

**GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
DISTRICT MEETING – August 3, 2017**

**Final Minutes**

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 8:00 AM** at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 305, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

Roll Call:

District Committee Members in attendance: Rosemary Tierney, Chairperson; Nathalie Dias, Vice Chairperson; Daniel Patten, John Beauregard, Christine LeBlanc, Lawrence D. Worden.

Also present: Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Leonor Ferreira, Secretary; and Matthew J Thomas, District Counsel.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Tierney called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Salute to the Flag

All in attendance stood to salute the Flag.

Chairperson Tierney read the notice advising the Board that the meeting may be recorded by audio and/or video

3. Legal Notices

**Chairperson Tierney noted that the meetings were posted timely in both New Bedford and Dartmouth.**

4. Warrant Report and Ratification (June 30 and July 20)

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to ratify warrants dated June 30, 2017, and July 20, 2017. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Voted 6-0.**

5. Approval of Minutes

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to approve the June 27, 2017 regular session minutes. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Patten. Voted 6-0.**

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## 6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Proposal to Lease Land for Anaerobic Digestion project - update

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to receive and update on negotiations with the proposer. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Alfonse stated that negotiations are ongoing with Commonwealth Resource Management Bioenergy (CRMCB) for the anaerobic digester project. A meeting was held on July 17, 2017. The District is requiring CRMCB provide four separate documents:

- a lease agreement for the land;
- a project operating agreement, which details the project;
- easements for project utilities, including a separate sewer line;
- a decommissioning agreement defining all of the requirements that CRMCB will have to comply with when the facility reaches the end of its useful life. It will be required that CRMCB restore the site back to its original condition without the District, city or town, incurring any costs.

Brown and Caldwell is evaluating the proposed mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall. As proposed, the MSE wall may restrict access to their site. CRMCB believes it is a viable alternative. The District is looking at the capacity of what a cell might hold without the MSE wall, and assigning a value to that based on current market conditions. This will help the District evaluate the potential economic benefit of a new landfill cell. Ms. LeBlanc asked if CRMCB would construct and pay for the MSE wall. Mr. Alfonse stated that CRMCB would expect the District to construct the wall. Ms. LeBlanc asked if the District would receive any revenue from the gas. Mr. Alfonse noted CRMCB's proposal for the site lease cost, and noted that the District would be receiving royalties from the project.

Mr. Beauregard asked how interested CRMCB was in the anaerobic digester project. Mr. Alfonse stated that they are very committed to the project. Mr. Alfonse stated that the volume of landfill gas has been low over the last few months. This is likely caused by a combination of factors including less water being introduced into the landfill as a result of capping, and operation of a new cell (Cell 5), which may take time to begin producing landfill gas. Mr. Beauregard asked what percentage of its capacity was the landfill-gas-energy plant operating at, and Mr. Alfonse said that currently it was at approximately 50%. Mr. Alfonse noted a graph that shows the decrease of the gas to the landfill-gas-energy plant. The anaerobic digestion project has a potential to provide a 40 year lease with revenue beyond the operations of the landfill.

The District has extended the period to award of the contract to September 8, 2017.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Director's report

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to receive the Director's report. Motion made by Mr. Beauregard, seconded by Mrs. Dias.**

Mr. Beauregard asked for status on the District's major customer. Mr. Alfonse said that major account remains two invoices past due (over 60 days). Mr. Beauregard stated that District's only other option may be considering stopping customer from hauling to the Crapo Hill landfill. Mr. Alfonse stated that customer has been making good progress. Ms. LeBlanc asked if the District has set a deadline for the customer to bring account into a current status. Mr. Alfonse replied that the customer has committed to be current by the end of August.

Mr. Alfonse notified the Board that New Bedford Waste has made their first installment payment from the settlement of 45%.

b. Job Descriptions (Assistant Mechanic & Lead Mechanic)

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to approve the job descriptions for Assistant Mechanic and Lead Mechanic. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Mrs. Dias.**

Mr. Fillion, the previous Mechanic, offered to perform both duties of both positions, and suggested hiring an entry level person to assist with both mechanic and wellfield management. Mr. Beauregard asked if Mr. Fillion's pay was increased. Mr. Alfonse stated that his rate will be reviewed next fiscal year.

The District interviewed one applicant who has good references, and is a 2015 graduate from Universal Technical Institute (UTI) diesel program. The applicant lives locally, and has some diesel experience. If the job description is approved the District would hire this applicant as the Assistant Mechanic. The two new positions would replace the existing positions of Mechanic and Landfill Technician. The proposed starting salary for the Assistant Mechanic is \$20 per hour.

**Motion to accept the job descriptions, and an hourly pay rate of \$20 per hour for the Assistant Mechanic. Voted 6-0.**

c. Internet service improvements

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to consider internet service upgrade. Motion made by Mr. Beauregard, seconded by Mr. Worden.**

The maintenance garage and scale have never been served by internet. The scale computer, which collects all tonnage data, cannot be remotely accessed. Scale data is printed, and provided to the accountant for billing. The most recent estimate from Comcast to provide service to these buildings stands at \$18,000. This assumes that the District will excavate and install conduit for Comcast to install the fiber services. In addition there is an \$825 monthly service charge for business internet. Internet service at these locations would allow for an

integrated phone system using "voice over internet" or VOIP. After several discussions Comcast will cover the \$18,000 cost and the District will excavate the trench. The monthly service charge would be \$700 per month, and it would include the District office.

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

8. Set Date for Next Meeting


The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 8:00 AM.

7. Adjourn

**Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Voted 6-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 AM.**

Approved by vote of District Committee on Thursday, October 19, 2017.



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Scott Alfonse, Executive Director