

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
July 16, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the “Authority”) was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on July 16, 2024, in the First Floor Meeting Room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray
Mr. Ron Rutkowski
Mr. Brian Clements
Mr. Don Moll
Mr. Tony Sacco
Mr. Tony Rymar
Ms. Jane Witheridge
Charles Jones, PE
Michael Gombar, Jr.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Soc Georgeadis, Esquire, Georgeadis Law
Adrian Jadic, Citizen

The Chairman declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public chose to speak.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Jones, the minutes of the regular meetings of May 21, 2024, were unanimously approved.

FINANCE

Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Rutkowski distributed the Treasurer’s Report and invoices for payment and reviewed them with the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Gombar, the Board approved the payment of all invoices and ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Will Jarrett – Annual Review

Ms. Meeks indicated that Will Jarrett has been with the Authority for fifteen years, as a full-time employee and does an exceptional job operating the recycling center and takes great pride in his job. Ms. Meeks reminded the Board that Will currently receives reimbursement for 75% of his Medicare costs and 100% of his supplemental health insurance, which is minimal. Ms. Meeks indicated that Will’s current hourly rate is \$28.35 and recommended increasing his hourly rate to \$30.00 per hour. After much discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Rymar, the Board unanimously approved an increase in Will’s hourly rate to \$30.00 per hour.

Mr. Rymar recommended also giving Will a gift card for his fifteen years of service. Upon a motion by Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Jones and Board unanimously approved purchasing a \$300 gift card, as a token of their appreciation, for his years of service.

b. 2025 Special Collections – Approval of dates

Ms. Meeks recommended setting the following dates for our 2025 collections and recommended handing out magnets this fall with those dates:

Hazardous Waste Collection:

April 12, 2025 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
October 18, 2025 – Berks County Agricultural Center

Paper Shredding Event:

April 19, 2025 – Governor Mifflin Intermediate School
October 11, 2025 – Berks County Agricultural Center

OLD BUSINESS

Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan approval

Ms. Meeks updated the Board on the status of our Solid Waste Management Plan approval. She indicated that PADEP had requested a 30-day extension on their final review, extending their approval time through July 22, 2024. She indicated that she has had additional conversations with representatives of PADEP and are working through, some final comments. She indicated that we are very close to final agreement with the Department and expects an approval soon. She

indicated that a meeting is scheduled for this Friday to review their final comments and suggestions.

Delaware County Solid Waste Management Plan update

Ms. Meeks stated that on June 13, 2024 an article appeared in the Reading Eagle regarding the intent of Delaware County to minimize the amount of waste that is currently incinerated at the Covanta incinerator in Chester County and send more trash to the Rolling Hills landfill. Ms. Meeks indicated that this action would require a Solid Waste Management Plan update, which would be considered a substantial revision, requiring additional public comment and municipal ratification. She indicated that their current Plan is due to expire in July and indicated that they are in the process of hiring a new consultant to develop their plan revision.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks updated the Board on the electronic recycling center. She indicated that 8,600 residents have used the site, in the first six months of this year, collecting 445,000 pounds of electronics, which is similar to 2023.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has submitted the 2023 performance grant to the County and will file with DCED, once it is approved by the Commissioners. She is continuing to assist our municipalities with their grants, which are due December 31, 2024, which must be filed electronically through the DCED website.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she is working with a few of our municipalities on their 902 grants, which will either terminate in August of 2024 or have recently been awarded.

Ms. Meeks indicated that most of the other items outlined in her report have been discussed throughout today's meeting and offered to answer any questions that members may have, regarding her report.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Mowbray indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:00 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.