

## GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021

#### 1. Call to order.

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, January 14, 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 (not in attendance), 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.

There were not any members of the public present at the meeting location where the public meeting notice was posted.

#### 2. Legal notice

**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, (not in attendance)**  
**Christine LeBlanc, yes**  
**Ken Blanchard, yes**  
**Michael Gagne, yes**

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

4. Warrant Report and Ratification – Warrant dated December 22, 2020.

**Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to ratify warrant dated December 22, 2020. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, (not in attendance).**

**Motion passed 4 - 0.**

5. New Business

a. Presentation of FY 2022 Budget

**Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion that to discuss the FY 2022 budget. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Gagne. Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, (not in attendance).**

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the draft FY 2022 budget and the memo that described key components / changes to the draft FY 2022 budget.

Mr. Gagne referred to the “revenue” spreadsheet and questioned why there was a big increase in the FY 18 revenue from budget and actual. Mr. Alfonse noted that commercial haulers contract terms were not clear as to whether tonnage limits were minimums or maximums. Revenue projections assumed these were maximum tonnages. However, customers delivered more than the tonnage limits. The language was changed in later contracts so that customers cannot exceed their maximum tonnage.

Mr. Beauregard mentioned that going forward, the goal of the District is to try to eliminate some of the revenue from outside haulers and extend the life of the landfill for New Bedford and Dartmouth.

Mr. Alfonse referred to the “salaries and wages” section and discussed the proposed adjustments. He noted that although most positions currently align with salaries for similar positions in the city and town, the District may want to evaluate duties and compensation. Mr. Gagne noted changes in the market in the last few years, and skilled labor is difficult to obtain. He encouraged some analysis because skilled workforce is a value to the District.

Mr. Beauregard noted that during the Budget Subcommittee, there was discussion about where the management team is going to be in the next few years. He noted that the District should start looking at positioning District personnel for the next phase or position.

Mr. Gagne also noted that skilled management positions are even harder to fill. He believes Mr. Alfonse is headed in the right direction by obtaining the data and keeping it current.

Mr. Alfonse noted that there was a request to evaluate salary and duties of one position, so it is a timely issue for the board to resolve.

Mr. Alfonse referred to “computer training / service” and noted the plan to upgrade the District’s financial software.

Mr. Alfonse noted that during the Personnel Subcommittee meeting, it was recommended that the District consider offering life insurance policy to its employees. He asked members if the life insurance was to be offered to the District retirees (currently five). Mr. Gagne noted that most municipalities provide a \$12,000 policy for active employees, and a \$5,000 policy for retirees. Mr. Alfonse noted that the District provided life insurance to an employee up to 2013, but he is unsure what led to the decision to drop it. No further discussion.

Mr. Gagne asked if the District received any CARES assistance for the current fiscal year. He noted that the District should be entitled to some assistance and asked Attorney Thomas to comment on the issue.

Mr. Alfonse said that the District tracked expenses but understood that it was not eligible.

Attorney Thomas noted that the District could pursue it through New Bedford and Dartmouth, as long as the District has been tracking it. He will follow up with Mr. Alfonse to discuss further options.

Mr. Alfonse referred to “building repairs & maintenance” and noted that funds were included to remove the large barn. Although staff could demolish it, it would have to be hauled off for disposal because it contains wood, which cannot be landfilled. Ms.

LeBlanc asked if the material could be reused and/or recycled. Mr. Alfonse said that some structural timbers, posting beams and other material had salvage value.

Mr. Alfonse referred to “leachate & landfill gas”. He stated that it is difficult to know when the next set of horizontal pipes will have to be installed because it is driven by elevation. It’s difficult to predict what elevation will be a year and half from now. While the budgeted amount may be sufficient, there may a need to revisit this line item before the end of FY 22.

Mr. Blanchard referred to “Crapo Hill site maintenance”. He noted the line item amount for FY 20 and FY 21 varied. Mr. Alfonse explained the variance is due to inclusion of \$50,000 for a new landfill scale in the FY21 budget. Mr. Blanchard asked if the amount should be under the “equipment” replacement. Mr. Alfonse said he will check with the Mrs. Cammarata, the Accountant to clarify if amount should be moved.

Mr. Blanchard referred to “fuel, oil & lube oil” and questioned if the District paid sales tax on the fuel. Mr. Alfonse noted that the District pays taxes only if it uses the equipment on the road.

Mr. Alfonse noted a slight reduction in the proposed budget from FY 21 to FY 22. The District is trying to reduce the amount of solid waste into the landfill, which results in reduced revenue.

**Motion to adopt the FY 2022 as presented by the Executive Director made Mr. Gagne, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, (not in attendance).**

**Motion passed 4 – 0.**

6. Set Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Alfonse noted that the District typically meets with Bartholomew & Co. in February. However, Commonwealth New Bedford Energy submitted an inquiry regarding the proposed expansion of their Anaerobic Digester facility in July 2020 and would like the opportunity to address the committee. Bartholomew & Co. will be scheduled for March to talk about investments.

**Next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.**

7. Adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

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

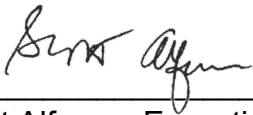
Motion passed 4 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m. on January 14, 2021.

## MEMO

5a. DRAFT FY 2022 Budget dated 1/7/2021

Approved by vote of District Committee on Thursday, February 18, 2021.



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Scott Alfonse, Executive Director