



**ROCKLAND COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

420 Torne Valley Road, P.O. Box 1217  
Hillburn, NY 10931  
tel 845-753-2200 fax 845-753-2281

*Howard T. Phillips, Jr.*  
Chairman

**Anna Roppolo**  
Executive Director



**Present**

**Chairman Phillips**  
**Commissioner Hoehmann**  
**Commissioner Hofstein**  
**Commissioner Kohut**  
**Commissioner Lynn**  
**Commissioner Monaghan**  
**Commissioner Noto**  
**Commissioner Paul**  
**Commissioner Soskin**  
**Commissioner Stewart**

**Absent**

**Commissioner Grant**  
**Commissioner Jobson**  
**Commissioner Moroney**  
**Commissioner Sherwood**  
**Commissioner Schoenberger**  
**Commissioner Ullman**  
**Commissioner Wieder**

**Staff**

**H. Benado**  
**K. Braunfotel**  
**J. Goldstein**  
**S. Haggerty**  
**D. Louis**  
**D. O'Donnell**  
**A. Roppolo**

**Others**

**B. Fleury**  
**J. Heath**  
**T. Pytlar**  
**T. West**  
**E. Yates**

The Chairman called to order the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority Board of Directors meeting for Thursday, September 28, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

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Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Commissioner Stewart

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Roll call by Clerk. There is a quorum.

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Introduced by: Kohut/Soskin

Unan.

September 28, 2017

**RESOLUTION NO. 46 OF 2017  
ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2017**

**RESOLVED**, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are approved for the meeting August 3, 2017, as recorded by the Clerk and are hereby adopted.

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**Director of Finance Report**

**Goldstein:** On today's agenda for your consideration, is the resolution authorizing the redemption of the Authority's outstanding general obligation for bond series 2006A. The approximate gross savings

in debt service over the next four years in the proposed transaction is \$2.9M and the approximate net savings in debt service is \$296,000. The coupon rate of this series of bonds range between 4 1/4 – 5%. Additionally, we are researching potential refunding of the 2008 bond series. Late last week, I met with Rick McCarthy the Authority's financial advisor and we will look at a recommendation on this for the next Board meeting. Finally, the Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m. at Haverstraw Town Hall where we will discuss the 2018 budget.

**Phillips:** Are there any questions for the Director of Finance? Since there are no questions, do we have a motion to accept the Director of Finance report?

**Monaghan:** Moved

**Hochman:** Seconded

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### **Executive Director Report**

**Roppolo:** The Authority received proposals for the Hillburn Transfer Station O&M and Hauling RFP on September 1. The evaluation committee will be holding interviews with proposers on October 2. If you would like to attend the interviews, please let Suzanne know and she will provide backup documentation and scheduled times. The current contract is expiring on December 31, 2017. We anticipate having a recommendation regarding the Hillburn O&M and hauling at the next Board meeting.

In addition, the tip floor at the Hillburn facility is in need of replacement, it is more than 16 years old, and we have been working with GHD Engineers to prepare a bid package. The anticipated schedule for work is January 2018.

Ted has been working on an anaerobic digestion study on behalf of the Authority. Ted, would you please update the Board as to status of the study.

**Pytlar:** Good evening. We have obtained a grant from NYSERDA to do a study on the means by which anaerobic digestion for solid waste management facilities and wastewater facilities that is fully funded by NYSERDA. We have suggested, and they accepted, to have Rockland County be used as a case study. It was a two-piece study of a technical analysis and an outreach. The outreach is on what NYSERDA would require for the funding to spread information and monitor participation of the program throughout the state. We have had three webinars so far looking at the various aspects of developing a digester. Including appropriations to go about setting up policies and procedures and requirements for seeking a private firm to partner with; and to develop the digester through procurement; and how we would go about ensuring the delivery of organic material to be digested to the facility; and how to prepare the energy from the digester in the form of electricity or compressed natural gas or pipeline gas and how to market it. Tomorrow we are having a webinar about how the private sector will accept privatization projects of digesters. We have had good participation on the outreach all the way from Buffalo, Utica, Monroe County Albany, Saratoga, Westchester, New York City and of course the Authority staff. The other part of the technical analysis we have obtained preliminary cost estimates

on developing the digester that would be approximate in size to suit Rockland County's needs from development firms we used to develop an operating cost model. That will be the subject of our on-going webinars with participants showing how much the facility would cost under certain circumstances. As I have stated in the past, we are looking at a case study for three different sites scenarios. One being at the existing wastewater plant Rockland Sewer District #1 in Orangetown, the existing solid waste facility in Hillburn and the other at an existing power plant NRG. We reached out to both O&R and NRG for their input on what their terms would be on selling electricity or for utilizing electricity at those sites for existing demand. We met with O&R a couple of weeks ago and submitted some information to them as part of the normal submission process to get feedback from them and we are meeting with NRG on Monday. It is all going well and we think the objectives of the study are being carried out. When the study is all done we will package the information and it will be provided to Anna and the Board for consideration from the point-of-view in Rockland County.

**Roppolo:** The scale was replaced on August 27 at the Haverstraw transfer station. On September 11, the Authority issued an RFP for major repairs at the Haverstraw building interior due to settling of the building. We are also taking this opportunity to make the scale house operations more efficient by relocating it to the first floor. Bids are due back by October 13.

There has been a recent change at the Chinese Ministry for Environmental Protection, which has impacted our recyclable commodity markets at our recycling facility. Several months ago, the government agency overseeing scrap trade implemented a new initiative known as the National Sword. This initiative seems to be born out of the 2013 initiative known as the Green Fence which was a crackdown on the quality of scrap material being shipped to China. The new National Sword initiative expands on the quality of shipments to an outright ban on imports of scrap material- mainly mixed paper and plastics. The mills in China have not had their permits renewed to accept any foreign scrap material from any country. Mainly mixed paper and plastics. As the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) notes, "The difficulty is that China has been such a disproportionately large home for scrap exports from the United States, so it's really difficult to replace China with just one country."

Scrap exporters are looking at other countries spread out over many regions to replace certain sectors of the export market. Regions that have seen recent growth, including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, as well as Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

First the good news. Because the Authority continues to have a dual stream recycling facility, our commodity bales are well within the current 3% contamination level. In fact, the Authority had enjoyed a 15% premium on bale pricing because of the good work our residents do in sorting the recyclables. In addition, most of our plastic commodities are marketed nationally. Now the bad news. The Authority's newspaper bales are sold to China. In fact, 13 million tons of mixed paper and newspaper is sold to China annually. In addition, while our contractor, Casella, does not foresee a struggle to get the commodities sold in other markets due to the cleanliness of the commodity bales, Casella is certain the price will take a steep decline. We have already seen cardboard prices drop last month and a further decline in pricing is anticipated due to simple economics and there will be a glut in the market forcing prices to decline.

In addition, recyclers are being told that if China eases restrictions on the ban, the quality control will be very restrictive. For example, the 3% contamination rule may be decreased to ½%.

All this information will be taken into account in preparing the 2018 budget. The budget will be presented to the entire Board at October's meeting and we will continue to monitor the situation until then.

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility hosted a weekend event on September 16 including pharmaceutical take back. Please spread the word that the Authority hosts these events once a month and all drop off of medication is free and anonymous. Our next event is Sunday, October 15.

We have four shredding events scheduled for October:

October 7<sup>th</sup> at Ramapo Town Hall

October 14<sup>th</sup> at Stony Point – Patriot Hills Lane

October 21<sup>st</sup> at Orangetown Town Hall

October 28<sup>th</sup> at Germonds Park

The last shredding event was held at Haverstraw Town Hall on September 16. Haverstraw had asked that voluntary food donations to be dropped off at the event as additional awareness for Food Hunger Action month. We'd like to continue this initiative during all the shredding events sponsored by the Authority. Jackie Dodrill will be reaching out to the towns prior to each event to discuss. Thank you.

**Phillips:** There was a caller on the radio this morning asking why was the flag at the Bowline Transfer Station taken down. Is it something to do with construction?

**Roppolo:** It does have to do with the construction. Part of the construction has to do with tying into the waste line and although on the as-built, the waste line is shown in a particular area we are not thoroughly convinced that the as-built is final. Until we do the interior work, we did not want to put up the flagpole in case we had to take it down again. We probably can put it to the right of the facility and not have to worry about moving it.

**Phillips:** How much time are we talking about?

**Roppolo:** We have in the RFP a maximum of ninety days.

**Phillips:** Can we get a temporary flag on the building somewhere to please the people in Haverstraw that are extremely patriotic and notice these things?

**Roppolo:** Yes.

**Kohut:** If China is closing the market, where are they getting substitute material?

**Roppolo:** I asked our contractor and I wanted to know if they could sustain the mills with just their own residents. This is why it may open up again after a couple of months. They are taking the paper and cardboard from their own residents, but apparently, they are not as good at recycling so what the mills are getting is not quality recyclables. But, they are actually paying the mills \$500 a ton to get inferior material which if they got it from us we get \$170 to \$180 a ton for cardboard.

**Kohut:** Will we be able to match the contamination level of 1/2%?

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**Roppolo:** Yes, we do pretty well. Other recycling facilities in the United States are single stream. The single stream recycling facilities are not as good as what we have. It is impacted by the glass that is included in the cardboard and paper and the mills don't like that.

**Phillips:** What did we budget for revenue every year?

**Roppolo:** What we have been doing every year is we have floor pricing in our contract so I don't know off the top of my head what the floor pricing is, but for argument sake there is a blended rate meaning all the tonnage that we get in. We have a blended rate of about \$65 a ton. What we are actually getting in is over \$100. We are doing better than the floor pricing.

**Stewart:** At the Orangetown shredding day are they also doing pharmaceutical takeback or other services.

**Roppolo:** No that is just the paper shredding, but on October 15 the Household Hazardous Waste Facility is holding their weekend event, which also includes the pharmaceutical takeback.

**Stewart:** The digester that the Solid Waste Authority would be running, the sewer district was talking about a digester at the Orangetown plant, is this the same concept?

**Pytlar:** They are two different things. This is not about actually proposing a digester for Rockland County. We tried to kill two birds with one stone and provide some valuable information to Rockland County as it considers digestion going forward at some point in the future, maybe. But it also helps promote digestion in general in the state. We started this after we spoke to NYSERDA over the last couple of years to do this. What we are doing is not to say here is the digester to pick or here is the one to build. We are going to say here is the information for you and do what you want with the information. The Sewer District is something totally different.

**Phillips:** Ted, can you just let all of us know, how do you digest at the wastewater treatment plant? Do digesters over a period of time pay for themselves? Can you tell us the theory behind that so we all grasp it? What is the difference between the Authority and the digester? What is the difference in what the Authority does and what the sewer district does.

**Pytlar:** A digester, a simple way to look at it is, composting with methane. In other words, if you take organics like sludge, food waste or yard waste and compost it, you get compost which is aerated. Digestion is when you conduct the composting process in the absence of air which is called anaerobic. That will give you a product like compost plus methane gas. It costs more to do it because there is more equipment, but you get that methane gas that you can generate power with it or keep the methane or carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. It is another way to further reduce the amount of waste that goes to the landfills.

**Phillips:** Does it break even in cost through method or in your opinion, it doesn't?

**Pytlar:** It all depends. It has a lot to do with what you digest. Sewage sludge produces some gas but the ingredients that produce a lot of gas are food waste and fats, oil and grease in the organics that produce gas from like commercial establishments. If you have a digester that brings in more of the food waste than the fats, oil and greases, you can produce a lot of energy and it pays for itself.

**Lynn:** Anna, in two weeks they are going to be tearing down the Tappan Zee Bridge. Will the concrete recycling be coming to us?

**Roppolo:** It is not under our purview.

**Phillips:** So the contractor is going to go out and get the best price; and we are not it?

**Roppolo:** Probably not.

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**Braunfotel:** This is a statement regarding the RFP for Cocomposting Facility operation and maintenance in Hillburn RFP 2017-02. On March 1, 2017, the Authority issued a Request for Proposal for the operation and maintenance services for the Cocomposting Facility in Hillburn, New York. The RFP was supplemented by eight addenda. On May 22, 2017, the Authority received three proposals in response the RFP: one from New England Waste Services of Maine, Inc. doing business under the name Casella Organics; one from Veolia Water North America Operating Services, LLC; and one from WeCare Denali, LLC the current Cocomposting Facility operator. The Authority's Evaluation Committee evaluated all three proposals based on the selection criteria in the RFP and found that WeCare Denali: 1) provided a proven track record complying with the performance guarantees set forth in the RFP; 2) best demonstrated its ability to market the compost and compost product; 3) best demonstrated the experience and qualifications required to operate and maintain the Cocomposting Facility; 4) accepted all business terms of the draft Service Agreement; and 5) received positive references; all for a price significantly lower than the other two proposers. The proposals provided by the other two proposers were deemed not as advantageous to the Authority. For these reasons stated, the Evaluation Committee has recommended WeCare Denali's proposal as the most advantageous proposal.

Introduced by: Stewart/Lynn

Unan.

September 28, 2017

**Resolution No. 47 of 2017  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT WITH  
WECARE DENALI, LLC, TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE AUTHORITY'S COCOMPOSTING FACILITY**

**WHEREAS**, by Authority Board Resolution No. 3 of 2006 the Authority entered into an agreement with WeCare Organics, LLC for operation and maintenance of the Cocomposting Facility, dated April 1, 2006, this Agreement is due to expire on December 31, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2017, the Authority issued Request for Proposals 2017-02 for Operation and Maintenance of the Cocomposting Facility ("RFP 2017-02"); and

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**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2017, the Authority held a required vendor site visit; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2017, the Authority received three proposals which were responsive to the request for proposals, from WeCare Denali, LLC ("WeCare Denali"), Veolia Water North America Operating Services, LLC ("Veolia") and New England Waste Services of ME, Inc. d/b/a Casella Organics ("Casella"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Evaluation Team comprised of Authority staff, the Authority independent engineer and the Authority's legal advisors, have evaluated the proposals and have sought clarifications of certain items in each proposal at interviews of the three proposers held on June 27, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Evaluation Team found that the proposal submitted by WeCare Denali, LLC was the most advantageous for the Authority, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, negotiations with WeCare Denali, LLC have proved to be successful in the development of a Cocomposting Facility Contractor Agreement; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the proposal of WeCare Denali, LLC was found to be the most advantageous for the Authority, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the proposal of WeCare Denali, LLC for the prices submitted during the negotiation process is hereby accepted; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Authority to execute a service agreement for the operation and maintenance services at the Cocomposting Facility as such services are described in the specifications set forth in the RFP, as further negotiated, subject to review by Authority Counsel.

**Kohut:** What is the length of the term on the contract?

**Roppolo:** Five years with a five-year renewal option.

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**Roppolo:** We are going to pay off the series 2006A which will save us net \$296,000. The calculation on our outstanding net service and based on that we have a debt service reserve fund. The calculation was done and there is about \$900,000 in the debt service reserve fund that will be used to pay down this debt and in addition to that the remainder of the debt will be paid through unrestricted funds.

**Phillips:** I always like when we are saving money for the taxpayer.

Introduced By: Hofstein/Noto

Unan.

September 28, 2017

**RESOLUTION NO. 48 OF 2017  
AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF THE AUTHORITY'S OUTSTANDING  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2006A**

**WHEREAS**, on July 18, 2006, the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority (herein called the "AUTHORITY") issued \$10,080,000 aggregate principal amount of its General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006A (the "Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Bonds are currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$3,210,000, and all of the Bonds are subject to redemption at the option of the Authority at any time on or after December 15, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has available funds sufficient to redeem the outstanding Bonds in their entirety and wishes to redeem the outstanding Bonds in their entirety; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority is hereby authorized to redeem the outstanding Bonds in their entirety using any funds of the Authority available for such purpose; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the members, officers, employees and agents of the Authority are hereby authorized and directed for and in the name and on behalf of the Authority to do all acts and things required or provided for to accomplish the redemption of the Bonds and to execute and deliver all such documents, certificates and instruments (including but not limited to any direction to the Trustee or any escrow agreement that may be required), pay all such fees, charges and expenses and to do all such further acts and things as may be necessary or, in the opinion of the member, officer, employee or agent acting, desirable and proper to effect the purposes of this Resolution; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the Executive Director and Director of Finance to effectuate redemption.

Source of Funds: Debt service fund  
Unrestricted fund

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**Roppolo:** Based on recommendations of the Department of Health, they have requested additional staffing to implement certain procedures to ensure compliance with flow control. This has been something that was asked to be looked at by the Board. Therefore, the Department of Health looked at compliance and they requested an additional staff member.

Introduced by: Paul/Hoehmann      Unan.      September 28, 2017

**RESOLUTION NO. 49 OF 2017  
AMENDING THE 2017 FLOW CONTROL BUDGET:  
AMEND THE BUDGET TO REFLECT AN INCREASE IN FLOW CONTROL EXPENSES PAID TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, by Authority Board Resolution No. 28 of 2008, the Authority entered into a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the County of Rockland (the "County"), dated June 2, 2008, regarding each party's roles and responsibilities as to the rights and obligations of each related to the implementation and enforcement of the recently enacted County Flow Control Law, Chapter 350 of the Laws of Rockland County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Health requested additional staffing to implement specialized procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of the department's environmental health program, especially as it pertains to flow control.

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner of Health recommended the establishment of the position of Surveillance Coordinator to implement such specialized procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the position and appointment of Surveillance Coordinator was approved by the Rockland County Legislature Resolution 408 of 2017 on August 2, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, by Authority Board Resolution No. 3 of 2010, the Authority agreed to reimburse the Rockland County Department of Health for all reasonable actual costs as substantiated by the County, for reimbursement of the ongoing costs related to providing effective licensing and enforcement of the County Flow Control Law; and

**WHEREAS**, by Authority Board Resolution No. 36 of 2016 the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority adopted the budget of the Authority for the fiscal year 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Finance has advised that the 2017 Flow Control Reimbursement Budget be amended by \$32,400.00 to reflect the Departments recommendation; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority Board hereby authorizes amendment of the 2017 Budget as follows:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| From: Contingency Fund 6703-00           | \$32,400.00 |
| To: RC Health Dept. Flow Control 6508-00 | \$32,400.00 |

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**New Business**

**Phillips:** Is there any new business to discuss?

**Braunfotel:** I request that we go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters.

**Phillips:** Do we have a motion to go into Executive Session?

**Hoehmann:** Moved

**Soskin:** Seconded

**Phillips:** Do we have a motion to come out of Executive Session?

**Soskin:** Moved

**Hoehmann:** Seconded

**Phillips:** Do we have any other new business? Since there is no other new business and no public comment being offered, do we have a motion to adjourn?

**Hoehmann:** Moved

**Soskin:** Seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Haggerty