

1. Chairman Phillips called to order the Rockland Green Board meeting for Thursday February 23, 2023, at 5:02 p.m.

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2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Jobson

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

**Present**

**Chairman Phillips**  
**Commissioner Hoehmann**  
**Commissioner Jobson**  
**Commissioner Kenny**  
**Commissioner Kohut**  
**Commissioner Lynn via phone**  
**Commissioner Monaghan**

**Present**

**Commissioner Paul**  
**Commissioner Powers**  
**Commissioner Soskin**  
**Commissioner Specht**  
**Commissioner Yeger**  
**Commissioner Moroney**  
**Commissioner Wieder**

**Absent**

**Commissioner Hofstein**  
**Commissioner Hood**

**Staff**

Jeremy Apotheker, Jerry Damiani, Izzy Eisenbach, Jeremy Goldstein, Suzanne Haggerty, Ron Ludwig, Ken Murphy

**Others**

Stephanie Kosmos, Teno West

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4. Introduced by: Hoehmann/Specht

**Unan.**

**February 23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION No. 21 OF 2023**  
**ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF**  
**JANUARY 26, 2023**

**RESOLVED**, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are approved for the meeting January 26, 2023, as recorded by the Clerk and are hereby adopted.

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5. Introduced by: Jobson/Paul

Unan.

February 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO 22 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 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**, on January 26, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 76 pursuant to Resolution No. 19 of 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to a request by Rockland Green, the MRF design was revised to remove door 500 in the employee break room of Area 3 of the MRF, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for a credit in the amount of \$2,564.52 to Rockland Green, to be designated at Change Order 81; 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 81 for a credit toward the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$2,564.52; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the approval of Change Order 81 shall result in an overall decrease in the Contract Price by an amount equal to \$2,564.52 for a total amended Contract Price of \$8,211,686.03 for the Contract.

**Phillips:** Resolution #5 is authorizing the approval of change order to contract for facility improvements general construction at the Materials Recovery Facility. Executive Director can you tell us what we are doing here?

**Damiani:** Rockland Green revised the employee break room. We eliminated the one door so this is a change order credit in the amount of \$2,564.52. The total amended contract price will be adjusted to \$8,211,686.03.

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6. Introduced by: Moroney/Kohut

Unan.

February 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 23 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**, on January 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 21 pursuant to Resolution No. 18 of 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, additional cat6A run from the data rack to the IT switch in Area 3 of the MRF was requested by Rockland Green, and the Contractor agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$1,048.13, to be designated as Change Order 22; and

**WHEREAS**, the usage of temporary heat in Area 3 must be extended for an additional 60-day period because the permanent heating system is not yet complete, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$2,530.00, to be designated as Change Order 23; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green’s Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed these change orders, copies of which are attached hereto, and agrees with the Change Orders for the modifications to the work for the values stated therein; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 22 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$1,048.13, and Change Order 23 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$2,530.00; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the approval of Change Orders 22 and 23 shall result in an overall increase of the Contract Price by \$3,578.13 for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,565,492.76.

**Phillips:** Resolution #6 is authorizing approval of change order to the contract for facility improvements electrical at the Materials Recovery Facility. Executive Director can you give us a brief synopsis?

**Damiani:** The first change order in the amount of \$1,048.13 is associated with an additional cat6A run for the data rack to the IT switch in Area 3 and it is required by our outside IT consultant. As Orange and Rockland continues to increase the length of the gas main we still have to heat the building with temporary heat. The second change order in the amount of \$2,530.00 is associated with January and February’s requirement to provide temporary heat. This increases the contract amount by \$3,578.13.

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**7. Introduced by: Powers/Yeger**

**Unan.**

**February 23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24 OF 2023  
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS TO  
THE CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –  
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY  
IN HILLBURN, NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 68 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the Contract for Facility Improvements – Fire Protection System at the Materials Recovery Facility in Hillburn, New York between Rockland Green and W&M Sprinkler NYC, LLC d/b/a W&M Fire Protection Services (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 FA-01 and FP-7 pursuant to Resolution No. 24 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FP-1A, FP-1B, FP-1C, FP-5, FP-6, FP-8, 2 and FP-9 pursuant to Resolution No. 33 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order 10 pursuant to Resolution No. 43 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-11 pursuant to Resolution No. 52 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FA-02 pursuant to Resolution No. 61 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FA-03 and FP-12 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 72 and 74 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-13 pursuant to Resolution No. 78 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-14 pursuant to Resolution No. 89 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 2023, Rockland Green approved modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FP-17, FP-18 and FP-19 pursuant to Resolution No. 108 of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the installation of additional new sprinkler piping and heads are required to provide fire protection adjacent to the extended environmental wall, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$3,834.82, to be designated as Change Order FP-20; and

**WHEREAS**, relocation of the fire sprinkler head below the ceiling in the elevator machine room is required due to the new ceiling installation, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$980.77, to be designated as Change Order FP-21; and

**WHEREAS**, the installation of a new sprinkler head in the parts storage room is required due to the installation of the new ceiling and roof, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$1,340.78, to be designated as Change Order 22; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green's Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed these Change Orders, copies of which are attached hereto, and agrees with the Change Orders for modifications to the work for the pricing stated therein; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order FP-20 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$3,834.82; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order FP-21 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$980.77; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order FP-22 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$1,340.78; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the approval of Change Orders FP-20, FP-21, and FP-22 shall result in an overall increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$6,156.37, for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,119,695.18.

**Phillips:** Authorizing approval of change order to facility improvements fire protection system at the Materials Recovery Facility. Executive Director what is this change order about?

**Damiani:** The first change order in the amount of \$3,834.82 is required for extending the environmental wall out by 3 feet. The second change order in the amount of \$980.77 is required due to new ceiling installation in the elevator machine room. The third change order in the amount of \$1,340.78 is associated with increasing the size of the part room storage. The old facility did not have adequate parts storage. By doing so we had to enclose additional areas and extend the sprinkler heads in the enclosure. The increased amount is \$6,156.37.

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**8. Introduced by: Monaghan/Wieder**

**Unan.**

**February 23, 2023**

**Resolution No. 25 of 2023**

**RATIFY AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE  
2023 KOMATSU PC390LC-11 CAB RISER**

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green's Procurement Policy provides for the procurement of goods and services through cooperative purchasing, commonly referred to as "piggybacking," based on competitive processes undertaken by other municipal subdivisions and public entities; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green has decided to "piggyback" on Sourcewell Contract 032119-KOM; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockland Green agrees to purchase a 2023 PC390LC-11 CAB RISER; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, Rockland Green is hereby authorized to purchase the 2023 PC390LC-11 CAB RISER for the amount not to exceed \$508,082.57.

Funding Source:        Unrestricted Funds

**Phillips:** Ratify authorization of purchase of 2023 Komatsu PC390LC-11 cab riser better known as an excavator in the amount of \$508,082.57.

**Weider:** I am just curious, there are no American made?

**Damiani:** It was put into service in 2017. We use the Sourcewell purchasing co-op which is authorized in our procurement policy. They do the national competitive bidding for equipment. We have had a lot of success with the Komatsu. Our employees are familiar with repairing Komatsu pieces of equipment. Overall, we are pleased with the performance of Komatsu.

**Phillips:** It saves us a tremendous amount of money not having to go through the entire bid process. But at the same time, by using the co-op the speed at which we can purchase something available is also beneficial to all municipalities.

**Yeger:** What is the useful life of these; is it six years? What did we do with the old one?

**Damiani:** The old one will become our spare backup. Currently as our backup right now is a 2010 that we didn't have much luck with when we purchased it. It is on its way out. The excavator will be used at our West Nyack facility which is our busiest facility.

**Phillips:** If we leased how much would it be?

**Damiani:** You're looking at over \$8,000 a month.

**Phillips:** A lot of times a municipality will lease a piece of equipment, but in this case it would cost even more.

**Damiani:** The 2016 excavator we are using right now has loaded over 31,000 trailer loads of MSW, metal and corrugated containers.

**Kohut:** Just to note, Komatsu has a Chattanooga, Tennessee manufacturing facility.

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**9. Introduced By: Specht/Soskin Unan. February 23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26 OF 2023  
AMEND GREEN SUCCESS COMPLIANCE CONSULTANTS, LLC AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2023, by resolution No. 15 the Rockland Green Board engaged Green Success Compliance Consultants, LLC ("Green Success") to provide marketing research services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board now desires to amend the agreement to reflect an



increase of the amount to \$125,000.00; now therefor be it

**RESOLVED**, that the compensation for consulting services for the calendar year 2023 shall not exceed \$125,000.00.

Funding Source: Management Advisory Services 6502-00

**Phillips:** Next resolution is to amend Green Success Compliance Consultants, LLC agreement. That agreement will amend to the amount of \$125,000.

**Powers:** I know we all voted yes on Resolution #9, but to really read it, I couldn't understand it when I read it last night. It says that on January of this year, we agreed to have Green Success Compliance provide the marketing and research services and then it says we desire to amend the agreement to give an increase of \$125,000 and then it says that the compensation for this year is going to be should not exceed.

**Phillips:** When we did this last year it wasn't for 12 months. If you took it out to 12 months this would be the total amount. So, we are redoing that consultant. The first resolution was done in January, we mistakenly put the amount for only the same number of months as last year. We are renewing for an entire year this time.

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**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, can we get an update on Hi-Tor and what we have been doing?

**Damiani:** Since the last meeting, we secured the interior HDPE dividers for the inside of the enclosures to reduce the stress levels of the dogs. We continue to make improvements to the exterior of the facility. Most recently we resolved an issue with a clogged sewer line approximately 50 feet was clogged. Last Friday we had our first needs assessment meeting. Needs assessment is a critical part of the design of programming space of the new shelter. We will meet every Friday virtually and we plan to have the needs assessment completed within the next thirty days. We are moving forward with providing the isolation trailer for Hi-Tor to ensure that they can isolate and quarantine animals in their care and custody. We strive to have that trailer on site by March 15. We provided our comments to Hi-Tor's monthly reports that were received prior to February 15. February 27 we have scheduled to repair the outdoor enclosures. Jeremy Apotheker has made arrangements with the County Park's Department to have them cut the low hanging limbs and branches of some trees that surround the perimeter of Hi-Tor. We secured a fire alarm for the kennels. Currently there are no fire alarms, smoke detectors or pull stations.

**Phillips:** There are no fire alarms there or smoke detectors?

**Damiani:** They may be there, but they are not working. We have ordered two cameras to be installed in the next two to three weeks. One camera will be a bullet camera installed at the front gate to view the

activities of the vehicles coming and going or anyone attempting to drop off an animal after hours. The other camera will be a 270° view so it can view the operations and we will provide Hi-Tor with access to those cameras. Currently, we are at capacity at the shelter. We have 169 cats, 58 dogs, 3 guinea pigs, 18 rabbits and 2 rats. The total number of animals as of January 31 is 250 animals.

**Phillips:** Thank you for that report.

**Hoehmann:** That is just an incredible amount of work. No fire alarm at all?

**Damiani:** No. It is there, but it is not connected. The control panel was cut out. There are smoke and heat detectors buried in the ceiling.

**Phillips:** But not working.

**Damiani:** Not working. We initiated an agreement with Hi-Tech and they will be out within 3 weeks.

**Phillips:** Thank you for that report. We appreciate it. Before we go out to the public I would like to say something very disturbing that came to my attention that, thank God someone brought this to my attention and asked me about it. On a social media site there was a rumor that was spread that Rockland Green was going to be euthanizing cats. I don't know where this nonsense comes from, but I can say that I personally know every single member on this Board. Every single Commissioner and I don't care if they are Republican, I don't care if they are Democrat, not one single person would ever let that be done. It's never been anyone's intention. I have never heard anybody say we need to do something like that. It is just outrageous that somebody can go and put this out there. This has to stop. If this is a way in which to get people to come here so that we will fund some agency or not for profit you are going about it the wrong way. You are going about it absolutely the worst way possible. To scare people that we would do this to animals. I have had dogs all my life and my wife has had cats and dogs all her life. Rick, I think I can say to the public that you have no intention of euthanizing any cats.

**Tannenbaum:** Hi-Tor is a no-kill shelter and we do not euthanize animals. I don't know what funding you are talking about or what the issues are there. I haven't seen the social media post, but nothing happened at Hi-Tor that would result in euthanizing cats. We did adopt the rats out so they are out of the shelter.

**Phillips:** You adopted out the rats?

**Tannenbaum:** Yes.

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### **Comment from Public**

**Phillips:** Is there anyone in the public that would like to bring anything before Rockland Green tonight? Whether it is regarding our operations at Rockland Green or Hi-Tor.

**Heather Vokes:** How does Hi-Tor pass inspection without fire alarms?

**Phillips:** They wouldn't pass inspection if it was being inspected right now. We have done a tremendous amount of work there since January 3. We are working with Hi-Tor but there was a tremendous amount of work as you heard tonight. It is our intention to get this fixed immediately because without question there should be a smoke detector and there should be a fire alarm working in that building.

**Heather Vokes:** I also want to bring attention to putting down animals. Is it possible that we can get a list of animals that have been put down or will be put down?

**Phillips:** Rick, I would imagine that would be required by the State of New York when you have to euthanize an animal?

**Tannenbaum:** We don't euthanize at the shelter. I started on January 3. We reported to Rockland Green through January 31 on February 15 and we had no euthanizations at all in January.

**Hoehmann:** There might be an odd situation where an animal that comes in is critically injured or something like that and it might be euthanized because of that?

**Tannenbaum:** Yes. We had one cat that had tumors on its face that had broken through, and we kept it at the shelter as long as it was humanely possible to do so. Then we brought the cat into euthanization.

**Hoehmann:** Who makes those determinations? It's a no kill shelter but there will be isolated incidents that if an animal has a disease or just can't be saved.

**Tannenbaum:** We rely on two veterinarians. The veterinarian that is on our staff and the veterinarian at the facility that does the euthanization. We refer to them.

**Hoehmann:** There are very isolated incidents where that might happen.

**Marge Hook:** I volunteered at Hi-Tor for 20 years from 1990 to 2010. Recently I was told about 2 dogs that were turned in by a person who was living at the Rockland Center. The woman has some type of cancer and she had two little dogs and didn't want to give them up. They were turned into Hi-Tor not given up and I understand the fact that since they were not given up nobody in the shelter even walked those dogs or took time out for those dogs or did anything for the dogs. I got a phone call asking if I would foster the dogs and if I would let the woman come to my house, she was not allowed to go to Hi-Tor, if she could come to my house and visit the dogs and I said absolutely. I was told that the Executive Director told the Board that Marge Hook cannot get the dogs because I talk against Hi-Tor. I don't talk against Hi-Tor, I talk against the Board who are useless. I would like to know when Don and Ken were making between \$50,000 to \$55,000 with no benefits and how this person started at \$75,000 for what is described as a part-time job. Which he says is full time. When he leaves on Thursday or Friday and doesn't come back on Monday when in the past Saturday and Sunday have been the busiest days of the week. There was a nice pyrenees dog up at the shelter, I think you are all familiar with that breed, someone that worked there called the Great Pyrenees Rescue and a person from that rescue went to the shelter and would have taken the dog that day no matter what. Somebody came running out and told the

woman you can't see the dog what are you doing here without an appointment, etc. The woman ended up leaving I do believe the dog has been adopted in the meantime. This is how they deal with people insulted them when they went into a shelter to possibly get one of these dogs or cats out of there. Cats have had ringworms for the past couple of years. I had a friend that son adopted a cat with ringworm, thank God, he didn't bring it back to the shelter, they took it to the vet. Another friend of mine went up there, she is 80 years old and has adopted dog after dog over the past years and takes excellent care. She always adopts the older dogs because she is a woman who is older and they put her name down and told her when to come back. When she went back to get the dog, the day that they gave her the date of they said oh no we adopted that dog out to somebody else. How do you run a shelter like that? I would like to know the Executive Director's background, what he knows about dogs and cats and adopting and running a shelter. I think it is a disgrace and I think the whole Board should be thrown out and get a new one. Which you have the right to do because in the Charter they could be given 30 days' notice and a new shelter can come in. What you need is to get people together that would volunteer and get somebody that really knows what they are doing to be the Executive Director. Does Rockland Green have any control? I hope you start using the control that you have.

**Phillips:** We do have an employee that is up there and Rick is trying to work with them. Rick the pyrenees happened this year; are you familiar with it? Was the person denied it?

**Tannenbaum:** I am not familiar with that one. I do want to point out something important that Marge said and it is a gray area in our existence. We are not a boarding facility. When the ACO's bring us animals from an eviction, and it is not technically a surrender because there is a notion that these people will find housing again and they want their animals back. We do walk the animals. I don't want to be left with the impression that we are not walking the dogs. The issue with the ACO's bringing the evictions and there are a lot of mental health issues that come our way. The dogs aren't actually ours they are never surrendered to us we are asked to board them until the people come back. We had where somebody was hospitalized, and we had their dog for five months. We know the person that Marge was talking about she has since reclaimed those dogs and they did get housing. For us it is difficult because they never are actually surrendered to us. We can't board them indefinitely. We are not a kennel; we are a shelter. Those situations do happen Marge is describing where the animal is a gray area. I am open to discussing it to come up with some solutions.

**Phillips:** I think that is something we have to discuss. If somebody is unable whether it is a medical reason and they can't care for the animal and they have no one to care for them. They are surrendering it for a period of time. I understand we are going to get into the definition of what surrender means. Is it permanent or could it be for a short period of time? That is what a shelter is for. That is what I am thinking. This is something we need to discuss together with the staff and Commissioners. What is the alternative for that person to just release animal? That is the last thing we want.

**Tannenbaum:** There is no temporary surrender. Otherwise, we are a boarding facility. When somebody comes in, we have a certain number of days we are supposed to put that animal up for adoption because it is ours now. The situation with the social services or the ACO's where they are bringing us animals, they are not actually surrendering them and it puts a strain on us and puts a strain on our budget.

**Phillips:** In all fairness, I am not trying to argue with you. We had dogs that have been up there for God knows how many months or years. What is the difference between somebody who has a medical condition and says for the next three months I can't take care of my dog because of my medical condition and then get the dogs back. Isn't that relieving us instead of them getting rid of the dogs completely?

**Tannenbaum:** The difference is when you are running a shelter those dogs are adoptable and are marketed.

**Phillips:** But, some of those have not been adopted in years.

**Tannenbaum:** We market them to be adopted these animals that we are talking about we can't market. All we can do is board them. These boarding arrangements go on forever.

**Phillips:** That is one of the reasons why we are funding you.

**Tannenbaum:** You don't understand that is not covered by our contract. This is not what you are funding.

**Phillips:** Let us take a look at that then because I think we would all like to delve into that. You have to remember we represent these people. They could be living in Rockland County in any of our Towns we still represent them and if they can't manage to care for these dogs and the only alternative is to release them, it is the same as these people that take the cats and then no longer can care for them and then drop them off in the middle of a neighborhood or wooded area. That is what we are trying to prevent. I think we need to come up with a solution.

**Tannenbaum:** If that is the function that you want us to do to board animals for people that are homeless.

**Phillips:** I don't know that we have to call it boarding. We can just say these dogs are the possession of this person and they think they are going to come back. We can give them a period of time in which they tell us. I think that is a fair solution than just releasing the animal. What is the alternative?

**Hoehmann:** In these situations, you say it is social services that are involved?

**Tannenbaum:** It is either a social service agency, or the County or ACO's. When somebody gets evicted or committed, they often have animals.

**Hoehmann:** The question really becomes then, if somebody is being committed for mental health and the animal was probably essential to their mental health, you probably should be developing a procedure that we can go through where these animals that belong to these folks and somebody is getting evicted I think that would help us out.

**Tannenbaum:** That is the clarity we are looking for.

**Hoehmann:** One other question, Rick, Marge did offer a characterization which is kind of serious, she said that you or somebody at the shelter she couldn't take dogs because she speaks against the shelter. Did that happen?

**Tannenbaum:** No, of course not. There is an application process and she wouldn't fill one out. It is either paper or online. You can't just call and say I will take the dog and we are going to give you a dog to take home. There is a process. If you rent, we call your landlord. If you already have animals, we call your veterinarian. We get history and we get references. If you won't participate in that process, we are not going to give you an animal.

**Marge Hook:** I was not asked to do that. The twenty years I volunteered there I brought litters of cats with their mothers and dogs with their mothers until they were adopted out. People came to my house, looked at the animals and put their name on certain animals and the day they were eligible to be adopted I brought them up to the shelter where the person came up met me and staff and they paid the fee. I was told that I was singled out by him that I should not get a dog because I talk against Hi-Tor.

**Phillips:** I hope not.

**Marge Hook:** Also, from what I understand the Director of the shelter has gone up and taken the two dogs into her home because she was afraid of what was going to happen. They are the ones that approached me. The shelter approached me. I have a lot of experience with dogs and cats and rats included, I want to know his background on shelter management if any. He supposedly gave legal advice to the shelter Board; is he an attorney? Did he give that advice?

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**Yeger:** I have a request. Can we pick up the new business because I have to leave, and I have some questions.

### **New Business**

**Phillips:** Mr. Executive Director, we have an employee Debra Samuels that has been taking on additional work for us.

**Damiani:** A stipend in the amount of \$8,333.33 effective March 1, 2023 for additional duties and responsibilities.

**Yeger:** Why can't we just increase the salary instead of a stipend?

**Phillips:** We already adopted the salary schedule so we thought we would do this as a stipend and adjust it for her when the new budget begins next year.

**Yeger:** This is a yearly stipend? It is until the end of the year?

**Phillips:** Right.

**Hoehmann:** There were two positions that were eliminated and she picked up a bunch of those responsibilities.

**Yeger:** Is there a difference for pension purposes between a stipend and salary?

**Phillips:** No.

**Yeger:** It is paid over the course of the year?

**Phillips:** Yes.

**Introduced by:** Soskin/Specht

**Unan.**

**February 23, 2023**

**RESOLUTION 27 OF 2023  
AUTHORIZING STIPEND for ROCKLAND GREEN EMPLOYEE**

**WHEREAS**, the Rockland Green Board has considered a payment adjustment by way of Stipend to Rockland Green Employee, Deborah Samuels.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined that, due to the scope of the additional duties and responsibilities performed by employee, it is appropriate to provide the Stipend which reflects the additional duties, and responsibilities of the employee.

**RESOLVED**, that the Stipend of Deborah Samuels be set at \$8,333.33, effective March 1, 2023.

Funding Sources: Salaries/Contingency Fund

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**Phillips:** Is there anyone else in the public that would like to speak?

**Charlene Palmer:** I would like Rockland Green to clarify I understand that the warehouse you are purchasing is in a flood zone. Is that true?

**Phillips:** Try to remember this, even if you were up on top of Hi-Tor mountain, everything is in a flood zone. The flood zones are rated, so everything gets a rating. Probably the bigger question is, is the elevation of that building above what FEMA requires and that is when they had to go before the planning board, they have to build the building above the elevation that is required. If they build anywhere near the shoreline you have to be 13 feet above sea level.

**Charlene Palmer:** Supposedly there is going to be a 24/7 truck depot that is going to be operating nearby.

**Phillips:** So far, the Village of West Haverstraw has denied that application. I don't know what is going to happen there. There is a beautiful park named the Rockland County Paul Piperato Park across the street. There is a beautiful marina there, the largest on the East Coast. Coterminous to the building is the former landfill which has been turned into a beautiful park of over 60 acres. We have a kayak launch of over 40 acres. We also have Peck's Pond, that is about 15 acres and we have a beautiful transfer station that I think our staff manicures and keeps in wonderful condition. We have a wastewater treatment plant there and that wastewater treatment plant changed the way that it operates years ago so it has reduced the smell and it is not a noxious smell, it is an earthly smell. All that is around that building and I think you are going to like the location.

**Charlene Palmer:** It all sounds fine, but I am not sure how many facilities the animals will be using.

**Phillips:** People try to degrade the site and make the site sound as if it is in some time type of horrible area. I wish they would at least go down there and take a look and also include all the other sites that surround that building.

**Charlene Palmer:** The budget that Rockland Green is providing for Hi-Tor, is that accessible online? What is the breakdown is?

**Goldstein:** I don't think it is, but we can post it.

**Charlene Palmer:** It will be posted on Rockland Green's site?

**Goldstein:** Yes, we could.

**Phillips:** It is almost \$500,000 more than they had in their budget last year.

**Charlene Palmer:** Weren't they operating on strictly donations?

**Phillips:** No. All five towns were contributing to the County of Rockland who then in turn, turned that money over to the Hi-Tor Board and County of Rockland also contributed.

**Charlene Palmer:** I find it really that the Board in Hi-Tor's checkered past has not fulfilled their fiduciary duties.

**Harry Bedrock:** I am from upper Nyack. I was thrilled at the last meeting to find out that the Orangetown food scrap program will be expanded for all five towns in Rockland. I was curious if there was a timetable available so we can do some educating. I Chair the Upper Nyack Green Committee and people are very excited about seeing this happen.

**Phillips:** We want to do it and we are taking baby steps at this time. We are trying to get agreements with the five Towns. Please be patient with us and give us some time. It is a big project and we all have to have areas in which that are buffered away from residential homes. We all intend on having it. We have been so tied up with the shelter and especially if you have been attending these meetings the



Materials Recovery Facility. Just give us some time. We all want to do this. We want to do it right and not too expeditiously.

**Hoehmann:** We are also working with the carters because we would very much like to get this going quickly. We have to work with the carters and negotiate agreements. There is a sizeable expense in terms of the outside cost to get it going and we have to make sure we have the carters in place to be able to do this. Right now Orangetown is being picked up once a week and when you expand it across the entire County it is going to get exponentially bigger and more expensive and we have to make sure the carter is able to handle that. We were starting on a voluntary basis initially and then it hopefully goes out much further beyond that. It also involves discussion with the sewer districts because we're looking at digester programs. There is a lot that is involved with this. It is not just saying ok let's go get a couple of containers. I would think we are several months out from really taking a lot of pliable steps, but not much beyond that. Since you are in my Town, I am happy to talk to you off line.

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Comments from Commissioners

No comments offered.

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

**Kohut:** Moved

**Kenny:** Seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Haggerty