

**GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Minutes August 12, 2019

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Monday, August 12, 2019 at 8:00 AM** at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 305, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

**District Committee Members in attendance:** John Beauregard, Chairperson; Daniel Patten, Christine LeBlanc, Ken Blanchard. Kathleen Towers was not in attendance.

**Also present:** Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Cynthia Cammarata, Secretary; Attorney Matthew J. Thomas, District Counsel.

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

**2. Salute to the Flag**

All in attendance stood to salute the flag.

**3. Legal notices**

Mr. Beauregard read the notice advising the Board that the meeting may be recorded by audio and/or video, and noted that the legal notices of the meeting were posted more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**4. Warrants Reports and Ratification - (June 26, July 3 and July 17, 2019)**

**Motion to receive reports and ratify warrants dated June 26, July 3 and July 17, 2019 made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Voted 4-0.**

**5. Approval of Minutes June 19, 2019**

**Motion to approve minutes of June 19, 2019 made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc, Voted 4-0.**

**6. New Business**

- a. Award Contract for installation of Cell 5 landfill gas wells

Mr. Alfonse explained that the bid came in at \$41,580 (lower than the \$50,000 threshold established by District policy); therefore this contract doesn't require a Committee vote.

- b. Discuss request from Town of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury

**Motion to discuss request from Towns of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse and Attorney Thomas met with town managers and attorneys from Oak Bluffs and

Tisbury to discuss the status of payment. The contract between the towns and Bruno's stipulates that all of the trash that goes to that transfer station must be delivered to Crapo Hill (although the contract between the District and the towns don't allow this). Waste haulers from other towns on the island also use that transfer station. Because of the language in their contract with Bruno's, Tisbury and Oak Bluffs will be responsible for paying the difference. They have requested that the charges be reduced from \$28,385.30 to \$15,000. Mr. Alfonse referred to the tables in the packet illustrating different scenarios, and the group discussed what the District should charge. Mr. Patten suggested charging \$18,523.84 based on the table which includes June and July where tonnage was down. After discussion, and in the spirit to resolve the issue, the Board agreed.

**Motion to take into account the tonnage for June and July and credit it against the outstanding balance, thereby reducing it to \$18,523.84 made by Mr. Blanchard, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Voted 4-0.**

- c. Discuss "slow pay" customer policy

**Motion to discuss a "slow pay" customer policy made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Alfonse noted that the new District policy to turn away customers over thirty days is working very well. However, there remains a customer who continually goes over 30 days before paying. After a discussion, the Board recommended drawing up contracts for all Customers. Mr. Beauregard pointed out that for the District to be a party on the Certificate of Insurance, there must be a signed written contract for it to be effective. The Board discussed drawing up a contract for all customers who do not already have written contracts with standard terms and conditions. The terms would include that if a customer is late twice in one calendar year they will need to pay in advance. Chairman Beauregard pointed out that no vote is needed at this time.

- d. Discuss purchasing a new zero turn mower

**Motion to discuss purchasing a new zero-turn mower made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Alfonse explained that the District owns a twenty year old zero turn mower; Mr. Peckham recommends purchasing a new diesel mower. This item was not included in the 2019 budget. Mr. Alfonse recommends that the Board vote to transfer up to \$15,000 from the Equipment Replacement Reserve for this purpose.

**Motion to transfer an amount not to exceed \$15,000 from the Equipment Replacement Reserve for the purchase of a new 72" diesel zero degree turn mower made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Voted 4-0.**

- e. Consider request to purchase land owned by District

**Motion to consider the request to purchase land owned by the District by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse referred to a map, and informed the Board that Jeff and Gregg DeTerra purchased a parcel of land which they have subdivided into two house lots. The 49-acre property abuts District property. They would like to purchase some land in order to distance the houses. They run an excavating business out of another property. Mr. Alfonse told them that the reason that the District purchases land is to prevent the encroachment of residences around the landfill; there are sometimes odors associated with it. However, their response is that regardless of the

decision of the District, they will be building two “forever” homes. The Board discussed various considerations including the abutting Hawes property, forestry roll-back, potential use for, and access to the property. Attorney Thomas recommended in order to protect the District’s property in the future, that the District consider requesting a 20-foot wide easement written into the deed in order to access District property. Mr. Alfonse noted that if the purchase price of the property were under \$35,000, the District wouldn’t be required to advertise under 30B. Mr. Beauregard recommended advertising even if the District doesn’t have to; all agreed. Mr. Alfonse and Attorney Thomas will develop conditions to include in an RFP and bring it back to the Board.

- f. Discuss District Committee officers

**Motion to discuss status of District Committee officers made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse told the Board that the District has received the letter of resignation of the Board’s Vice-Chairperson, Nathalie Dias. It is not a requirement of state law or the District Agreement to elect a Vice Chairperson. However, in the event that the Chairmen were absent it would be in the best interest to establish a policy addressing the issue.

The District is required to nominate a Chairman of the Board annually. The Treasurer/Secretary does not need to be appointed annually.

**Ms. LeBlanc nominated Mr. Beauregard as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Patten. Voted 4-0.**

**Ms. LeBlanc made a motion that in the absence of the Chairperson, the meeting shall be run by the Treasurer/Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Blanchard, voted 4-0.**

- g. Items which could not have been reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

**Motion to discuss Director’s report made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Blanchard.**

Mr. Alfonse told the Board that the District received the Major Modification Permit for the Landfill Gas Collection System for Cells 5 and 6. He noted that the level of DEP oversight (after the retirement of an inspector) has gone up considerably. The Permit requires a qualified engineer to approve construction, and to delegate oversight to a QA/QC person in the event of his/her absence. As a result, there may be a large impact on the District’s engineering budgets. Mr. Alfonse will be looking for some clarification from DEP on this as well as some other areas of the permit.

Mr. Alfonse explained that the Freetown tax bill on a few lots has increased significantly. The District inquired about payment in lieu of tax agreement. Initially, Freetown said that the District was not eligible for a Pilot Agreement, but then sent tax bills that they say are based on what a payment in lieu of taxes would be. Attorney Thomas has spoken with Mike Mello and will follow up in order for them to use the preceding three-year assessment for the basis.

Mr. Alfonse noted that the Mayflower Municipal Health Group ended the fiscal year with a funding surplus, therefore we don’t anticipate a major increase in health insurance.

Mr. Blanchard asked about the potential for future permits to only allow for disposal of waste processed to less than 3”. Mr. Alfonse explained that that requirement would require extensive grinding of all waste and would be nearly impossible.

**7. Set Date for Next Meeting**

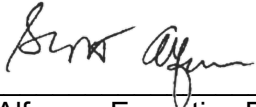
The Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

**8. Adjourn**

**Chairperson Beauregard asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Vote 4-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.**

Approved by vote of District Committee on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.



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Scott Alfonse, Executive Director