

Greater Bridgeport Regional Solid Waste Interlocal Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 17, 2015
9:00 am
Fairfield Museum and History Center
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Fairfield First Selectman and Chair Mike Tetreau, Westport First Selectman and Vice Chairman Jim Marpe, Milford Mayor and Secretary Ben Blake, Trumbull First Selectman and Treasurer Tim Herbst (arrived 9:22 am), Monroe First Selectman Steve Vavrek, Easton First Selectman Adam Dunsby

Others Present: John Ricci (Bridgeport), John Cottell (Bridgeport), Mike Zembruski (Fairfield), Ed Boman (Fairfield), Steve Edwards (Westport), Chris Saley (Milford), John Marsilio (Proxy for Trumbull First Selectman), Bruce Loomis (Proxy for Bethany First Selectman Derrylyn Gorski), Ed Nagy (Easton), Anthony Genovese (Proxy for Woodbridge First Selectman), Gary Catalano (Proxy for Stratford Mayor), Chris Nowacki (Monroe)

I. Call to Order

First Selectman Mike Tetreau, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

II. Approve June 18, 2015 Minutes

First Selectman Steve Vavrek made a motion to approve the minutes. John Marsilio seconded the minutes which carried unanimously with one abstention from Mayor Ben Blake.

III. To Hear, Consider and Act Upon 2016 Election of Officers

Mayor Blake made a motion to elect First Selectman Tetreau as Chair. Bruce Loomis seconded the motion which carried unanimously with one abstention from First Selectman Tetreau.

First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to elect First Selectman Jim Marpe as Vice-Chair. Chris Saley seconded the motion which carried unanimously with one abstention from First Selectman Marpe.

First Selectman Tetreau made a motion to elect Mayor Blake as Secretary. First Selectman Marpe seconded the motion which carried unanimously with one abstention from Mayor Blake.

First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to elect First Selectman Tim Herbst as Treasurer. First Selectman Marpe seconded the motion which carried unanimously. (First Selectman Herbst had not yet arrived at the meeting).

IV. To Hear, Consider and Act Upon 2016 Meeting Dates

First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to meet the third Thursday of June and December in 2016 at 9 am in Fairfield. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

V. Receive Update on Status of Operations for FY 2015

Fairfield DPW Assistant Director Ed Boman said Wheelabrator was bought by a Wall Street company to sell power. Wheelabrator is reorganizing the whole company. First Selectman Tetreau asked about the term of the agreement. Mr. Boman said the agreement is ten years and is renewable so while there is a different owner there is no need to negotiate on the agreement. First Selectman Tetreau asked if representatives from Bridgeport received two previous agreements the Committee had received.

VI. Hear Financial Update for FY 2015

John Marsilio, a Proxy for the Trumbull First Selectman, said he received a report from Wheelabrator on the legal fund. He discussed the amount collected to this day. First Selectman Tetreau filled in those new to this Committee that the Committee had sent a RFP out to law firms and Pullman and Comley was selected as the most responsive to our needs. Going forward, there are no legal fees in the budget. However, in buying power, another firm will be used along with Pullman and Comley. Mr. Marsilio gave an update on the amount of funds that the Committee has in its account. He said the estimated tip fee for July 2016 is set at \$61.39. Fifty cents was incorporated per ton to build up the war chest. He noted how much funds the Committee would have by July 2016.

First Selectman Marpe asked the Committee if they were comfortable with the amount of funds the Committee will have next July and if they wanted to vote to add to \$61.39. He also asked if the Committee wanted to eliminate the surcharge. First Selectman Marpe asked if there is funding for issues that may come up such as contractual issues with a vendor. Bridgeport delivers its own waste, but the rest of the member towns have private vendors so it's important to ensure waste is brought to the plant by the contractor.

Mr. Boman said the Committee has the most favored nation status. He said there is no obligation for Wheelabrator to review contracts. First Selectman Marpe suggested adding 10 cents for next year. Mr. Boman said the Committee pays Wheelabrator. First Selectman Adam Dunsby suggested the Committee should have its own bank account, and it was decided to proceed with that concept. First Selectman Tetreau asked if it should be set up before the next fiscal year. Everyone agreed that it should be set up as soon as possible. First Selectman Tetreau asked First Selectman Tim Herbst to come up with key questions and actions that this Committee would take and then have Wheelabrator pick a quarterly or monthly sum to distribute funding to the Committee's bank account. First Selectman Tetreau suggested the Committee's officers meet and then call a full Committee meeting if necessary. The members who are not officers were all okay with the officers meeting.

First Selectman Dunsby asked what the funding would be used for. First Selectman Marpe said funding would be used for forensic investigation, audit of operations and other such matters. First Selectman Tetreau said the funds are more like a legal defense fund in reserve. First Selectman Dunsby asked how much money is generated each year. Mr. Boman said about \$85,000. First Selectman Marpe suggested putting 10 cents into the fund for the tipping fee.

Ed Nagy and First Selectman Vavrek asked what would happen if a new town is added to this group. Mr. Boman said the tipping fees would go down by \$1.00 for every new 25,000 tons.

Mayor Blake made a motion to keep the 50 cents from now to June 30, 2016 and then revert to 10 cents. First Selectman Herbst seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

VII. To Hear, Consider and Act Upon Budget for FY 16

Mr. Boman said the budget only contains funding for secretarial fees. First Selectman Tetreau said First Selectman Herbst will set up an account which the Committee was all okay with. First Selectman Tetreau said the executive board will set up a bank account and asked if the Committee was okay with that and they are. First Selectman Tetreau said the Committee should develop guidelines on how the new account would function, and the executive board may have a February meeting and if that occurs the entire Committee will be notified on the outcome of this meeting.

VIII. Receive Progress Report on the Admission of Other Municipalities

This item was covered earlier in the meeting.

IX. New Business

John Cottell who represents Bridgeport asked if there is a yearly tonnage report. Mr. Boman said he was not sure. Fairfield Solid Waste and Recycling Director Mike Zembruski said each town should do its own internal tonnage report. First Selectman Tetreau said towns can then check numbers against Wheelabrator's numbers. He asked Mr. Boman to get the number from last July 1, 2015 to now. Mr. Boman said he can give the Committee a quarterly update.

First Selectman Marpe mentioned the Hartford plant and that RFPs or RFQs are being submitted to revitalize that facility. First Selectman Marpe said Wallingford is closing so waste could come to the Bridgeport facility. He also said Danbury's waste comes here and so does some of Hartford's waste.

X. Old Business-None

XI. Adjourn

First Selectman Marpe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 am. Mayor Ben Blake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary