

WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT POLICY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2018 MEETING

The Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held on November 8, 2018. Present at the meeting were: Sean Kimball , Town Manager, Town of Cheshire; Tim Coon, City Manager, City of Meriden; Policy Board Chairman Michael Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven; Janis Small, Town Attorney of Wallingford as proxy for Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.

Others in attendance were: Mark Bobman, Executive Director; Brendan Sharkey, Attorney for the Town of Hamden; Mary Ruder, Covanta; Joe Vitale, Covanta; Taylor Pratcher, UCONN; and Bob Norton, All Waste.

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Chairman Michael Freda in Room 315, Wallingford Town Hall.

I. **Motion to authorize Executive Director to review and approve preliminary draft report prepared by Consulting Engineering Firm (HDR)**

Mr. Bobman suggested this item be taken up after the Executive Session. Mr. Kimball made a motion, seconded by Mr. Coon to move Agenda Item 1 to follow the Executive Session, and the motion was unanimously approved.

II. **Project Update - Covanta Wallingford Transfer Station**

Ms. Ruder representing Covanta stated waste volume slowed down a couple weeks ago, we all know the current situation related to outages, and then volume came back up; last year third quarter vs. this year tonnage is down about 1%, so volumes are steady. Ms. Ruder noted Covanta continues to use Preston for most of our disposal is sending waste through Winters Brothers; Lisbon has been in an outage and is not an option for disposal. She continued, the third-party waste inspection was done on October 30, and will send Mr. Bobman the report once it is finalized and he can share this with the board. Ms. Ruder said Covanta had one fail during that third-party inspection and it was Tony's Trucking which had 50% recyclables (mixed paper and cardboard), and the company was made aware of that; Covanta continues to be diligent on the inspections to ensure that the recyclables aren't making it into the waste stream and one letter was sent out for the third quarter so it's pretty good. She continued, Covanta did a little bit of grading out in the back driveway to prepare to winter, adding gravel and graded the road. Safety continues to be Covanta's main focus on the site and reinforcing that with all the haulers: they need to slow down, they need to pay attention; Covanta has increased the number of inspections daily to ensure no recyclables get into the waste stream. Ms. Ruder said the permit has been issued a certified copy was received and was forwarded to Mr. Bobman. Ms. Ruder noted commercial waste deliveries in the past two months average about 300 tons per month and most of that is coming from Wallingford through CWPM. She asked whether there are questions.

Chairman Freda asked Covanta representatives about single stream recycling, and an opinion as to how Covanta sees that unfolding in 2019, and whether it is expected to get worse. Mr. Vitale responded, he does not foresee that it's going to get better, Covanta does not deal that much with the markets and from what the company is hearing, the costs are going through the roof with MRF sites charging \$60-\$70 a ton and it's actually more expensive than the MSW tip fee. Mr. Vitale indicated nothing in the foreseeable future will bring that number down. Chairman Freda said this creates a problem for the municipality, because before we were getting paid for that and now, the town is paying and that is going to continue to grow.

Chairman Freda then said that before going into executive session, he asked for introductions, noting Brendan Sharkey was in the audience, he was the former Speaker of the House and currently legal advisor for the Town of Hamden. Chairman Freda asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session, Mr. Coon made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Kimball and the motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- III. **Pursuant to CGS §1-225(f), §1-200(6)(E) and §1-210(b)(1), Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement**
- IV. **Pursuant to CGS §1-210(b)(1), HDR Draft Report – Contract Extension and Alternative Options Evaluation**

PUBLIC SESSION

- V. **Matters discussed in Executive Session**
The consensus of the Policy Board regarding Item IV was to wait until HDR submits its invoice and include this on the January meeting agenda. No action was taken with respect to Item III.
- VI. **Executive Director's Report**
Mr. Bobman discussed his visit to the Covanta Dublin waste to energy facility, noting this is state of the art technology, with all but the stack and scale under cover, and the architectural design provided by a Danish firm with a sloped roof to collect rainwater for boiler makeup. Mr. Bobman also referred to the partnership with the Australian firm Macquarie Group.
- VII. **October 2018 Northeast Recycling Council conference**
Mr. Bobman gave a brief summary of key presentations at the October 29-30 conference held in Rocky Hill, noting hazards associated with Lithium batteries used to power everything from hearing aids to power tools; and collapse of export markets and costs for recycling. He then distributed a handout on Lithium battery safety issues.

VIII. **WRSWP Reserves**

Mr. Bobman distributed copies of the most recent statement, including amounts attributed to the members towns. Chairman Freda briefly explained the arrangement for allocating reserves for the benefit of Mr. Kimball and Mr. Coon, and pointed out their share of the total \$2.07 million reserve fund.

IX. **Calendar Year 2019 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Bobman apologized for the absence of the proposed schedule in the meeting packet and referenced the dates. A motion by was made by Mr. Coon, seconded by Mr. Kimball to approve the Schedule as proposed, and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Bobman said he will distribute the Calendar Year 2019 Meeting Schedule.

X. **Adjourn**

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

Mark Bobman, Executive Director
November 13, 2018