

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 25, 2021

1. Call to order.

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, May 25, 2021, at 8:00 A.M.**

District Committee members participated remotely.

Chairperson Beauregard read the following statement: "Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as extended by the Governor's March 31, 2020 Order, this meeting of the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District's District Committee is open to the public, but attendees are required to socially distance. All members of the District Committee are participating remotely. Those members are Ken Blanchard, Michael Gagne, Christine LeBlanc, Daniel Patten, and John Beauregard,

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, any person may make an audio or video recording of this public meeting or may transmit the meeting through any medium. Attendees are therefore advised that such recordings and transmissions are being made, whether perceived or unperceived, by those present, and are deemed acknowledged and permissible."

Chairperson Beauregard reminded members that texting and private chats on the video conference platform are not an acceptable method of remote participation. He also wanted to make sure that all members could be heard when they are speaking and if any member cannot hear another member to please let him know. Finally, he informed members that if their remote connection is lost, that they should attempt to sign back in. The time they were disconnected and the time they signed back in will be noted.

2. Legal notices

Chairperson Beauregard noted that the legal notices of the meeting were posted in Dartmouth and New Bedford more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

3. Roll call of members

Chairperson, John Beauregard; yes

Daniel Patten, yes

Christine LeBlanc, yes

Ken Blanchard, yes

Michael Gagne, not in attendance

Also present Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Lee Ferreira, Secretary; Attorney Matthew J. Thomas, District Counsel.

4. Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021, meeting made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

5. Warrant Report and Ratification – Warrant dated April 30, 2021.

Motion to ratify warrant dated April 30, 2021, made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

6. Old Business

a. COVID update –

Motion to receive the update and discuss a vaccination policy made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo and then turned discussion over to the Committee.

Mr. Beauregard noted his concerns with incentivizing employees to receive the vaccine.

Mr. Blanchard also expressed concern over requiring mandatory vaccination. He noted that there would be a lot of criteria the Executive Director would need to establish. He questioned if the vaccination would become mandatory for new hires (specifically for the new position available). He is not in favor of requiring the vaccine. He believes it's a lot of work for the District.

Ms. LeBlanc noted unvaccinated people put others at risk. She noted that there should be mandatory mask requirement for non-vaccinated employees. She believes it's fine if they do not want to get vaccinated, but there has to be some disincentive for those who are not. Board members agreed.

Mr. Alfonse noted that the District has a mask requirement for non-vaccinated employees.

Mr. Patten said he agreed with everyone's comments and said that he does not believe in vaccine incentives. Those who are not vaccinated need to wear a mask and if they get sick with COVID, they will use their paid time off.

Mr. Beauregard asked Attorney Thomas if there were any legal issues the board should be concerned about. Attorney Thomas said there were not. After May 29, 2021, there is no more state enforcement. Businesses can impose their own requirements. He also noted that vaccination status is not covered by HIPPA because it is not a disability. He referenced the article included with the meeting packet and said nothing prohibits an employer from asking for proof of vaccination. There are certain exemptions to a vaccine requirement.

Mr. Beauregard noted that the sense of the board was to "let it go".

Mr. Alfonse wanted to make the board aware that he has been allowing employees to get vaccinated during work hours because appointments were only available during work hours. He also noted that vendor and/or visitors to District buildings must wear a mask.

Motion that any new hires by the District should be vaccinated prior to starting employment made by Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Patten noted that the vaccine should be specific to COVID-19 vaccine and a timeline should be stated specifically for this new hire.

Mr. Blanchard also questioned if that would apply to COVID-19 booster shot requirements. The board agreed.

Motion that any new employees of the District hired through December 31, 2021, must be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine made by Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

b. Solid Waste Planning Services update

Motion to receive an update on solid waste planning services made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo and noted that he informed Geosyntec that they are the highest-ranked consultant subject to the completion of reference checks. All the references have been favorable, but he is still waiting for the City of Baltimore reference.

Mr. Beauregard expressed satisfaction with the references so far.

c. Commercial and Municipal Disposal Agreements

Motion to receive an update on commercial and municipal disposal agreements made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo. He asked if the Committee wanted to authorize the Executive Director and District Counsel to prepare and sign the waste disposal agreements with the commercial haulers subject to those terms that were set in the April 15, 2021, meeting or would the committee prefer to have those contracts come back to the board in June.

The Committee agreed it would authorize the Executive Director and District Counsel to prepare and sign the waste disposal agreements with the commercial haulers subject to those terms that were set in the April 15, 2021, meeting.

Mr. Patten questioned if the contracts had any issues.

Mr. Alfonse noted that all three customers prefer longer term contracts and would prefer not to have the caps on solid waste.

Attorney Thomas noted the contracts include a provision to allow the District to review tipping slips and pick up slips to gather information the District could use through the Master Plan process to determine the community of origin of solid waste. Attorney Thomas said the information must be submitted monthly, but the board doesn't have to review it monthly.

Mr. Blanchard asked what happens if the information is not provided at the end of the month.

Attorney Thomas replied it would constitute a default on their contract.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director and District Counsel to draft and sign the solid waste disposal agreement with the commercial haulers ABC Disposal, Cleanway Disposal, and Frade's Disposal subject to the terms set at the April 15, 2021, meeting. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

7. New Business

a. Contract Amendments – FY 2022 extension of existing contracts

Motion to discuss extending existing contracts into FY 2022 made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo. There was no further discussion.

Motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to exercise a one-year option to extend the agreement with Best Security services from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to exercise the first option to extend the agreement with Civil and Environmental Consultants for 2-years (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2023) in accordance with the terms of the Agreement made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreements with New Bedford Waste Services, G. Lopes, K. R. Rezendes and L.B Corp. dba Tiverton Materials to exercise a one-year option to renew the Agreements from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, in accordance with the terms of the Agreements made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

b. Amend FY 2021 Budget

Motion to transfer \$14,000 from Deposits to Reserve (Environmental Contingency line item) to the Benefits budget category and adjust the total to the corrected amount of \$625,810 made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo. Mr. Beauregard asked if he believed that was the most appropriate line item in which to reduce funds. Mr. Alfonse replied noting it could be taken from Future Solid Waste Management, but since it is not a significant

amount and the funds would be replaced as part of the reconciliation process, he believes Environmental Contingency is the best line item.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Director made by Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Mr. Patten.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

c. Director's Report

Motion to receive the Director's report made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Mr. Alfonse noted that Virginia Valiela who served as Executive Director from 1996 until 2012, when he was hired, passed away last week in Falmouth. Virginia was the consummate professional. Anyone who had the opportunity to work with her would agree that she had such a pleasant demeanor. She was always able to find consensus among people. Much of the District's success is owed to work of Virginia and Hank Van Laarhoven (the previous Operations Manager at the District). Our thoughts are with her family, her husband, and her daughters at this time.

The Committee discussed donating in memory of Mrs. Valiela. The board agreed to a donation not to exceed \$500.00 towards the purchase of an item (possible park bench) in her memory.

Mr. Alfonse noted that there have not been any arrangements made to date. He also noted that she was involved in the committee in Falmouth to preserve open space. Ms. LeBlanc noted that since Mrs. Valiela was involved with open space maybe they had an educational organization and funds could be used for educational purpose.

Motion to allow the Executive Director to check in with John Beauregard and ratify whatever they decided at the next meeting. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Alfonse proceeded to review the memo.

Mr. Beauregard noted the problems in the insurance market.

Mr. Alfonse noted that audit process requires a tremendous amount of work in such a short period of time, and he expressed his appreciation for all the work Mrs. Cammarata does during the audit time.

8. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next District Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. Location to be determined.

9. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.

Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, not in attendance.

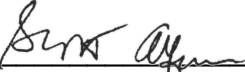
Motion passed 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m. on May 25, 2021.

MEMOS

- 6a. COVID update dated 5/21/2021
- 6b. Solid Waste Planning Services dated 5/21/2021
- 6c. Commercial and Municipal Disposal Agreement Update dated 5/21/2021
- 7a. Contract Extensions for Security Services, Environmental Monitoring Services & Various Materials dated 5/21/2021
- 7b. FY 2021 Budget Amendment dated 5/21/2021
- 7c. Director's Report dated 5/21/2021

Approved by vote of District Committee on 7/15/2021.



Scott Alfonse, Executive Director