

Minutes approved December 3, 2013

**GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
DISTRICT MEETING – November 13, 2013**

Final Minutes

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 3:30 PM at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 314, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

District Committee Members in attendance: Rosemary Tierney, Chairperson; Isaac Graves, Nathalie Dias, Christine Leblanc and Stephen Mitchell. Jeff King was not in attendance.

Also present: Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; and Cynthia Cammarata, Secretary.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Tierney called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. Salute to the Flag

All in attendance stood to salute the Flag.

3. Legal Notices

Chairperson Tierney noted that the Legal Notices were posted timely both in New Bedford and Dartmouth, and asked for a motion to place on file. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Graves. Voted 5-0.

4. Approve Minutes of the District Meeting on September 25, 2013

Chairperson Tierney called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the District Meeting on September 25, 2013. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Graves. Voted 5-0.

5. Review and Approve Warrant

Mr. Alfonse explained that it has come to his attention through the Department of Revenue that the District Committee should be voting to approve the warrant prior to the signing of the warrant. Mrs. Dias asked if it would be possible to approve the warrant by telephone. Mr. Alfonse explained that is only an option if a Board Member was physically not available.

Chairperson Tierney called for a motion to accept the approval of the warrant. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Voted 5-0.

5. New Business

a. Director's Report.

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to accept and place on file the Director's report.

Ms. Leblanc asked for more information on the underground tanks. Mr. Alfonse explained that they are concrete tanks which will be newly installed for the storage of feed stock (fats, oils, grease, waste water treatment sludge and food waste) for the anaerobic digestion project.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any updates from the Town of Falmouth. Mr. Alfonse pointed out that it is interesting that the Town of Falmouth sends invoices out; some towns pay them, and some towns don't.

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Chairperson Tierney asked for a vote to place the report on file. Voted 5-0.

b. FY 2013 Transfers to Reserves

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to approve the FY13 transfers to reserves. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Alfonse explained that after the audit the amount of excess Revenue over Expenditures is allocated to reserves. Mr. Alfonse referred to the table "District Reserve Balances and Goals". FY13's excess revenues were \$1,007,196. The recommendation is to allocate \$132,557 to the equipment reserve, \$200,000 to Land, \$400,000 to Phase 2 Construction and \$274,639 to the OPEB Reserve.

There was discussion about the OPEB liability and the possibility of forming a subcommittee to discuss the calculation of the liability.

Chairperson Tierney asked for a vote to approve the FY13 transfers to reserves. Voted 5-0.

c. FY 2013 Reconciliation

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to approve the FY13 Reconciliation. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Alfonse explained that after completion of the audit, per District agreement, the actual tonnage brought in by the City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth is used to adjust the assessments. The Reconciliation then needs to be approved by the District Committee each year.

Chairperson Tierney asked vote to approve the FY13 Reconciliation. Voted 5-0.

d. Transfer from Equipment Reserve

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to transfer \$11,429.25 from the Equipment Reserve Fund for the purchase of the new deck mower. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Graves.

Chairperson Tierney recognized Mr. Alfonse, who informed the Committee that at the August 21, 2013 meeting he notified the committee of this purchase. Mr. Alfonse requested the Committee authorize the transfer of funds from the Equipment Reserve Fund.

Chairperson Tierney asked vote to approve the transfer of funds from the Equipment Reserve for the purchase of the deck mower. Voted 5-0.

e. Request from New Bedford to use Recycling Revenue

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to authorize the request from New Bedford to use Recycling Revenue to repair its front end loader. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Voted 5-0.

Mr. Alfonse explained that the District Committee votes to authorize funds from the Recycling Revenue in excess of \$5,000.

f. Security Services Contract Award

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to award the security services contract to Best Security Service, Inc. through June 30, 2014. Motion made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Dias.

Ms. Leblanc asked what the security services were for. Mr. Alfonse explained that security services were acquired in response to vandalism, and the use of ATV's on the landfill. A security guard is on the premises after hours and on weekends.

Chairperson Tierney asked vote to approve the award of security services contract to Best Security Service, Inc. Voted 5-0.

g. Health Insurance Update

Chairperson Tierney asked for a motion to hear the Health Insurance Update. Motion made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Ms. Leblanc.

Mr. Alfonse recapped to the Board that the Town of Dartmouth has requested that the District make alternate arrangements for health insurance, and that he has identified four options to consider: Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission (GIC); Gateway Health Group; Mayflower Municipal Health Group and Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA).

As required by MGL Chapter 32B, the District has established an Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC consisting of 7 employees and one retiree appointed by the District Committee. The IAC has made a recommendation. If the District Committee does not follow the recommendation of the IAC, and a member requests an explanation, the District Committee has 30 days to respond.

Included in the packet is a summary of the plans, more detailed paperwork of the plans as well as the letter of recommendation from the IAC recommending Mayflower Municipal Health Group.

Some of the plans offered by Mayflower require a high level of service; the District may want to consider requiring employees to pay more toward their health insurance if they opt for one of the more expensive plans.

In the past, the District has only offered an HMO plan. After consulting with counsel, it appears that the District is required to offer a PPO as well.

Gateway, GIC and Mayflower have dental plans. The City of New Bedford and the Town of Dartmouth do not offer dental plans, although the unions do. If the District did opt to offer dental, MGL Chapter 32B would require the District to pay at least 50 percent of the premium.

Both Mayflower and Gateway are trust funds, and both plans have a surplus in their trust funds. The District would be required to pay toward that trust.

Mr. Mitchell cautioned buying into a pool that hasn't been tested where one doesn't know what their claims paying ability really is. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that there are a couple of options that currently are not even being considered, such as an Insurance Connector where a group like this is eligible for subsidies based on their payroll that would give them access to customized health insurance plans.

Ms. Leblanc asked if the District could purchase health insurance through, say, Harvard Pilgrim Health Insurance to avoid the trust buy in. Mrs. Dias explained that when you are self-insured that is how the system works.

Chairperson Tierney suggested that Mr. Mitchell put some information together for review. Mr. Mitchell explained that there would be some fee associated with this consultation, as it would be his colleagues who would be acquiring the information. Mr. Mitchell, in response to Chairperson Tierney's inquiry, said that the cost would be \$125 per hour fee, and that it would probably be a few hours to go through this and put a report together.

Mrs. Dias commented on the Town of Dartmouth's surplus, and the fact that it sometimes takes three years for the claims to come in. Mr. Alfonse said that it may be one way to offset a buy in.

Mr. Mitchell asked if any employees have any health issues at this time, and Mr. Alfonse told the group that he has been asked for a history of claims, but has been told that there is no way to identify only the District Employees history.

Mrs. Dias asked about a stop loss policy. Mrs. Cammarata told the group that Mayflower does have a stop loss plan.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Set dates for next District Committee Meeting

The date for the next District Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 3:30 PM.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Dias, seconded by Mr. Graves. Voted 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:20 PM.