

1. Chairman Phillips called to order the Rockland Green Board meeting for Thursday July 27, 2023, at 4:58 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Moroney

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

Present

Chairman Phillips
Commissioner Hoehmann
Commissioner Hofstein
Commissioner Jobson
Commissioner Kenny
Commissioner Kohut

Present

Commissioner Lynn (via phone)
Commissioner Moroney
Commissioner Paul
Commissioner Powers
Commissioner Soskin (via phone)
Commissioner Specht

Absent

Commissioner Foley
Commissioner Hood
Commissioner Monaghan
Commissioner Wieder
Commissioner Yeger

Staff

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

Others

Stephanie Kosmos, Teno West

4. Introduced by: Hoehmann/Specht

Unan.

July 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION No. 48 OF 2023
ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF
JUNE 22, 2023**

RESOLVED, that the transcribed Minutes of Rockland Green are approved for the meeting June 22, 2023, as recorded by the Clerk and are hereby adopted.

5. Introduced by: Kohut/Powers

Unan.

July 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 49 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF
AN INTERMUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION,
TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL AGREEMENT
WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHESTNUT RIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority, d/b/a Rockland Green (hereinafter “Rockland Green”) is a Public Benefit Corporation, duly organized and existing under the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority Act, (the “Act”) and set forth under Title 13-M of the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York, and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Chestnut Ridge, New York (hereinafter “the Village”) requested that Rockland Green enter into a contract with the Village to take responsibility for residential solid waste collection, transportation and disposal services in the Village, and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to its powers granted under the Act, Rockland Green has the power to perform such collection and to levy a fee for such services against the real property owners of the Village, and,

WHEREAS, in order to determine the costs to Rockland Green for delivering such services, Rockland Green is in the process of preparing a Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) for the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste generated in the Village, and, therefore it is hereby,

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of Rockland Green is hereby authorized to execute an Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement with the Village to enable Rockland Green to perform such services on behalf of the Village, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement between Rockland Green and the Village shall be substantially in the form presented at this meeting, with such amendments, modifications, changes and omissions thereto as the Executive Director of Rockland Green may negotiate and approve as in the best interests of Rockland Green and not inconsistent with the terms of this resolution, and the Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement shall constitute conclusive evidence of the valid authorization hereunder of any such amendment, modification, change or omission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to issue the RFP for the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste in the Village, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute such other documents and perform such other actions as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

6. Introduced by: Specht/Kenny Unan.

July 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 50 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF
AN INTERMUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION,
TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL AGREEMENT
WITH THE VILLAGE OF POMONA**

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority, d/b/a Rockland Green (hereinafter “Rockland Green”) is a Public Benefit Corporation, duly organized and existing under the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority Act, (the “Act”) and set forth under Title 13-M of the Public Authorities Law of the State of New York, and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Pomona, New York (hereinafter “the Village”) requested that Rockland Green enter into a contract with the Village to take responsibility for residential solid waste collection, transportation and disposal services in the Village, and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to its powers granted under the Act, Rockland Green has the power to perform such collection and to levy a fee for such services against the real property owners of the Village, and,

WHEREAS, in order to determine the costs to Rockland Green for delivering such services, Rockland Green is in the process of preparing a Request for Proposals (the “RFP”) for the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste generated in the Village, and, therefore it is hereby,

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of Rockland Green is hereby authorized to execute an Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement with the Village to enable Rockland Green to perform such services on behalf of the Village, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement between Rockland Green and the Village shall be substantially in the form presented at this meeting, with such amendments, modifications, changes and omissions thereto as the Executive Director of Rockland Green may negotiate and approve as in the best interests of Rockland Green and not inconsistent with the terms of this resolution, and the Intermunicipal Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement shall constitute conclusive evidence of the valid authorization hereunder of any such amendment, modification, change or omission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to issue the RFP for the collection, transportation and disposal of solid waste in the Village, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to execute such other documents and perform such other actions as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

7. Introduced by: Hofstein/Lynn

Unan.

July 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 51 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS 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, on February 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 81 pursuant to Resolution No. 22 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 88, 69, 78, 80 and 92 pursuant to Resolution No. 30 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 98 and 89 pursuant to Resolution No. 34 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the Form of Change Order 110 pursuant to Resolution No. 47 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Green determined that the overhead doors installed by the Contractor which contain certain blemishes, do not need to be repaired, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for a credit in the Contract Price in the amount of \$10,594.70, to be designated as Change Order 111; and

WHEREAS, endplate stiffeners on the frame line along column line E in Area 5 Storage South are required, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for an increase in the Contract Price in the amount of \$11,660.00, to be designated as Change Order 91; 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 modification to the work for the values stated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 111 for a decrease in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$10,594.70; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 91 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$11,660.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approval of Change Orders 111 and 91 shall result in an overall increase in the Contract Price by an amount equal to \$1,065.30 for a total amended Contract Price of \$8,216,020.65.

Phillips: Mr. Executive Director, could you give us a brief explanation.

Damiani: Change Order No. 91 is related to the required roof stiffener plates. At the time the pre-engineered metal building was in construction, we were not aware of the loading calculations for the residue conveyer because it has to be suspended from the building trust. It was beneficial to keep the

pre-engineered metal building in the production slot and not incur any delays. The increased change order amount is \$11,660. Change Order No. 111 is related to the overhead door credit. This is a decrease to the contract amount by \$10,594.70.

8. Introduced by: Monaghan/Kohut

Unan.

July 27, 2023

Resolution No. 52 of 2023

**AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LEACHATE COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE
HAVERSTRAW (BOWLINE) TRANSFER STATION**

RFP NO. 2023-01

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, Rockland Green issued a Request for Proposal RFP 2023-01 for the purpose of Leachate Collection Improvements at the Haverstraw (Bowline) Transfer Station, located at 200 Beach Road, West Haverstraw, N.Y.; and

WHEREAS, three proposals were submitted in response to RFP 2023-01. Rockland Green conducted an evaluation of all the proposals; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration it was determined that it would be in Rockland Green's best interest to award the contract to A-Tech Concrete Co., as the lowest cost qualified contractor.; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Rockland Green Board awards the contract for Leachate Collection Improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$151,000.00 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 and such agreement shall not be binding and valid until executed by the parties.

Phillips: The DEC has required us to do these improvements?

Damiani: Yes, the DEC is requiring us to better manage our leachate collection system that we currently have at the Haverstraw facility. We went out for proposals and we received three proposals the highest from OCS Industry for \$527,688 and the lowest being A-Tech Concrete Co. for \$149,000 and when we retabulated his proposal we discovered it actually is \$151,000 so the resolution is written not to exceed \$151,000.

9. Introduced by: RG Board/RG Board Unan.

July 27, 2023

Resolution No. 53 of 2023

**ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF LABORER
TO ROCKLAND GREEN**

WHEREAS; Gregory White has been employed since 2021 by Rockland Green as a Laborer; and

WHEREAS; Gregory White has tendered his resignation for the position of Laborer for Rockland Green, effective June 30, 2023, therefore it is hereby

RESOLVED; the resignation of Gregory White as designated Laborer for Rockland Green is hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED; the Executive Director is hereby authorized to sign and file all necessary forms, returns and documents as may be required statutorily in connection with the above matter and to take all such actions and do all such things from time to time in this regard.

10. Introduced: Powers/Moroney

Unan.

July 27, 2023

RESOLUTION No. 54 OF 2023

CANCELATION OF AUGUST 24, 2023 MEETING

WHEREAS, the Chairman may elect to cancel or reschedule any single regular monthly meeting for lack of any business to be transacted or anticipated lack of a quorum, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the regular monthly meeting, originally scheduled for August 24, 2023 shall be canceled.

11. New Business

Phillips: Mr. Executive Director, do we have any new business?

Damiani: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Change Order No. 28 under Contract No. 5 Rockland Electric. This is a decrease in the amount of \$14,948.43.

Introduced by: Specht/Hochmann

Unan.

July 27, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 55 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, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 21 pursuant to Resolution No. 18 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 22 and 23 pursuant to Resolution No. 23 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 24 and 25 pursuant to Resolution No. 31 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 26 pursuant to Resolution No. 39 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 27 pursuant to Resolution No. 42 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, certain work related to the installation of control wiring by Overhead Door pursuant to Change Order 26 was not performed by Overhead Door, but by the Contractor, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for a credit in an amount equal to \$14,948.43, to be designated as Change Order 28; 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 modification to the work for the value stated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 28 for a decrease in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$14,948.43; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approval of Change Order 28 shall result in an overall decrease of the Contract Price by \$14,948.43 for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,600,713.52.

Phillips: Can you inform the Commissioners and the public of an incident that took place at the Hi-Tor animal shelter?

Damiani: On July 13 Rockland Green received a call indicating that there was an outbreak of distemper at the Hi-Tor Shelter. We sent staff to the shelter, and they couldn't get a good response from Hi-Tor. On July 15 Jeremy Apotheker coordinated an outside Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine to conduct an inspection of the facility. Jeremy and I attended that Saturday. The DVM was from Catskill Veterinarian Services. He indicated through his review and in the timeline that was provided to us that there was an outbreak of feline panleukopenia. We were not aware of it and Hi-Tor did not give us any notification on July 13, July 14 or July 15. Based on our conversations with staff at the shelter it was discovered that this outbreak occurred approximately three weeks prior. That is disturbing given an operator that we pay a substantial amount of money to, did not provide us with that information.

Phillips: This is a contagious disease.

Damiani: In a shelter environment it is highly contagious to felines, especially kittens.

Phillips: Did any kittens or cats die?

Damiani: We believe based upon the discussion and a review of the records so far 11. We don't have July's records as of today. We only have records through June.

Phillips: In the veterinarian's report that I read, which was very thorough, were there cats that could have possibly been exposed to this disease that were then adopted?

Damiani: Yes. The veterinarian recommended that to mitigate the issue was to suspend intake of all felines to the shelter for a minimum of two weeks. This Saturday we will have the veterinarian back on sight to conduct an evaluation to see how they progressed mitigating the virus through isolation quarantine. But there were two events we are concerned about. One was on or about June 25th or 26th at the Starbucks in New City. The timeline we learned based on our review through staff on 15th puts us back three weeks around that date as well as they had no intention to cancel their Sunday event on the July 16 Kitten Palooza. Rockland Green requested that they cancel as well as the DVM in his report suspend all traffic in and out of the shelter restricted to staff only.

Phillips: I think that was a smart move and I think all the Commissioners would agree with that. Has there been anything else that happened recently at the shelter that we have become aware of?

Damiani: Apparently, someone went up there with a backhoe on parkland and started to excavate adjacent to where Hi-Tor staff parks their cars.

Phillips: We do have a picture of the backhoe and the sheriff was notified?

Damiani: The sheriff has been notified and I believe the backhoe has been removed and impounded and I will follow up with the Sheriff tomorrow.

Phillips: Do any of the Commissioners have any comments? Since there are no comments from the Commissioners is there anyone in the public that would like to speak before the Board of Commissioners?

Nixie Gueits: I live in New City. I am the president of Four Legs Good and thanks to all the good people here, it goes beyond words about the partnered sharing that is happening now between Rockland Green and not just Four Legs Good, but all the TNR groups are on board. We met with Rockland Green representatives Jerry was there along with a number of trappers and the heads of other organizations. There are some questions and there are still some things that we have to work out, but we have been able to start getting supplies food, crates and the response from the public has been extremely positive they have donated a lot of the supplies that we have needed so it is not an expense to anyone at this point.

Phillips: What are the dates of the events?

Nixie Gueits: The first event is August 24. There are door hangers, and we are going to concentrate on Haverstraw first and we are going to pick out an area and go door to door and advise the residents that there is going to be a trapping that is going to take place around their neighborhood, so they are aware if they choose to participate. Our experience in the past is that people are happy this is being addressed.

These door hangers will be in English and Spanish. Our experience in the past is that people are very receptive. This will be happening in the next few weeks. What we are doing is building a solid foundation for the groups that are following this. Thanks to everyone here we are building a solid foundation for these organizations in Rockland with their volunteers and the people that will be crawling under decks and sheds. Pearl River High School we have some wonderful volunteers, and they seem to be itching to get out there and help. I want to thank you so very much again and give thanks to Jeremy Apotheker and Jerry Damiani for what they have done and how they have turned a really dysfunctional situation into one that is going to change and one that is going to benefit the animals. I can't thank you enough for working with a group of people who are genuinely interested and not describing us as just crazy cat people and addressing the problem. An outbreak has happened before at Hi-Tor, and it was kept under wraps and it wasn't that long ago. Thank you for bringing this to light and now hopefully it is not going to happen anymore. I do want to ask again that I would like to ask as a taxpayer, what happened to 100 cats that were transferred out of Hi-Tor over a six-week period. All I want to know is their final disposition. Did they go to a good place? I have been around this block many times and I am very experienced with animal rescue and feral rescue more than most likely the entire Hi-Tor Board. I want to know the facility. I know of a lot of animal organizations and we want these cats to be sent to a safe organization.

Phillips: Jerry, we have asked them for this information, but it has not been given to us.

Damiani: Correct.

Nixie Gueits: Well, then there was a lot of ringworm cats. Where are these animals going? There are very reputable places that take in many cats. During the pandemic we had people come in to adopt cats at Four Legs Good from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont and we asked why are you coming all the way down here? Because their towns have resolutions and their towns impose fines to people who that let their cats out which are not spayed or neutered. This is what sheltering is all about. As long as your numbers look good to the public and you have a 90% release rate. Yeah well some of these animals went to kill shelters. So, their hands are clean and they look good to the public.

Phillips: On behalf of the Board of Commissioners it is a pleasure to work with you and we do see your compassion and your professionalism and you organizing this because it is going to be a great program. We all realize that the sooner we can neuter the cats, the less feral cats we will have and the less of a problem.

Nixie Gueits: Absolutely, and there are things we can do to immediately address nuisance behaviors. There are motion detector sprinklers. You did receive an email from me about areas of concern.

Phillips: It is very disturbing. Just to let the Board members know, apparently Nixie's address has been given out by some members at Hi-Tor. This should not be done at any time it is a breach of confidentiality and should not occur and I am sorry about that.

Jennifer Dunn: I live in Spring Valley. I want to address one thing that Nixie was saying about Hi-Tor. A very large problem at Hi-Tor is they will adopt out kittens and they won't follow-up if they are spayed or neutered. When a cat goes into heat, they are able to reproduce at four months. Once the

female makes it known that they are heating and male cats start peeing all over the house, people tend to let them outside and then they end up in these colonies that are uncontrollable. One of the huge things is that they should follow-up and making sure every animal they adopt out from cats to dogs or whatever they get spayed or neutered. The other issue with Hi-Tor is a lot of people don't consider small animals a big deal, I personally do and there was a situation with a guinea pig where the Executive Director allowed that guinea pig to be seen at VEG in Nanuet and he declined all and any medical whether it was euthanasia or \$2,000 worth of vetting for a guinea pig. That guinea pig sat for almost an entire week with no vetting and then it died at Oradell Animal Hospital where they didn't want anyone to see. Did the girl want to sit there and watch the guinea pig suffer while she was fostering it, absolutely not. Should anyone have to see that, no. Should the animal have gone through that, no. But this is the incompetence with this Executive Director. There are numerous other situations that have happened over there that are never addressed or maybe being addressed that the public doesn't know about.

Phillips: We appreciate you coming forward and telling us. Thank you.

Jennifer Dunn: One more thing. There is something called Paws for Safety and just a suggestion for when Rockland Green opens the new shelter, housing animals from domestic violence situations. This is something that is worth looking into to.

Phillips: We have heard about that program, and it is something we are very interested in.

Arlene Kahn: Hi everybody, nice to be here again. I was going to address the concerns about the new location, but I will wait for September for that because there is something far more important. I do want to compliment you and congratulate you on the TNR program that you are doing with Four Legs Good. It is wonderful and a huge undertaking.

Phillips: It has been a real team effort.

Arlene Kahn: Yes, I see that. I get asked a lot as the administrator of Rockland County Cat Parent page just some definitions I would like to ask you about. People come to me and ask me what is Rockland Green's title and role as it pertains to Hi-Tor animal shelter and I don't know what to say. Rockland Green is the what to Hi-Tor.

Phillips: We are an entity that was created to take care of all the recycling and garbage needs. We then amended our mission so that it now includes taking care of an animal shelter. That is under our auspicious at this time. We have been moving down the road and I think we are progressing fairly well and have made good timing in a most expeditious way in which we can move. Government does not move fast. We are building a new shelter. We have some plans from the architect and he has a lot more to do. Once we have all those plans we will go out to bid to completely finish a new shelter. In the interim we have a contract with an agency to run the existing shelter which we did, as you know Hi-Tor is the agency and we have had major concerns. We are the entity that contracts with Hi-Tor shelter and we are the ones who fund them and we are more or less the Government officials that oversee what goes on.

Arlene Kahn: I was looking for the word. I met with Executive Day a couple of years ago about the possibility of you folks taking over. He said it is a little bit similar to the Rockland County Health Department presently as an entity of overseers.

Phillips: I don't like that word. We contract with an agency to take care of the animal shelter and we expect certain things to be done. We expect them to run according to New York State Laws. The Health Department also assists us with any needs that we have, but right now we are the agency that is overseeing Hi-Tor operating the animal shelter.

Arlene Kahn: What is your role. There is a lot of confusion in the public about that. Do you hire and fire?

Phillips: No, we contract with a contractor. In Government, when you hire a contractor to run an operation whether it is this or any other type of operation or service, they must abide by a contract in which we enter into. You can FOIL the contract between Rockland Green and the Hi-Tor shelter that is their organization. They then within the contract do certain duties that we then compensate them for. Those duties would be the duties of running the shelter.

Arlene Kahn: So, then you can come in if you are not happy you can go in and do what?

Phillips: To make sure they abide by the contract. What I would reference you to is the contract. It outlines certain things and references certain things that are required by Agriculture and Markets. They go into depth of what an animal shelter must do.

Arlene Kahn: It seems that not only you are supposed to be informed of things and legally as well.

Phillips: Absolutely.

Arlene Kahn: Contractually you are supposed to be made aware of?

Phillips: Correct. What we have done is we have torn away the veil of secrecy and we are trying to have transparency going on at the shelter. We haven't been able to achieve that yet because there are many things we have requested and they have not been given. There are a lot of reports we want to see and information about animals. As you just heard, the Executive Director say there was a major disease outbreak there and we weren't even informed of it until three weeks later. That is just unacceptable. To have cats that could have been exposed to this being adopted, that is just not a professional and safe way to go about running a shelter.

Arlene Kahn: If you are not told these things, then you have recourse? People come to me with all these questions and I don't know what to tell them.

Hoechmann: There are a lot of issues wrong that we are concerned about. As people come to the meetings and bring things forward it's disturbing that there are these mysteries and our direct staff our Executive Director and Jeremy who is there every day.

Arelene Kahn: Is Jeremy here?

Phillips: Yes, Jeremy do you want to stand up for a second.

Hoehmann: It is very disturbing to hear these things. Yes, there is recourse. But since these matters may be legal in nature, I think it appropriate to not discuss them. But I do think it's suffice to say that I am sufficiently concerned and I think all the other Commissioners are concerned and we are looking at this carefully to make sure the animals are safe guarded. A year ago this month I lost our family dog that I adopted from Hi-Tor and we had him for twelve years. We are a far cry from those days of twelve years ago. I think we have come a long way because of what Rockland Green has done. The building was in shambles, it was a mess and a lot of things have been done to fix it up and good plans going forward. I can't say enough good things about the effort Rockland Green's staff working with the volunteers. We need more transparency. We can't have an outbreak where we are having cats die and people are allowed to come in and adopt the cats out from there. It is entirely negligent, and it is contingent on the contract.

Arlene Karger: Okay, thank you.

Marge Hook: As you know, I mentioned it many times I volunteered at the shelter for over 20 years. I have never seen anything like this going on up there and they are getting away with it. This guy that is in charge, the Executive Director, he spends part of his time over in Westchester at a real estate place selling real estate. How many hours is he devoting to Hi-Tor? Nothing, and he is getting away with it and I blame that on all of you allowing this to happen. The guy is making \$75,000 a year probably getting medical benefits which Ken and Don never had, and he is getting away with it. All of you allow him to have this behavior. He goes on the radio and gives out Nixie's address just on that he should be fired.

Phillips: We contracted with Hi-Tor in January. We are seven months into this. I know it seems as though it been a while. You have to give Rockland Green an opportunity, Government doesn't move as fast as people would like it to. We are moving. If you remember, all of us here elected officials that said before we took it over that this screams of Government oversight and we don't often say that. I can't look at anybody here on this board that would say we need more Government. We are not that type of elected officials. But this screamed of Government oversight. We are now into the seventh month. You have to give us some time. I think all of the Commissioners will do the right thing; you just need to give us more time.

Monaghan: Just to be clear these Commissioners did not hire him.

Marge Hook: I know that.

Monaghan: We have a contract with Hi-Tor and we asked the attorney whether we had the power to terminate somebody. You are saying to the Commissioners and I just want to be clear we have a contract with Hi-Tor. Hi-Tor hired him not this Board.

Phillips: We do not have the ability to fire an employee of Hi-Tor. We have other avenues that we could pursue. I think you and I have had enough discussions that you know we are looking at different things right now.

Marge Hook: I know that.

Phillips: To say the least, we are not happy right now.

Kohut: We have somebody there, Jeremy Apotheker, who is there almost everyday making sure things don't go any further awry.

Marge Hook: The fact of the matter is I just spoke to Jeremy and he said he's there about 3 to 4 hours a day. That is not enough. And the Executive Director of Hi-Tor isn't there on the weekend which used to be the most popular time for people coming to adopt animals. Now you have to make a phone call and say I want to adopt an animal and people don't even get a response. If you go up there unannounced, they are chasing you down the parking lot telling you to get the hell out. Somebody went from the Great Pyrenees rescue to get a dog out of there and she was literally thrown out of the place. They had a bloodhound recently that came in somebody, one of the workers getting paid, took the dog down to Georgia and turned it into a shelter in Georgia. You know what Georgia has, high kill shelters. Why was that allowed. The guinea pig was allowed to suffer and the woman that volunteer or paid I am not sure which, finally took that poor thing to a vet at her own expense I believe, and it was too late they had to put it to sleep. The Executive Director is supposedly a lawyer, he is not a member of the bar association with New York. However, he is practicing law which is against New York law rules and he is getting paid as an Executive Director who is enforcing nondisclosure laws and people believe at the shelter he threatens them that if they go forward with any information they are going to have repercussions. We have whistleblower laws.

Phillips: That baffles I think anybody here why in the world that would be even necessary to have somebody sign a document stating that when you are in the shelter. You are not working with the CIA or the FBI or some high-tech company that has proprietary rights on intellectual property. This is not like that; this is an animal shelter.

Marge Hook: The fact of the matter is he's practicing law against the Bar Association regulations.

Phillips: I don't know if that is considered practicing law. Marge we are looking at everything.

Marge Hook: You know my feeling about the whole thing.

Phillips: I know and I appreciate you being here.

Marge Hook: In addition to the distemper that just went through the cats; not too long ago they were giving out cats that had ringworm. You get the cat home and you have little kids they are touching the cat and they get ringworm. When Ron and Ken were there making only \$50,000 a year after thirty years any animal who came to the shelter that didn't have papers with it, they automatically got a distemper shot. What is this guy doing? He is not there 90% of the time. Just on that he should be let go. Their

whole Board should be disbanded and you guys have the right. If they don't want to answer questions cut their funding. Once that funding is cut, they will run like rats out of the building.

Phillips: Let us move on. We are going down the road and our eyes are wide open. We want transparency and we want what is best for the animals. We are going to get there.

Marge Hook: I think people are not aware of what is going on and I think more and more people have to get on the radio and talk about it.

Phillips: Just listening from the beginning of the year to now, there has absolutely been a change in opinion among many people. I am sure all the Supervisors they have gotten calls like I have. I think people originally were maybe skeptical of Rockland Green. I think they are getting to see now that we have been hands on and we care for the animals and in the end, we are going to wind up doing the right thing.

Marge Hook: It will be a big difference from you guys doing the right thing to this guy, Tannenbaum, doing all the wrong things. And who is suffering, the animals. You need more people besides Jeremy to be up there. You have to deputize some of the people who are willing to go up there and spend a couple of hours when Jeremy is not there, watching what this guy is doing. He is never in the office. If you call the office, he is not there. You call over to Westchester and it is like going through the CIA trying to get information on this guy. What is he covering? His tracks are covered by all people that he is probably threatening.

Phillips: He told us in front of the public and the Commissioners that he is full-time.

Marge Hook: He is not there full-time and just on that he should be let go.

Abby Basso: I live in Valley Cottage. First of all, I am a former Hi-Tor employee. When you take a look around the room, where is the Executive Director. That should say something. He cares so much, where is he? I don't see him. I worked there for six weeks and I was threatened, coerced and he put me on probation because I have mental health disabilities and he called me into his office and gave me a paper and said if you don't sign this right now, I have to fire you. You better sign it right now or I have to fire you.

Phillips: Please leave your information in case we need to get in touch with you to get certain factual information.

Abby Basso: I have everything documented on human rights, civil rights, HIPPA violations saying that since I was on probation a need a letter with a diagnosis. She then went on to text message to say they will call a doctor's office to confirm that you were seen.

Phillips: Who is she?

Abby Basso: Helen Allen.

Jennifer Dunn: Just so Rockland Green is aware, I am a former employee there, when Jeremy or Jerry is there they will not do anything in front of them. Everything is kept very secret there so that they are never exploited and they never look stupid or incompetent and the Board never looks like they are doing anything that they are not supposed to be doing.

Abby Basso: One last thing, when I worked there in the ringworm room my supervisor said only if Rick is there you have to wear the protective gear in the ringworm room when he is not there don't worry about it. My friend went to adopt a cat that I was working with in the ringworm room she filled out the application she knew which cat she wanted, they put the cat with ringworm in the cat carrier and the only paper they gave her was one sheet of paper with the most basic information male, female, spayed, neutered vaccines. They didn't disclose that the cat had ringworm. I reached out to her to let her know about the ringworm. She said she and her son were there for twenty-seven minutes. Not a reference check, not a vet check nothing.

Phillips: As I said before, when we originally did this is because it screams for the need of Government oversight. We are moving down the road and it has been a bumpy road. It has been seven months and we have options to explore and let's see where we can go.

Abby Basso: It was a very traumatizing and hostile work environment.

Phillips: We are very sorry for that.

Hoehmann: We are sorry for that environment.

Martha Laby: I live in Valley Cottage. I was on the Hi-Tor Board for nine years. I have been very active in rescue for the last twenty-five years. I am a 501C. I have a rescue and I am really involved with other organizations as well. I can tell you everything these people are saying, is true. Because I get a lot of feedback from local people. I was at a party the other day and one of Hi-Tor's volunteers said to me they don't treat me well up there and I asked why and they said because you can't be trusted. You see things and you say things and you can't be trusted. They put the fear of God into these people. As much as I love cats, but I am allergic to them I am mostly about the dogs. I do dog rescue and I have for a long time. I know dogs are dying up there. Do you know what bloat is? It is a horrible way to die. They had a dog die from bloat at Hi-Tor. They had a dog die on a catch pole and you guys don't see this and I know this. Supervisor Hoehmann, I am sorry for your loss. This is not a secret. Other shelters and other rescues know Hi-Tor and their reputation. I was at the Middletown Humane Society a month ago and I mentioned my connection with Hi-Tor many years ago and they said that is a place of horrors. I was at Paws Crossed animal shelter and they had truck loads of cat food donated and they tried to contact Hi-Tor and Hi-Tor never responded. Because I asked why don't we send some of this to Hi-Tor. I am talking truck loads of high-quality food. They said they don't want anything to do with Hi-Tor. The place is a pigsty and maybe it is a little better since you guys have taken over and I thank you for that, but it is a nightmare.

Phillips: We are not happy and we will do what we have to do.

Kohut: What is the name of your rescue?

Martha Laby: Pipers Dream. I was way more active years ago. But now I am getting older so I do less. But I do it differently. I concentrate on seeing that there is food going to different organizations.

Phillips: We are working on this, all of us. We are all elected officials and two representatives of the County Executive. There is not a single one of us that want this to continue this way.

Is there anyone else from the public that would like to speak? Since there is no other public comments, do we have a motion to adjourn?

Hochmann: Moved

Specht: Seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Haggerty