

**GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
DISTRICT MEETING – January 16, 2020**

Minutes

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 8:00 AM** at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 305, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

**District Committee Members in attendance:** Chairperson, John Beauregard; Christine LeBlanc, Daniel Patten, Ken Blanchard. Kathleen Towers was not present.

**Also present:** Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Leonor Ferreira, Secretary; Attorney J. Thomas, District Counsel.

**1. Call to order by Chairperson Beauregard; roll call of members**

Chairperson Beauregard called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**2. Salute to the Flag**

All in attendance stood to salute the flag.

**3. Legal Notices**

Mr. Beauregard read the notice advising the Board that the meeting may be recorded by audio and/or video, and noted that the legal notices of the meeting were posted more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**4. Warrant Report and Ratification**

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to ratify the warrants dated December 13, 2019 and December 26, 2019. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten. Vote 4-0.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to approve the December 10, 2019 minutes. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Vote 4-0.

## **6. Old Business**

### **a. Trust Funds Update**

**Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to receive an update on District trust funds. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Attorney Thomas discussed the proposed changes to the Trust Funds from the December 10, 2019 meeting, and discussed the pros and cons for including account numbers in the documents. After some discussion, the board agreed not to include the trust fund account numbers in the trust fund documents. Attorney Thomas noted that trust funds would be defined as to whatever Bartholomew defines it. It was decided that (1) trust fund be created and labeled "Trust Funds" instead of individual accounts.

**Motion to adopt and execute the following Declarations of Trust:**

**Environmental Contingency Trust Fund**

**Phase 2 Construction Design and Construction Trust Fund**

**Post Closure Reserve After Year 30 Trust Fund**

**Closure Reserve for Cells not Yet Constructed Trust Fund**

**Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Vote 4-0.**

The board then went on to discuss forming the Future Solid Waste Management Trust Fund that would prevent long term planning for solid waste management. Attorney Thomas discussed the financial challenges affecting the city and the town. Mr. Alfonse noted the total amount currently held in the trust fund. It was the consensus that a vote should be taken to deem the Future Solid Waste Management Fund be held in trust. The board discussed the intent for establishing the trust fund, which is to be used to mitigate the cost of solid waste management for the town and the city after landfill closure and when the District ceases to accept solid waste.

**Motion to transfer the funds in the Future Solid Waste Management Fund from the present unrestricted reserves into the trust fund account at Bartholomew. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten. Vote 4-0.**

**Motion to request General Counsel draft and present for execution at the next meeting the Declaration of Trust establishing the Future Solid Waste Management Trust. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Vote 4-0.**

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Discussion of FY 2021 Draft Budget**

**Motion to discuss the proposed FY 2021 budget made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse referred to the draft FY 2021 budget. He noted that there was discussion with Ms. Towers, who was unable to attend the Personnel Subcommittee meeting, to review the “Salaries and Wages” information with her by phone after the meeting. The Executive Director reviewed elements of the budget as presented in the memo.

Mr. Beauregard showed concern that once the title of Assistant Mechanic changed to Mechanic, an employee might leave the District to make more money elsewhere with that title. Mr. Alfonse noted that the mechanic’s rate was in the lower end of what a diesel mechanic pays, and that the District offers stability and benefits that are more appealing than other facilities. Mr. Blanchard noted that the recommendation was appropriate. Mr. Beauregard then questioned if there was a lot of overtime. Mr. Alfonse noted that overtime was mostly due to the landfill opening on Saturdays. Mr. Beauregard questioned if employees were paid time and a half for working on Saturdays, which Mr. Alfonse noted that time and a half is paid over 40 hours.

The Committee discussed increasing member community assessments by 2.5% for the first time since 2016. After some discussion the board voted to keep the assessment to New Bedford and Dartmouth at 2020 level and to develop a plan that would inform member communities of upcoming assessment increases. Mr. Alfonse noted that for FY 22 solid waste commercial tonnage could be decreased, which could impact future assessments. It was agreed to reduce the assessment in the draft budget (\$886,937) to \$865,304. The \$21,633 would come out of the Future Solid Waste Management reserve line item. After some discussion the board voted to level fund the assessment to New Bedford and Dartmouth.

Ms. LeBlanc questioned if the District had an outside health and safety contractor to monitor the landfill employees working on the gas collection system to ensure compliance. Mr. Alfonse said that Shawn is the contact on the Health & Safety plan and that every employee wears four gas meter when there is a potential for exposure to landfill gas (such as during landfill gas collection system installation).

Mr. Alfonse recommended level funding the insurance line item at \$87,000 (based on feedback from the Budget Subcommittee) and reducing the deposit to Environmental Contingency Reserve line item by \$2,000.

Mr. Blanchard questioned if the District considered financing or lease/ purchase of the equipment. Mr. Alfonse noted that the District has always purchased its equipment.

Mr. Beauregard suggested the District consider providing board members with tablets instead of the paper for meetings. Mr. Alfonse noted that those could be provided under the “computer training” line item, and that he would look into it.

Mr. Blanchard questioned what “Reused Materials” meant. Mr. Alfonse noted that those are materials taken in for revenue, and reused as cover material for the landfill.

Mr. Patten is paid a stipend as Treasurer and indicated he would abstain from voting on the District budget since it includes salaries for District employees. However as a result of disqualification of Mr. Patten due to this potential conflict of interest, the board lacked a sufficient number of members to take a valid vote and, as a last resort, all disqualified members may now participate under the Rule

of Necessity. Mr. Patten disclosed his financial interest in the budget, which is a \$7,902 annual stipend to serve as Treasurer.

**Motion to approve the FY 2021 budget made by Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Patten. Vote**

b. Commercial customer contract renewal

**Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion that, notwithstanding the provisions in the contract setting forth a deadline by which request to extend must be received by the District, the District agrees to extend the contract of ABC Disposal for FY 2021 as provided in said contract. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.**

Mr. Alfonse noted that the Committee voted to extend contracts with Cleanway Disposal and Frade's Disposal which were voted at the last meeting. Since then the District received a letter from ABC Disposal expressing interest in renewing the agreement for FY 2021.

**Vote 4-0**

c. Request for Proposal for cranberry bog operation

**Motion to advertise a Request for Proposals to operate the cranberry bogs at Quanapoag Road and High Hill Road and market the crops. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Alfonse noted that the agreements for operating the cranberry bogs have expired. The Quanapoag Road cranberry bog is non-organic, and has yielded little income. There was discussion to issue (1) RFP to operate both cranberry bogs with a 3-year term with option to extend.

Mr. Beauregard questioned if the process to transform a cranberry bog from non-organic to organic was quick. Mr. Alfonse noted the past challenges the District had with contracting an operator for the High Hill cranberry bog because of a volatile cranberry market. He discussed the process for transforming a non-organic cranberry bog into an organic cranberry bog.

The board discussed going through an organic operation process for a period of a few years without certification, and market the product as non-organic. Mr. Alfonse noted the challenges associated with that; costs of operating an organic bog are higher than costs associated with operating a non-organic cranberry bog.

Mr. Blanchard discussed the possibility of the District offering a discounted RFP to whomever, with the understanding that they operate the cranberry bog with the intent of eventually getting it to organics, and then when the 3-year option renewal is up it would pick it up from the option piece. Mr. Alfonse noted that he would look into it.

**Vote 4-0.**

d. Director's Report

**Motion to receive Executive Director's report made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr.**

## **Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse briefly described the request from the Dartmouth Select Board member John Haran, and the proposed solar farm on the Hawes property. The board discussed the benefits about exploring solar on District property as well. Mr. Alfonse discussed the December meeting that he and Attorney Thomas attended at the Town of Freetown Assessors, and is awaiting input from them.

e. Items which could not have been reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance.

## **8. Set date for next meeting.**

Next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

## **9. Adjourn**

**Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Vote 4-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.**

## **MEMOS**

- 7a. DRAFT FY 2021 Budget dated 1/10/2020
- 7b. Commercial Customer Contracts Renewal dated 1/10/2020
- 7c. RFP for Cranberry Bog Operation dated 1/10/2020
- 7d. Director's Report dated 1/10/2020

Approved by vote of District Committee on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

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Scott Alfonse, Executive Director