

## **WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT POLICY BOARD**

### **Minutes of the February 28, 2020 Special Meeting**

The Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held on February 28, 2020. Present at the meeting were: Attorney Al Smith, Jr., Counsel for the Town of Cheshire as proxy for Sean Kimball; Brendan Sharkey, Counsel for the Town of Hamden as proxy for Mayor Leng; Tim Coon, City Manager, City of Meriden; Policy Board Chairman Michael Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven; and Mayor William Dickinson, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Wallingford.

Others in attendance were: Mark Bobman, Executive Director; Janis Small, Attorney for the Town of Wallingford; Rob Beltramaitis, Public Works Director, Town of Wallingford; Ed Spinella and Robert Norton, Jr., All Waste; Ralph Holyst, HQ Dumpsters; Chris Koehler and Annette Scotto, HDR Engineering, and Attorney Joseph Coppola representing Country Disposal Services.

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Chairman Michael Freda, who requested introductions.

- I. A motion was made by Mayor Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Coon to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2020 WRSWP Policy Board Meeting, and the motion was unanimously approved.
  
- II. **January 27, 2020 MIRA communication re: Statement of Intent** – Mr. Bobman stated that he attended the January 8 MIRA presentation at the Capitol at which MIRA President Tom Kirk described a proposal to upgrade the Hartford waste to energy and recycling facilities, and perform capital improvements totaling \$330 million with bond funds; further that the projected tip fee would be \$145 per ton and Mr. Kirk indicated municipalities would be asked to submit a Statement of Intent followed by a new 30-year Municipal Services Agreement signed by June. Mr. Bobman continued, on January 27 MIRA sent a letter which included the Statement of Intent questionnaire, speculation is not enough communities will sign the Agreement and preliminary discussions are under way to examine alternatives. Mr. Bobman noted the Mayor of Hartford is opposed to the projected improvements. Mr. Freda inquired where communities would go, and Mr. Bobman responded while MIRA was in their extended outage, 6,000 tons per week left the project and the likely scenario is significant amounts of waste will be exported.  
  
Mr. Freda commented that many of the municipalities have raised objections, and this will result in much higher tip fees. Mr. Bobman said either way, even if MIRA was able to obtain bond funds, MIRA President Tom Kirk said in the best of worlds if they got everything they want the tip fee would be \$95 per ton in 2025. Mr. Bobman said the communities he represents indicated they would not respond to MIRA's letter.
  
- III. A motion was made by Mayor Dickinson, seconded by to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-210(b)(1) and Section 1-200(6)(E) to discuss the Local Market Average update, and pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(B) to discuss Dispute Resolution as stipulated in the Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement; HDR representatives and Attorney Small were asked to attend. The motion was unanimously approved., and

Mr. Koehler and Ms. Scotto departed the meeting following discussion of the Local Market Average., and a motion to resume the meeting in Public Session was made by Mayor Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Coon and unanimously approved.

- IV. **Motions and votes on matters discussed under Item III** – No motions or actions were taken in Executive Session.
- V. **Board Communications** – Mr. Freda indicated there are no matters to discuss under this item.
- VI. **Professional Services Agreement with Bristol Policy Board**  
Chairman Freda stated there is nothing to discuss at this time.
- VII. **Legislative activity related to waste and recycling** – Mr. Bobman stated the Governor’s Bill SB 11 is intended to authorize DEEP to issue solicitations for solid waste management facilities and establish a pound per capita goal. As proposed, this ties to the pay-as-you-throw initiative, which . Mr. Spinella said the 40% seems awfully aggressive, and he attended a MIRA meeting at which the Board indicated it will try to determine if the description is accurate and takes into account factors such as bulky waste generation and appliances, and MIRA will conduct an in-depth review. Also the Board raised concerns the program may be unfair for the elderly and less privileged. Chairman Freda said from all of the state-wide meetings he has attended there is not one municipality that is interested in pay-as-you-throw from what he has seen. Mr. Spinella stated DEEP’s Chris Nelson is promoting state-wide pay-as-you-throw so the municipalities will not have to encounter political opposition, otherwise adopt the program on a regional basis. Chairman Freda said the regional bodies have no interest.

Mr. Bobman reported another bill which would promote “multi-stream” recycling, possibly to eliminate single stream collection which is untenable because of the huge investment in automated collection. Chairman Freda posed the question that with recycling tip fees exceeding MSW tip fees, what does the dual stream collection accomplish? Mr. Bobman replied the theory is the material is cleaner, with theoretically higher value for the material, however he has heard industry representatives say the improvement is marginal. Mr. Smith asked whether this would move the needle on the market for recycled goods. Mr. Bobman responded it could move the need a bit, however the added value doesn’t justify the expense of converting to dual stream collection. Mr. Spinella said the industry doesn’t want drivers getting out the trucks for safety reasons, and the challenges are lack of enforcement, education and commitment. Mr. Bobman also mentioned resurrection of the bottle bill, difficult because the Speaker of the House is unsure about supporting substantive change.

Chairman Freda said wholesale liquor distributors have approached him as CCM's representative to advocate against the measure, it's going to cost millions of dollars to retrofit. Mr. Spinella said the containers would hurt the recycling facilities because of lost revenue and struggle to continue to operate. Mr. Sharkey said the state relies on the escheats revenue.

- VIII. Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Coon and the motion was unanimously approved.

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Mark Bobman, Executive Director  
March 5, 2020