

**ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
 VIRTUAL MEETING
 October 14, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

The October 14, 2020, Virtual Board Meeting was called to order at 4:03 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.

There were two members of the public present. Neither chose to address the Board.

Attendance of the Board was taken – quorum is present.

The September 9th meeting minutes were reviewed, moved by T. Geiss and seconded by A. Bianchetti. Roll call was taken and the minutes were approved as submitted.

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

- Today the Board will be voting to adopt OCRRA’s 2021 budget.
- This has been a challenging year.
- OCRRA worked closely with local government, towns and villages to make sure the upcoming changes in recycling were clear.
- OCRRA will be sharing the recycling costs with the community.

J. Copanas added, “I do want to remind some of the newer Board members that we really went three years hoping the market would correct itself with recyclables and it's become evident that that's not going to happen in the short term. So by having this recycling fee, it does tell residents what the cost of recycling is and hopefully, if the markets ever turn around we get back to a break-even point we can remove that fee if that happens, but I think this budget is an honest reflection of what our costs are and I want to commend Dereth and the staff for working so hard with the two different committees of the Board to come to this budget we have today.”

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

This report reflects the August 2020 data.

B. Page shared his screen with the group.

- With the cancelation of the NYS Fair and other summertime festivals – incoming waste is down.
- Cash flow has improved from last month. August cash inflow was approximately \$1.8 million.

- Agency cash balance at the end of August was \$9.5 million.
- The Agency began the year with a cash balance of \$ 9.97 million.
- MSW and C&D tonnages are down.
- Electricity prices have risen a bit.
- Tipping fees are down 4%.
- Recycling expense remain high.
- As a consequence of the pandemic, change in net position is down \$25,000. The expected net position was +\$100,000.
- Year to date expected revenue is only slightly off from what was expected.

The **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE** report was presented by D. Lawless. Copies of the report were distributed.

The Administration committee met on September 29th, 2020.

- With the absence of R. Raman, D. Lawless led the meeting.
- The committee discussed the 2021 Budget, Capital Plan and Fee Schedule.
- The committee agreed to move the resolution for those items to the Board for approval.
- The committee discussed changes to the Operating Bylaws. The changes are to allow key cards for the haulers.
- The committee agreed to move the resolution for that item to the Board for approval.
- The committee discussed a new M&T account for retirees. This account would be for retirees to use as another way to pay for their health care.
- The committee agreed to move that item to the Board for approval.
- With the absence of R. Raman, the Committee agreed to table the discussion on the Insurance Broker until the next committee meeting.
- The committee discussed the extension of J. Gascon’s legal contract. The committee agreed to extend the contract for an additional six months. The committee also invited J. Gascon to submit a longer term proposal.
- The committee agreed to move that item to the Board for approval.

E. Gilligan asked why the Agency budgeted \$3.1 million dollars in electrical revenue, when, in the past the budgeted amount was never achieved.

M. Mokrzycki responded – The budget is down from the 2020 budget. Electricity was affected by Covid, which is not expected to impact this year as it did last. This line item was originally \$3.2 million and based on Board feedback that amount was lowered for the final budget.

D. Lawless added that M. Mokrzycki has had success in anticipating the coming year’s projections.

Resolution #2251 – Resolution Adopting Agency Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 was moved by D. Lawless and second by B. Page.

Y. Abdul-Qadir asked how the budget was impacted by the changes that were necessary to the new recycling charges. And to elaborate on how exactly OCRRA has informed the public on what the recycling markets are and how they have changed.

D. Glance responded, “So we’ve really used our own platform with the OCRRA newsletter, my messages in particular, as well as other articles that we’ve had that have wide distribution. Several radio interviews. Other press outlets. We also have a really wide-reaching survey. We have 2,000 residents that have responded so far. We plan to speak about that at the Recycling Operations

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committee where we have specifically polled Onondaga County residents on their desires for recycling drop-off and trash drop-off services and specifically asked, if there was a fee for recycling drop-off, how would you feel about that? And so we've tried to engage them directly through that survey as well.”

Y. Abdul-Qadir asked how the recycling fee will impact communities.

D. Glance responded that everybody experiences the costs associated with their garbage and recycling collection differently. Some pay a hauler directly, some are charged through their taxes. The recycling fee will be approximately \$1 per month, \$12 per year, per household and will be billed accordingly.

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

Resolution #2252 – Resolution Adopting Tipping Fees and Related Charges for Fiscal Year 2021 was moved by D. Lawless and second by T. Geiss.

There was no discussion.

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

Resolution #2253 – Resolution Adopting Agency Hauler Operating By-Laws and Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Agreements with Haulers in Compliance Therewith was moved by D. Lawless and seconded by Y. Abdul-Qadir.

The Board packet contained an older version of the Operating Bylaws. There was some confusion as to the changes that had been made at the previous Administration committee meeting, yet not reflected today. A friendly amendment to make those changes was requested. It was later determined that the changes had been made. No friendly amendment was necessary.

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

Resolution #2254 – Resolution Offering Eligible Retirees Access to Electronic Banking to Pay Their Share of Health Insurance was moved by D. Lawless and seconded by B. Page.

There was no discussion.

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

Resolution #2255 – Resolution Authorizing Agency’s Executive Director to Retain Attorney for Legal Services was moved by D. Lawless and seconded by S. Pasquale.

J. Gascon muted his connection during the discussion and vote on this item.

J. Copanas updated new Board members as to why it was necessary for OCRRA to hire a new attorney. And acknowledged the outstanding job J. Gascon has done within the first six months of his term. J. Gascon has been asked to provide a longer term contract for the future.

The resolution was adopted 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.

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

The committee met on September 16, 2020.

- The committee reviewed the 2021 OCRRA budget.
 - The committee discussed the RCR optimization Study. An RFQ was issued for potential firms.
- C. Albuño updated the Board on the status of that RFQ.
- Several responses were received.
 - K. Spillane, M. Mokrzycki, D. Glance and C. Albuño are reviewing the submittals.
 - There will be a presentation at the next Recycling and Operations committee meeting.
- The committee discussed an accident at RCR where an employee hit the diesel fuel island. No one was injured. No fuel was spilled.
 - The committee got an update from T. Evans on the mercury drop-off event. Over 134 grams of mercury was collected.
 - The committee got an update from K. Lawton on the public education process. Surveys have been completed by the public and updates given to the changes at Ley Creek and RCR.
 - The fall OCRRA newsletter has been distributed.

Resolution #2256 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Purchase Grapple for Material Handler From Anderson Equipment was moved by L. Klosowski and seconded by J. Driscoll.

There was no discussion.

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

Resolution #2257 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Purchase Loader from Kleis Equipment was moved by L. Klosowski and seconded by E. Gilligan.

There was no discussion.

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

Resolution #2258 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Contract for Replacement “Blue Bins” Recycling Containers to Low Bidder Meeting the Specifications was moved by L. Klosowski and seconded by B. Page.

The Board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Board Minutes were taken by R. Czerwiak