the ground glass because Peggy Kurtz and I introduced that concrete a little while back.

**Phillips:** It is very exciting.

**Marcy Denker:** Very exciting. I am here with the Rockland Composters group who were at the November meeting. We asked a lot of questions and realized we have a lot more questions. Because I am from Nyack I have a couple of questions about Nyack and Piermont and interested in getting the food scrap program easier to participate in for those Villages. Jerry had a conversation with the Mayor and Village administrator in Nyack about having the DPW pick up food scraps.

**Phillips:** Excuse me audience. We are going to give this lady an opportunity to speak without having cross discussions in the room. If you want, go outside of the room and have a discussion. But, when somebody else is speaking, please extend them the courtesy.

**Marcy Denker:** The Villages of Nyack and Piermont are interested in having the DPW take the material to the drop-off in Orangetown. We found that wasn't possible and our Village Administrator was asking me about the possibility of having the transfer station being a site. We don't have answers to any of these questions. Those are my starter questions. Because the climate emergency is with us we just want to see the program accelerated and we have a lot of capacity around us. We can help and bring together the help to support the efforts to help with grant writing for communities and come up with a program.

**Phillips:** Let me say this, Supervisor Kenny was telling us how happy she is with the way the program is going right now and Rockland Green really teamed up with Orangetown and we are very happy about it. We are taking baby steps right now because we have taken on a lot. We have been very busy with the animal shelter and that is not to say that this is not important, it is. We had a discussion now where all five Towns are going to try and commence a voluntary program. I think our Executive Director and staff have done a great job of identifying the containers and the bags the food waste going in so that this can work. We are very excited about it, it cost us with all the different things we had to put into this about \$90,000 last year. Now to expand it to the other four Towns, it is going to cost us four times as much. We are walking slowly. We all want to have the food scrap program and we all want to get it started this year. It is just that we need to go slow because we are very busy with all the other things going on. I don't know if you are aware, the Supervisors and I were up at our new MRF which will be opening up hopefully in March and we will have a ribbon cutting ceremony. That again is glass, plastic, cans, paper and cardboard and you will be impressed with what we have up there now. We are going to have a state-of-the-art facility. Between and the number of other things that have been going on we have been very busy. Our goal is again to reduce the household waste stream as low as possible. This is the next big exciting move for Rockland Green.

**Hoehmann:** Just to reiterate, all the Supervisors and I think the Board are in agreement food waste to expand to all five Towns this year. We have working on getting this moving. Orangetown was a pilot

program of how this works and there were some tweaks that Jerry has been talking about. But we will be expanding to all five Towns so it will be County wide.

**Marcy Denker:** Thank you, I know that. I work with people around the region and people envy us having the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority.

**Phillips:** That is a reflection of our staff, they do a wonderful job.

**Hoehmann:** The Materials Recovery Facility, the MRF, is going to be one of the finest MRFs in the Country.

**Phillips:** State of the art.

**Hoehmann:** It is going to be incredible what the MRF is going to do for the environment. We are all excited about it. For those who have been coming to the meetings with all the change orders it is a very large and expensive complicated project and we are taking on Hi-Tor at the same time. This is moving forward, and I know the staff is working prestigiously on this and the goal is to extend to all five Towns this year.

**Marcy Denker:** One more thing, years ago you used to have those green team meetings and I hope that they come back because they were really useful to have community members around the table sharing information and ideas.

**Kohut:** I want to mention, the Director mentioned that one of our consultants is expanding commercial operators to bring food waste.

**Phillips:** This is a good point. Right now, Jerry, it is mandatory?

**Damiani:** Any commercial generator in New York State generating more than two tons per week of source separated organics on an annual basis is required to segregate their food scraps and have it delivered to a facility. We do receive commercially generated food scraps.

**Phillips:** That is mostly supermarkets and diners?

**Damiani:** Supermarkets, large restaurants and diners, but it is not mandatory for the restaurants.

**Phillips:** This year we have somebody who is going out to make sure that these generators are complying with the law.

**Damiani:** Correct. On one of the resolutions tonight the services of D&B Engineering will allow them to survey the commercial generators within Rockland County to get a real good feel on how much scraps are generated from commercial and institutional generators in the County. We will have an understanding of what we can truly divert from the landfill and what those costs are associated with diverting that fraction of the waste stream.

**Kelly Carson Adams:** I am here on behalf of the Rockland Composters. My comments are short because you covered a lot of what we were asking. I just want to make sure we really want to be supported and we have done a lot of research and we have come up with materials and outreach ideas as we have talked to a lot of people at supermarkets, schools and community events and farmers markets. We have a lot of feedback to share with you and if we can be of service we would very much like to be as you get ready to do your outreach. Also we have researched grants and there is money to help the municipalities with their costs. We know it is expensive, but the DEC and other agencies want to help.

**Phillips:** I want to thank you and that is something we didn't mention is there are a number of residents right now composting and taking their food waste to compost.

**Arlene Kahn:** Hi everybody my name is Arlene Kahn and I have started and run the Rockland County Cat Parents Facebook page and started and I run the Town of Ramapo Community page and I started the Re-build Hi-Tor Animal Shelter with Donald Franchino about eight years ago. I do want to give you a big congratulations on everything you all have accomplished with the shelter. I am impressed and I have a rhetorical question which is, why couldn't the County ever do this? The County allowed this shelter to be a dump and Ed Day is going to hear from me on that. But congratulations and thank you for that. I also want to say briefly that I think you should take it up with the Board their hiring practices for the Executive Director. I think it is unfair and totally inappropriate to ask the current Executive Director about the Board's hiring practices.

**Phillips:** where did he find out that the position was available?

**Arlene Kahn:** I didn't say that I said about their hiring practices. It is my understanding that the reasons for not staying at the Hi-Tor location is primarily the fireworks and the smoke. The fireworks are not an issue because the new shelter can be completely soundproof and vibration proof. As far as the smoke goes, my husband and I had a meeting with Gordon Wren. For those of you who don't know he used to be head of fire and emergency for Rockland for over twenty-five years. We spoke and I think you can get a signed statement from him if you would like. But, he said they haven't used the burn houses in three to four years and they are switching to propane flames and artificial smoke. Propane burns clean. Smoke is not an issue and if it was and is as dangerous as you folks have said, the firefighters couldn't be exposed to it and the staff at the Fire and Emergency Services Training Center can't be exposed to it and if you notice there is a big medical building directly across the street from where they train the firefighters and that would not be allowed if there was all this toxic smoke. Even though it is changing it was just not an issue.

**Phillips:** I don't think it was us that said that, it was in the petition. It was one of the things over 3,000 people signed. It was one of the things that they stated in that petition.

**Arlene Kahn:** Okay, regardless smoke is not an issue nor are fireworks. It is a beautiful location it has worked all of these years. A group of us, including Mr. Wren were over by the new location and three of the people that were there were nauseous from the fumes, got headaches and we all smelled the stench immediately. In that way alone, it is completely inappropriate. I don't think it would pass OSHA in that regard. My one question is where are the dogs proposed to be walked? These dogs love walks.

**Phillips:** Absolutely. We believe there is room there now, but we believe we can also contract for another area for which they can walk which is coterminous to this site.

**Arlene Kahn:** I didn't understand what that means at all. Perhaps you could exacerbate where they are going to be walked.

**Phillips:** Why don't you contact me and I will have Jerry come up with a map and we will go over there. I could probably meet you at the site and we can go over it. How is that?

**Arlene Kahn:** I would love that. Thank you.

**Eric Goldman:** I wanted to echo the thanks my wife just gave in terms of the things you are doing. It is long overdue. You are off to a good start and I appreciate that. What is your exact role in relation to hiring, firing or supervising Hi-Tor?

**Phillips:** We contract with Hi-Tor. They hire within themselves. We really more or less put things in the contract for transparency. We want to know because this is again taxpayer money at \$1.4 million. We feel we have given Hi-Tor and I think they feel since they signed a contract a very good contract. A contract they can really operate sufficiently and not have to worry about thinking of the inability to pay for medical supplies or not have enough food or not having enough veterinarians available because some time they may not have been able to pay them. With that should come transparency. So, we want to know how certain things are going on but they have the right to hire within their own organization. We would just like information on how they do it.

**Eric Goldman:** In other words, you don't have specific hiring or firing ability.

**Phillips:** No, we do not.

**Eric Goldman:** But you will supervise that and be aware of what their practices are.

**Phillips:** Not so much supervise. We requested within the contract certain things to be done. We have one of our staff there at the Hi-Tor shelter that helps oversee so we get information back as well. Right now, the concentration, as you just heard, is to clean the facility up to make it appropriate and fix repairs that have been needed. I think we have been doing that. We have shown well and above a good effort and a sincere effort to make sure this facility runs well until a new shelter can be up and running.

**Eric Goldman:** Is that public access to that contract?

**Phillips:** Yes, any public document you are able to peruse.

**Eric Goldman:** Where would I see that?

**Phillips:** You can FOIL it. Jerry can give you that information.

**Daniel Lombardo:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Board. I was here at the last meeting and we presented some questions and quite honestly to hear that it is expected that with a year this will become a County-wide program is very heartening because it didn't seem that was the direction it would happen so quickly.

**Phillips:** I think we were caught up in the moment and couldn't give you all that information. You asked a really concerning question, a question I think all of us would like to have done is just that we didn't know if we had the resources. You want to put these containers in areas within your Town where they are not going to be highly visible or next to residential. We came back and the Supervisors talked and we all feel as though we have a location where it will work.

**Daniel Lombardo:** I greatly appreciate the fact that and I understand that you would do your due diligence and best of job as possible. It is certainly demonstrated by the information about the animal shelter. In regard to possibly getting a little bit more detail about what might be happening in the next year. I am wondering whether as part of the process of opening it up to the entire County. Is there consideration to hiring any private companies that already process this type of food scrap?

**Damiani:** We have the capability of processing ourselves based on what is currently generated. As I indicated in November the pilot program generated just over 47 tons for the year. To date, Orangetown has generated only 2 tons as of January 2023. Again we are taking slow steps and will continue to explore all options to increase the program and the parameters of the program. We will continue to provide the public with the information they require.

**Nixie Gueits:** Good evening, everybody I am Nixie Gueits from Four Legs Good a TNVR organization trap, neuter, vaccinate and return. Our main focus is TNR and the adoption of kittens from feral cats. We have no illusion that the County faces many demands on its budget. Our goal is to work with the Towns and the County to find the most effective cost solution to our community of feral cat problem. It is an out of control situation in Rockland especially with the pandemic with many people not allowing people on their property and just offices being closed, it is an out of control situation and we constantly get phone calls, Four Legs Good and other small TNR organizations begging from every Town especially Haverstraw and Spring Valley where people are calling us because we speak Spanish that segment of the population is desperate for help. They fear they cannot approach other agencies and they feel that they have no place to turn. These animals live in the street and continue to repopulate. A letter was sent to a number of you and it detailed how to effectively trap, neuter, vaccinate and how this program can significantly reduce the operating expense at an animal shelter. One doesn't work without the other and an animal shelter does not realize trap, neuter return the number of animals being surrendered to the shelter will always remain very high. Taking action outside of the shelter and disrupting the early stages of feral cats lifecycle will greatly reduce the demands on the shelters intake population. The spread of rabies. We cannot dismiss that. We had a raccoon that was exposed on our property that tested positive for rabies. There are people dumping cats on my property because they know I do this. Those cats thankfully all trapped, all vaccinated. But it does occur. The rabies situation is there. Our well managed TNR program is nationally recognized as the best method of suppressing the feral cat reproduction cycle and in that in turn reduces the biggest driver of animal intake within the shelter. When I was on the Board of Hi-Tor for ten years and there were days where 30 cats would be brought in a day, mom cats with babies and pregnant cats, I saw it firsthand. It is a problem now that

you are now the animal management of Hi-Tor it is a situation that needs to be addressed. Four Legs Good has over two-hundred years combined of TNR experience. We have strong contacts within the tri-state area with other shelters and TNR including low cost TNR facilities. In closing, Four Legs Good would be more than happy to explain the details of a robust program and we would like to explain the potential cost savings for the shelter. I do want to thank Michael Kohut again for what he did in your Village. There was a program that we did years ago when one day we trapped and neutered 65 cats from Haverstraw. That was a successful program. They opened up one of their office basement to us and it was a very successful program. There were residents knocking on the spay neuter van door begging for help. Thank you.

**Phillips:** Thank you, Nixie. We really do appreciate your work.

**Maureen Benedict:** First of all, I would like to thank you for the shelter. I was actually going to visit today unfortunately it opened at noon so I couldn't go down. As far as the animals, something has to be done. There are rescue groups that we can involve. There are a lot of cat sanctuaries that can be involved. I think you need to include some of the people that know the rescue groups. A lot of the other shelters work with these groups. Unfortunately, Hi-Tor has a pretty negative name, and they won't work with them anymore. They have also had four or five managers over the past couple of years. One manager lasted a day. There is a problem. I don't know who they are hiring or how they are hiring. There are no job descriptions, or no reviews done. I have checked into that before. Working with a big company I wondered why they didn't have descriptions or reviews.

**Phillips:** I would suggest we now have Rick as the new Executive Director. I would call Rick and maybe you could sit down with them and other groups to see if there is maybe some way, they can work with you and help you out.

**Rick Tannenbaum:** We would welcome that.

**Phillips:** Wonderful.

**Maureen Benedict:** You did mention Best Friends and that is a good group because they have a lot of information. That is a great thing.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** You keep mentioning transparency and taxpayer money. What is the cost of building the new shelter and how does it compare to repairing the Hi-Tor Shelter?

**Phillips:** We signed a contract to purchase the building now at \$3.8 million and we are hiring an architect and what we are waiting for is an architect, I'm sure if you are familiar with building, the architect is going to design it. It is a rectangular building; have you gone to see the building?

**Wayne Finkelstein:** No, I haven't.

**Phillips:** It is more than a rectangular building than a square box. An architect is going to take what the specs were and fit it. Here is the good news, the walls and the foundation of the building are up and the roof. Everything is there. So we are way ahead of the game. If we went out to bid or went with the

County bid you are talking about a minimum of a year and a half or more of a delay in getting a building done. Until that architect comes to us and says this is what we are going to build inside and gives us an estimate, I really don't want to say. I can imagine it is going to be somewhere in the \$12 - \$15 million. I don't want to say anything further in case it goes over that.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** I understand that. But don't you think we should get that first?

**Phillips:** That is what we are doing by hiring the architect.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** But you bought the building.

**Phillips:** Yes, because of the location and the fact that it was available.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** But what if the numbers come in and it is unaffordable for the County?

**Phillips:** One of the reasons why the Supervisors got together was because at the time we would have been building and the construction cost had escalated unbelievably. That \$14 million dollars would have easily been somewhere in the \$20 million dollar plus range. At least knowing we have a building that is already built and purchasing it we are way ahead of the game.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** Assuming the cost comes in and use that building or else the County will own a building with no purpose.

**Phillips:** We are pretty confident because we spoke with the architect and yes it will fit. We spoke to him before we purchased the building so they told us yes it will fit.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** It is a warehouse building. You don't need a warehouse building for an animal shelter. It has a high ceiling.

**Phillips:** Yes, it does have a high ceiling which someday we could probably put on a second floor. I am sure there is going to be growth there and we will use it. I am going to agree to disagree with you on that. But I think we are heading in the right direction, and we are going to have a great state-of-the-art shelter.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** I hope for transparency's sake it gets reported. It shouldn't be compared to repairing the existing shelter.

**Phillips:** That was never the concern. That building has so many problems. They were building a new building. The building they are in right now we are doing temporary measures it is not long term. Do you understand we were not going into the existing building for a long-term shelter?

**Wayne Finkelstein:** No, I understand that.

**Hoehmann:** Just to clarify, the County was only doing temporary measures. They were building a brand-new building there. Mr. Hofstein, how much was that going to cost?

**Hofstein:** It started out at \$7 to \$8 million and then it was presented to the members of the Legislature that it was going to go up to \$18 million. At that point I was one of the Legislators that spoke up and said it was totally unreasonable.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** If anything, I would have done a lease with an option to buy.

**Phillips:** We did do that with this new building.

**Wayne Finkelstein:** So, you didn't commit to the building?

**Phillips:** We believe we are going to make a commitment. We have a lease with an option to buy right now.

\*\*\*

**Phillips:** Is there anyone else from the public that would like to speak? Since there are no other public comments, are there any comments from the Commissioners? Do we have a motion to adjourn? Thank you everyone for being here.

**Hoehmann:** Moved

**Monaghan:** Seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Haggerty