

WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT POLICY BOARD

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2019 MEETING

The Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held on February 5, 2019. Present at the meeting were: Sean Kimball, Town Manager, Town of Cheshire by teleconference; Brendan Sharkey, Counsel for the Town of Hamden as proxy for Mayor Leng; Policy Board Chairman Michael Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven; and Janis Small, Town Attorney of Wallingford as proxy for Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.

Others in attendance were: Mark Bobman, Executive Director; Mary Ruder, Covanta; Joe Vitale, Covanta; Taylor Pratcher, UCONN; Ed Spinella, All American Waste; and Lauren Takores, Record Journal.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman Michael Freda in Room 315, Wallingford Town Hall.

- I. A motion was made by Mr. Kimball, seconded by Attorney Small to approve the Minutes of the June 20, 2018 WRSWP Policy Board Meeting, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- II. A motion was made by Mr. Kimball, seconded by Attorney Small to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2018 WRSWP Policy Board Meeting, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- III. A motion was made by Mr. Kimball, seconded by Attorney Small to authorize payment to the Consulting Engineering, HDR, in the amount of \$19,964.50 paid from the WRSWP Interlocal account #650 (balance of approximately \$2.08 million remaining), for professional services related to the Contract Extension option, and further to authorize the Executive Director to submit to the Town of Wallingford Finance Department such invoices for payment pursuant to the consulting services agreement executed in July 2018. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Ms. Pratcher to participate was made by Mr. Kimball, seconded by Attorney Small, and the motion was unanimously approved. Chairman Freda clarified that this is to discuss the MSW disposal agreement with Covanta and the July 2018 communication regarding the sale of the transfer station and assignment of the agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- IV. **Pursuant to CGS §1-225(f), §1-200(6)(E) and §1-210(b)(1) regarding the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement and Covanta’s July 23, 2018 communication regarding the sale of the Transfer Station and assignment of the Municipal Solid Waste Agreement**

There no motions or votes during the Executive Session, and a motion to resume Public Session was made by Attorney Small and seconded by Attorney Sharkey. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SESSION

- V. **There were no motions related to items discussed in Executive Session**

- VI. **There were no comments from the Public**

- VII. **Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

Mr. Bobman stated the Budget was presented as the January 16, 2019 Meeting, and the consensus at that time was to present this at the next meeting of the Policy Board. He continued, the Bristol Policy Board voted to approve their budget with the assumption that WRSWP would agree to extend the Professional Services Agreement as shown. A motion to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 WRSWP Budget was made by Chairman Freda, seconded by Attorney Sharkey, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- VIII. **Policy Board Bylaws**

Mr. Bobman explained that the draft of the amended bylaws was included with distribution of the meeting materials, and reflect minor changes to the original document. Those changes include reference to the two amendments, allowance for a member to appoint a proxy by telephone or email. A motion was made by Chairman Freda, seconded by Attorney Sharkey to approve the amended bylaws as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- IX. **Draft letter to DEEP and proposed legislation related to waste and recycling**

Mr. Bobman introduced the topic, stating DEEP held a meeting on January 22 at which they discussed enforcement action against cities and towns, related to the Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy, or solid waste management plan, referencing a draft letter included in the meeting packet. He continued, a letter sent to chief executive officers on January 7 requested information on municipal efforts to reduce waste by introducing methods such as pay-as-you-throw, food waste composting. Mr. Bobman said this was a heavy handed approach, and he questioned whether DEEP has the authority to enforce anything in the CMMS. He stated, the document is not a statute or a regulation. Mr. Bobman said one of the Bristol Board

members objected to sending the letter, with the consideration DEEP might take offense. Attorney Sharkey mentioned the Commissioner designate is up for confirmation this morning, and he believes the new administration is doing a wholesale review of what was done under the Klee administration. He continued, policies in place under the old guard are not necessarily what the new administration will pursue, and he sees no harm in sending the letter. The general consensus of the Policy Board was to proceed and issue the letter, with an invitation to meet and discuss these topics. Mr. Bobman responded, he already scheduled a meeting with municipal representatives, and DEEP agreed to send a representative. Chairman Freda suggested including in the letter, that we extend an invitation to the Commissioner designate Katie Dykes to attend the meeting.

Mr. Bobman requested, through the Chair, to invite Mr. Spinella to speak. Mr. Spinella said he agrees the solid waste management plan is not a statute or a regulation but referred to Section 22a-220 (j). Mr. Spinella gave a brief summary of the statute, he commented the statute is not well written and is confusing. Further, he stated four of the poorest cities in the United States and located in Connecticut have low recycling rates, which drags down the entire state. He referred to the DEEP's consultant study (Skumatz) which recommended each town examine what is in the MSW that can practically and economically be recycled. Chairman Freda commented the cities should understand, and with the cost today, there is a financial savings to facilitate recycling. Mr. Spinella agreed.

X. **WRSWP Reserves**

Chairman Freda stated we made a decision to invest conservatively and maintain liquidity, and asked whether the Board should examine options to maintain liquidity and bump the rates up. Chairman Freda requested a motion to examine alternate forms of investment, to maintain liquidity but also increase the rate of return. Attorney Sharkey made the motion, seconded by Attorney Small to direct the Executive Director to investigate this option, and the motion was unanimously approved.

XI. **Adjourn**

A motion by was made by Attorney Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Kimball to adjourn, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Bobman, Executive Director
February 11, 2019