



MIDCOAST SOLID WASTE CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 26, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Falciani (Chair) – Camden, Alison McKellar (Treasurer) – Camden, Wendy Pelletier – Hope, Brian Powers, Jr – Hope, Josh Gerritsen– Lincolnville, Keryn Laite (Vice-Chair) – Lincolnville, Eric Boucher – Rockport, Debra Hall – Rockport

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Michael Martunas, Manager MCSWC

GUESTS: Daniel Saloman, CHRHS Hatchery Coordinator, CHRHS Student Soren Beckstram

Robert Falciani, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

1. **PUBLIC & DIRECTOR COMMENTS:** None

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:**

Chair Falciani entertained a motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2021. *Keryn Laite moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting as written. Gerritsen seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed (100% in favor and 0 opposed) Falciani and Hall abstained due to absence Boucher and McKellar carried their votes.*

3. **INTRODUCTION TO RADICAL REUSE EFFORTS AT THE HATCHERY (Camden Hills Regional High School)**

Chair Falciani introduced Daniel Saloman; Coordinator of the Hatchery program at the CHRHS provided an overview of the Hatchery program. Saloman provided a brief biography of his work history and completed a slideshow showing potential work the program could accomplish. The slideshow contained information on the newly emergent program and course work students at CHRHS are accomplishing and planning. The presentation focused on how the program seeks to repurpose resources through deconstructing and then repurposing materials for useful products designed by the students. See more information here: [THE HATCHERY Innovation Center - Camden Hills Regional High School \(fivetowns.net\)](https://www.fivetowns.net/chrhs/hatchery). Saloman expressed his desire to work with the MCSWC Board of Directors and other area businesses to create radical reuse of diverted materials in future projects. Students learn an array of skills through the curriculum and work on ideas from conception to completion. Saloman walked the membership through several examples of what the students have accomplished during the slide show. A highlight of the program this year was the design and construction of a parade float entered in the Christmas By The Sea Parade which was constructed,

deconstructed and same materials set up for a second round of reuse by the students. See information on another event: The “Pallet Polooza” and the creative outcomes here: [Hatchery program at CHRHS to host community event, Oct. 23 | PenBay Pilot](#).

The program assists composting efforts on campus and the Windplanner student groups sustainability efforts. Saloman spoke to past efforts of Green Week activities overseen by teacher Margo Murphy that promotes these types of curriculum efforts. Saloman introduced student Soren Beckstram, who outlined the need for networking between the school cafeteria and the Hatchery/Composting program on food diversion. The Hatchery students will be looking at building a better sorting system to allow student and food prep waste to work more efficiently in the composting process. Beckstram, an independent study candidate, will create a new receptacle system needed including reusing materials. Saloman closed by asking for Board support and financial assistance of the Hatchery program. There are three projects planned for spring, food vs. waste diversion/compost project, a possible bus conversion and the Green Week Event.

McKellar reminded the membership that prior educational school programs sponsored by ecomaine, which included grant funds, is now a part of the MCSW budget under Waste Reduction Education a direct response to replace lost educational assistance since the MSW contract with ecomaine ended.

Chair Falciani thanked the guests for their presentation and expressed that more communication on these efforts is encouraged by the Board and future conversations will take place.

4. FACILITY MANAGER REPORT:

Chair Falciani asked the membership if there were any questions or comments on the Manager’s report presented in the meeting packet. Martunas reviewed information regarding the compactor area electrical upgrades, roll off containers and the need to hire at least two full-time employees and possibly a third. Martunas stated he welcomed referrals. Powers opened a discussion on the electrical upgrades for the compactor area. Laite opened discussion on the status of a bidding policy for the company.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

a) Recommendations for FY23 Budget

McKellar, Chair of the Finance Committee, introduced the members of the Committee and stated they met a number of times and some meetings included Fred Brewer, CPA from our auditing service company. MCSWC financials are in good financial position; the unassigned fund balance is very healthy. McKellar explained a board vote is needed if any unassigned funds are to be held or distributed to reserve accounts, facility needs or when used to offset the tax assessments for each town. McKellar requested the Board generate a philosophy to fund the facility the future. Twenty years ago, it was a system exclusively funded by taxpayers but then began transitioning through a P.A.Y.T. system to help offset the tax assessments. A discussion by the Board outlining how the system will continue and if it will begin to slowly move to reduce the assessments to zero in the future is warranted.

McKellar noted that the bag fee revenues in operational Income line 1-01 in the FY23 budget remain unchanged. The Finance Committee discussed the need to move forward on the possibility of a bag fee increase and/or review of other budget revenue sources for future funding of the facility.

McKellar stated that the Finance Committee recommends the FY23 Budget as presented noting that there is no bag fee increase presented but the Board could consider discussing it at this time. A lengthy discussion concerning several different revenue fees was held. Martunas highlighted the current Moratorium in place at the facility and a brief discussion on the closure plan for the landfill was held. Falciani added that the Capital & Strategic Committee would need to review engineering study information and begin developing a plan for closure. Falciani noted the four town Select Boards need MCSWC budget figures to move their town budgets forward; bag fee/revenue calculations needs can come to the Board later in the year for discussion and possible implementation but the presented budget, when approved, can be put forth to meet the town deadlines. Gerritsen suggested the bag fee or any other changes be an agenda item at a future meeting. McKellar suggested that Martunas bring the background math on bag fee changes back to the Board for review. Falciani noted that the timing seems right for a bag fee increase and recommended that the parallel track for approving the budget and considering any fee changes later will allow the correct processes to take place to enact a fee change.

Laite asked that McKellar and Martunas point out any areas in the budget that they want to bring attention to for review prior to a vote. The following was discussed:

McKellar stated the annual COLA was determined to be 5.9% for FY23 based on the Social Security 2022 COLA and reflected in the Labor Wages budget figure.

Expenses:

101-01 – Manager Salary - a discussion on Manager’s salary took place noting there is no significant change; developing an employment contract is under discussion.

101-02/101-04 – Labor Wages – A brief discussion on wages, as presented, covering any possible changes coming from the labor contract under negotiation was held. Employee head count for full time vs. part time employees was discussed briefly.

101-20 – Lily Pond Association Dues – NOTE: McKellar requested that a Board member of Manager attend the annual meeting to represent MCSWC as we have two votes to cast on any budget issues. A brief discussion on future public use was held.

101-21 – In Lieu of Taxes – A brief discussion on how this final expense is set which is through the Mil rate of the Town of Rockport.

120-05 – Station Maintenance – Gerritsen asked about the current \$50,000 roadway stipend in the FY22 Budget. Martunas stated roadwork work is being done in FY22, the additional fee of \$12,000 as listed is for FY23 projects.

125-07 – Food Waste Collection/Compost Program – ScrapDogs compost volume and associated cost is less than expected so an adjustment was made. Note: Membership would like to see a presentation from ScrapDogs at a future meeting. Martunas will arrange.

125-16 – MSW Hauling – Cost per haul is a flat rate in contract, variable cost is in the fuel surcharge and an increase is included in figure.

125-17 – MSW Tipping – Waste Management tipping contract increase is based on the CPI, which went up in FY22 in October. A 4.5% increase is included for FY23.

125-18, 130-18 and 135-18 – Electrical Costs – Powers opened a brief discussion on the rising cost of electricity noting the balances were unchanged FY22 to FY23. A footnote was made that the electrical expenses were inadequate but unchanged.

135-01 – Jacob’s Quarry Leachate - was discussed as wastewater fees will likely increase. Martunas noted the excessive rain the area has been having and how it affects the quarterly billing.

Capital Reserves:

148-05 – Accrued Benefit Liability Reserve – This line increase is based on best practices as recommended by Brewer after the FY21 Audit was completed. The amount of \$68,153 is recommended by the Finance Committee to be funded from the Unassigned Fund balance. The final Reserve figure is the total of the shortfall of \$11,438 and the anticipated value of \$56,715 on June 30, 2022. NOTE: McKellar suggested that a policy be created by the Manager and Finance Committee for future funding of this line.

Chair Falciani entertained a motion to approve the FY23 Budget as presented. Brian Powers moved to accept the FY23 Budget as presented. Gerittsen seconded. Discussion followed: Boucher clarified that the Board was not going to designate the remainder of the Unassigned Fund Balance at this time. Falciani confirmed the action. No further discussion. Powers amended the motion to accept the FY23 Budget for \$2,394,375 as presented. Gerittsen seconded stood. No further discussion. Chair Falciani called the motion. Motion passed (100% in favor and 0 opposed).

b) Motion to reallocate funds from Unassigned Fund Balance to Revenue – Other Financing Sources

NOTE: The Accrued Benefit Liability Reserve Line 148-05 received \$68,153.00 from the Unassigned Fund balance. No further funds were designated from the Unassigned Fund balance at this time.

Falciani reminded the Board that the next meeting is on March 23, 2022. Additionally he requested that agenda items for the meeting be submitted to the Chair and/or Manager by the Wednesday before a meeting.

McKellar asked to have a future meeting scheduled to include a presentation from Sevee & Maher on the Hydrogeological information of the quarry to help the board better understand the funding behind the work. Information on the basic monitoring required and an update on how the installation of the “gut wall” is working to date would be topics to cover.

6. ADJOURN:

Chair Falciani entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keryn Laite moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Boucher seconded. No discussion. Motion passed (100% in favor and 0 opposed)

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Kwiatkowski, Recording Secretary

If there are any questions regarding the decisions made at the meeting please refer to the meeting video found at www.youtube.com/TownofCamdenMaine

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Board of Directors Meetings:

March 23, 2022, 6:30 pm, John French Jr. Conference Room – Camden Town Office

May 25, 2022, John French Jr. Conference Room – Camden Town Office

July 27, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING, John French Jr. Conference Room – Camden Town Office