

**WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT
POLICY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2018 MEETING
9:00 A.M.**

The Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held on April 11, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Michael Milone, Cheshire Public Works Director; Bob Bass, Public Works Director, City of Meriden; Policy Board Chairman Michael Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven; William Dickinson, Jr., Mayor of Wallingford; Brendan Sharkey, Legal Counsel, Town of Hamden; Deborah Moore, Legal Counsel, City of Meriden (part); Janis Small, Town Attorney, Town of Wallingford (part).

Others in attendance were: Mark Bobman, Executive Director; Joe Vitale and Mary Ruder, Covanta; Ed Spinella, USA Waste & Recycling; Kim Larochelle-Pulcinella, Tony's Trucking; Bob Gross, and Evan Siebert, UCONN.

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Michael Freda, and members of the Policy Board introduced themselves.

I. Approval of March 6, 2018 WRSWP Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bass made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mayor Dickinson, the motion passed unanimously.

II. Project Update - Covanta Wallingford Transfer Station

- a. Report on Waste Volumes and Plant Operations – Ms. Ruder reported on waste volumes, year over year about 12% noting increases are definitely due to commercial volume.
- b. Violation notices – last quarter we had 3 violation notices for CWPM commercial in January (cardboard), in February AJ Waste the origin was misrepresented (commercial) listed as Wallingford but should be North Haven, All American (excessive paper and cardboard), in February AJ Waste (cardboard and plastic); we had our 3rd party inspection, there were no fails and Ms. Ruder will send a copy to Mr. Bobman.
- c. Permit status – Ms. Ruder said we are proceeding with regulatory process, Covanta provided comments on March 31, we received letters from the Town of Wallingford and we have a meeting on the 17th and we will address those, and status confer with DEEP on April 20th, our goal is to resolve any issues that the Town of Wallingford has with the comments that the Town of Wallingford submitted.
- d. Status of commercial waste deliveries – Ms. Ruder said the increase in volume is definitely commercial waste.
- e. Other Matters pertaining to the Project – Ms. Ruder said the new radiation monitor was replaced and installed last January, only one exceedance occurred (Town of North Haven). She continued, Bristol bypass in March was due to Bristol being down for an extended period of time, which is in the reports

provided to Mr. Bobman. XPO continues to be an issue with litter, and Ms. Ruder recommended someone be retained to pick up litter from their property so that waste isn't blowing all over the street, Covanta sweeps it constantly and she reached out to XPO to place more receptacles in the parking lot. She said that Public Works was sweeping South Cherry Street once a week but has not done it for over a year.

- III. **April 20 DEEP Prehearing Directive & Notice of Status Conference** – Ms. Ruder addressed this under Item II.c.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board did not convene in Executive Session, and Items IV and V were not discussed.

- IV. **Executive Session: pursuant to CGS §1-225(f), §1-200(6)(E) and §1-210(b)(1) regarding the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement (if necessary)**
- V. **Discussion of Confidentiality Agreement pursuant to CGS §1-225(f), §1-200(6)(E) and §1-210(b)(1) (if necessary) Contractual Matters – Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Contract**

PUBLIC SESSION

- VI. **Motions/votes pertaining to matters discussed in Executive Session**
The Board did not convene in Executive Session.
- VII. **Technical assistance related to Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement – Request for Proposals** – Mr. Bobman said this was discussed at the January and March meetings and the idea was to bring in a consultant to assist with the evaluation of whether or not to extend the MSW disposal agreement with a notification deadline of June 2019. Mr. Bobman continued, the work scope includes an evaluation of options, in addition to look at what is called the Local Market Average; a consultant worked on this in 2015 to examine prices at various facilities in Connecticut and the parties are to reach consensus on tip fees at similar types of facilities with a reset date for the Local Market Average in 2020. He said the timing for evaluation of the extension works well with a look at that Local Market Average. He stated 15 firms registered, with one request for a minor clarification and one phone call. Mr. Bobman expressed appreciation for assistance from Wallingford's Purchasing Agent Sal Amadeo and was able to post the documents on the web portal and it saved a lot of time and seemed to work very well.

Mayor Dickinson asked about the procedure for technical assistance and whether there will be interviews, will the Committee deal with it, and what is the basis of the award. Mr. Bobman responded the tentative interview date is scheduled for May 8, Lou Zullo from Cheshire and Bob Bass have agreed to participate and assist with the evaluation and interviews. Mr. Bobman said Item VII.a refers to a Special Meeting, provided we have agreement on the evaluation and recommendations, he anticipates a meeting to make the award. Mr. Bobman explained each community will get a copy of all the

proposals. Mr. Freda said he is fine with this, and asked whether the Board wants Mr. Bass and Mr. Zullo to narrow it down to 3 or to recommend one. Mr. Bobman said when we conduct interviews it would be expeditious to short list 3 firms, bids are due April 24, by May 8, we would reach agreement on the top 3 and recommend one. If the Policy Board conducts the interviews, we would have to notice a Special Meeting. Mr. Freda said he is fine with Mr. Bass and Mr. Zullo doing the interviews. Mr. Milone said he'd really like the Board to review the 3 firms, and wants to allow the Board to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the 3 firms so we have a confidence level in the selection, and have the Committee explain what rationale you used to get from whatever number of firms, how you arrived at 3 firms.

Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Sharkey if he believes the Policy Board interviews can occur in Executive Session, and Mr. Sharkey responded deliberations on qualifications can be done by a Committee, but it can be in open session with a recommendation on the preferred selection of 1 of the 3 firms. Mayor Dickinson stated before we make a decision, we are discussing pricing and qualifications of the 3 firms which should be done in Executive Session depending upon what you will be saying, we will need an answer on that under FOI.

Mr. Milone said in rethinking this, he'd like to be able to evaluate each of the 3 firms, and wants to have the Board conduct a substantive conversation with these firms, and why the Committee short listed the 3 firms. Mr. Milone explained he is thinking about this in terms of how we would make a selection for a position, the chief executive would interview the most qualified candidates and make a decision. Mayor Dickinson said based on Mr. Milone's suggestion, the Committee would narrow down the number to 3 firms and the Board would interview all 3.

Mr. Freda proposed a motion to have the Committee of Mr. Bass and Mr. Zullo narrow down 15 applicants and proposals to 3, and the Policy Board will interview the 3 firms recommended by the Committee in Executive Session, seconded by Mayor Dickinson, and Mr. Freda asked if there is any other discussion. Mr. Bass proposed an amendment to the motion to reflect the Committee will narrow down the proposals from whatever number, because we don't know the number that will be received, to 3 proposals, and Mr. Freda restated the motion: the Committee of Mr. Bass and Mr. Zullo will narrow down the proposals to 3 firms, and the Policy Board will interview those 3 firms recommended by the Committee, seconded by Mr. Milone. Mr. Freda asked if there is any other discussion, Mr. Bobman responded the scheduling could be tight, we will adhere to the May 8 scheduled date for evaluations and prepare the recommendation to narrow down the number to 3 firms, so he will be reaching out to the members to confirm we have dates and times the Board can meet and the consultants will be available. Mr. Milone asked what is the award date, Mr. Bobman replied tentatively May 15 and Mr. Milone said that may be unrealistic, so you may need more time. Mr. Bobman replied the award date is posted as tentative and since he is away the week of May 20, and the following weekend is Memorial Day, Mr. Milone is correct.

Mr. Freda called for a vote on the amendment and the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the amended motion.

- VIII. **Executive Director's Report** – Regarding legislation, Mr. Bobman reported he met with Senator Kennedy to discuss bottle redemption, Mary Mushinsky sponsored a bill in the Environment Committee intended to increase payments to redemption centers, currently there are no redemption facilities in Fairfield County, the local facility in Wallingford recently changed ownership and they are now taking Coca Cola products resolving a dispute with former management. Mr. Bobman said the language in the Environment Committee bill was amended to change the reimbursement from 5¢ to 4¢ per container, Representative Mushinsky voted against the bill, and the redemption program has a number of problems; by and large glass is a contaminant for the recycling facilities, there is no market for glass and the plants have to pay to get rid of it, and glass contaminates the other products. Mr. Bobman continued, Connecticut is not keeping pace with other bottle bill states, which have been more progressive. He said states like Oregon have increased the deposit fee and provided more locations for the public, Connecticut legislators cannot seem to reach agreement on how best to manage the glass problem. Mr. Bobman said last year Senator Miner as Co-Chair of the Environment Committee submitted a bill to do away with the redemption program, and we'll continue to live with uncertainty and the demise of the redemption centers, which raises a problem for the distributors and grocery stores because they abhor this program and would like to use their real estate for selling merchandise, with significant manual labor involved and it is not user friendly for the public.

Mr. Bobman said there are a number of items pending on the permit issue, the proposed sale of the transfer station, there is information to be made available by Covanta, Mr. Bobman noted Ms. Ruder referred to the prehearing status conference with DEEP, and he stated any information that flows out of these developments will be disseminated to the members.

- IX. **Tonnage Report** – Mr. Bobman said with respect to Ms. Ruder's comments about tonnage, two communities showing double digit increases in residential waste and only one showing a decrease, he stated it is uncertain whether this is indicative of a decrease in recycling. Generally when people see an increase in tonnage they often perceive it as a decrease in recycling but it is difficult to make an apples to apples comparison. Mayor Dickinson inquired whether Ms. Ruder indicated an increase of 12% for Wallingford, Ms. Ruder responded quarterly results year over year increased by 13.2%. Mr. Vitale said volume trends are related to the market, a couple things have happened, Bristol has been down since the first week of March, unprecedented outage time, Bridgeport is down. Hartford was down for an extended period of time, MIRA has raised their rates. Mr. Vitale said in his estimation it is related to market conditions and not recycling. Mayor Dickinson questioned Mr. Bobman's figure of 24.9% and asked Ms. Ruder whether her figures agreed with this and she responded affirmatively. Mr. Freda asked whether this reflects 9 months and Ms. Ruder responded yes and her figures reconcile with Mr. Bobman's report however we have a different method of presenting the

results. Mr. Freda said if we extrapolate this to 12 months we're at 60,000 tons. Mr. Bobman noted that Ms. Ruder mentioned the Bristol outage and thankfully, Mr. Vitale helped Bristol with a real problem with an extended outage with both boilers down, about 250 tons came to Wallingford from Bristol with one unit scheduled to return to service on April 17. Mr. Vitale corrected this, one unit is up now and one unit will come up hopefully April 24.

X. **Next Meeting – June 20, 2018**

Mr. Freda said our next regular Policy Board meeting is June 20 and inquired about the reserve fund, Mr. Bobman responded the current CD investment is for 2 months so maturity will occur the end of April.

XI. **Adjourn**

Mr. Freda called for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Bass made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Dickinson and the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Mark Bobman, Executive Director
April 13, 2018