

ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
 VIRTUAL MEETING
August 12, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present	J. Copanas, A. Bianchetti, L. Klosowski, D. Lawless, B. Page, R. Raman, J. Thomas, C. Dunham, S. Pasquale, J. Driscoll, T. Geiss, T. Glazier
Board Members Absent:	Y. Abdul Qadir
Also Present:	M. Cirino, D. Glance, M. Mokrzycki, A. Radin, K. Lawton, K. Spillane, R. Czerwiak, C. Alburnio, J. Gascon Esq.
Guests:	

The August 12, 2020, Virtual Board Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

J. Gascon gave the meeting protocols.

J. Copanas asked if there were any members of the public that would like to identify themselves and address the Board.

No one outside of the staff /Board was present.

Attendance of the Board was taken – quorum is present.

The July 8th meeting minutes were reviewed, moved by R. Raman, seconded by D. Lawless. Roll call was taken and approved as submitted.

D. Glance presented the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S** report. Copies of the report were distributed.

- The first budget workshop will be at 3:00pm Wednesday, August 19th.
- The recommendations from the Recycling 2021 Adhoc committee will be very helpful in forming OCRRA’s 2021 budget.
- Due to the pandemic compost levels will continue to be lower.
- OCRRA continues to optimize Rock Cut Road.
- In June the Average Blended Value (ABV) for materials in the Blue Bin was \$7.14 per ton.
- Recycling process cost do not change. To process one ton of recyclables costs approximately \$66.
- OCRRA has met with haulers and municipalities to discuss the possible upcoming changes to how recycling is handled.

The **TREASURER** report was presented by B. Page. Copies of the report were distributed.

This report reflects the June 2020 data.

- Numbers are up from last year, a little bit lower from the previous but on par with an average June.
- C&D is up.
- Electricity remains low. Approximately a cent and a half per kwh.
- Warmer weather has helped to bring electricity rates up a bit.
- Mattress fees are up approximately \$100,000.
- Repair and maintenance cost are up.
- Operating costs are at a positive \$10,000. This is not what was budgted, but considering the financial constraints caused by the pandemic, this is encouraging.

- Projected tip fees are only off approximately 3%.
- Recycling costs remain high.
- OCRRA projected a spending of a million from reserves. The Agency is a bit above that now. The goal will be to get below that.

R. Raman asked if the Agency had any plans in place to offset the negative balance in the budget.

B. Page responded, "So I think a lot of the red are certainly some long-term issues and obviously in our budget discussion we'll be getting into a fair bit of that. I know a lot of the costs, certainly with Personnel, we've been trying to hold down as much as possible. I think most of our discussions of purchasing, I think my sense in the committee's is that we are going through with more of a fine tooth comb to really try to be as conscientious as possible of where those expenditures are occurring but at the same time, you know having the recognition that we need to maintain a well operating system."

J. Copanas commented, "We are trying to curtail costs as best we can. We do have reserves and that's the purpose of the reserves is to use them in difficult times that you can anticipate. We couldn't anticipate when we put this budget together that we would be where we are today. So I think we're cautiously using our reserves when necessary and looking to cut expenses and I think that's what any organization would do in this circumstance."

D. Glance added, "There's only so much flexibility within the OCRRA budget. We're contractually obligated for a lot of the funds to go to the Waste-to-Energy plant. Public Education and Outreach is one of those cash flow pieces that we have a little bit more flexibility. So one of the first things we did was to hold spending levels, while ensuring the bare minimum such as maintaining website functionality. We've have not hired several positions. We left them open. We've reduced hours for residential access."

R. Raman asked if the maintenance costs for the shredder had gone up with the increase in mattresses coming in.

D. Glance responded, "We aren't processing the raggertail anymore. I think the maintenance and the use is a little less than it had been before. This shredder has extra armoring and some extra protection on it."

K. Spillane added, "The new machine is an all-electric machine. So it has a little bit more wherewithal than the other diesel shredder did. One of the materials that really took a beating on the machine over the time was the raggertail. So we only have a short window so far just shredding the mattresses and then we have some logs that come through in our construction debris that we've been doing. So I can't say for certain the long-term impact to our maintenance but it appears to be much less."

R. Raman asked what the forecasted spending was for education and outreach for the year.

D. Glance responded, "In the budget that the Board adopted for fiscal year 2020, you went back to a \$350,000 budget for education and outreach. We're limiting it to about \$100,000 and that's primarily for website functionality, and making sure that we're able to continue to get that basic correct information out to the public."

The **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** report was presented by R. Raman. Copies of the report were distributed.

The Administration committee met on July 28, 2020.

- The committee discussed the DEC violations.
 - D. Glance updated the Board. “One of the issues during the transition was that we had a very difficult time getting to Covanta because their outages were delayed and then our garbage levels in the system went up and we then were stretched both moving our staff over to Rock Cut Road and still needing the process material and Ley Creek. And so the material got a little backed up and it also happened to at probably the absolute worst week in OCRRA operations because it was right after the fourth of July. So on July 10th, the DEC showed up and did an inspection and wrote a notice of violation for having too much material there on that day.” OCRRA has used outside hauling to remediate the issue. OCRRA has been in close contact with the DEC and is awaiting their formal decision. “Cristina has done an amazing job documenting this through measuring it and I received a phenomenal photo right before this meeting that had pictures of a beautiful clean floor at Ley Creek.”
- The committee discussed the Juneteenth holiday.
 - The union has requested a floating holiday in recognition of this holiday.
 - The committee was split in agreement of moving the resolution to the Board for approval.
 - It was decided that the committee would bring the resolution/discussion to the Board and then decide if it would be formally submitted for Board approval.
 - R. Raman’s opinion, “We are the red and we’re going downhill. This means that this is one extra day that we’re giving away. That’s the only issue that I have as business owner. I have a problem with that. Not as an individual. I think it’s a great cause but as a business owner I have a problem.”
 - J. Copanas said, “Both the state the city and the county gave a day off in very short notice for people that work there as a holiday either as a floating holiday or the day itself. All we’re suggesting - it will have no precedent going forward. It will have to be a negotiated issue in future years, that this year because of the last-minute decision by the state the county and the city that OCRRA follow that path and allow our people to have a day off that has to be requested, can be approved by a supervisor and will not entail having to create overtime or closing down operations. It will have some impact on productivity but the operations is will go forward because people have to request this day off similar to any other occasion.”

A discussion followed.

The Administration committee agreed to take a roll call to determine if the resolution would be presented today to the full Board for approval.

Roll was taken – 10 aye, 2 nay, 0 abstain.

The resolution will be presented to the full Board for approval.

- The committee discussed the upcoming OCRRA budget workshops.
 - The first workshop will be on August 19th at 3:00pm.
 - M. Mokrzycki and the Agency staff are available anytime for any member that can’t attend the workshop.
 - The workshop will be recorded for those that are unable to attend.
- The committee discussed the Agency small contracts report.
 - The report listed several smaller purchase orders for contract hauling.

- The committee discussed the Murnane mediation.
 - Mediation is scheduled for the second week in September.

Resolution #2247 – Authorizing Executive Director to Offer a One Time Floating Holiday for Juenteenth 2020 was moved by D. Lawless and second by A. Bianchetti.

The resolution was adopted 10 ayes, 2 nays, 0 abstain.

R. Raman and T. Geiss voted nay. Both are of the opinion that OCRRA should wait until union negotiations and that the floating holiday is costly

Resolution #2248 – Amended Resolution Authorizing Agreement for Backup Contract Hauling Services was moved by R. Raman and second by L. Klosowski.

The resolution was adopted 11 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.

The **RECYCLING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** report was presented by L. Klosowski. Copies of the report were distributed.

The committee met on July 22, 2020.

- C. Alunio updated the committee on the RCR operations.
- Optimal efficiency is not be obtained with the current equipment being used.
- The committee discussed having a third party review the transfer operations.
- The committee discussed the DEC violations.
- The committee discussed additional contract hauling for material at Ley Creek.
- The committee discussed low compost levels.
- The committee discussed the blue bin program.

The **RECYCLIGN ACTION 2021 ADHOC COMMITTEE** report was presented by T. Geiss. Copies of the report were distributed.

The committee met on July 28, 2020.

- The committee discussed the removal of glass and the elimination of the tip fee as two possible solutions to the recycling crisis.
- OCRRA has had conversations with the DEC is regards to glass removal.
- The committee agreed on a hybrid, partial-subsidy tip fee, where OCRRA would pay a portion of the recycling fee and local Municipalities would pay a portion.

J. Copanas added, “Dereth and I have reached out to the stakeholders and County and the city and we're still waiting for a meeting with the county executive but we have talked to the mayor.”

A. Bianchetti moved, T. Geiss, second to adjourn the meeting.
Roll was taken and the Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak