

**MINUTES OF JUNE BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
June 30, 2020**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a June Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 5:30 P.M., at the Authority's Administrative Office, 1886 Highway 90, Conway, South Carolina. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting were posted as required.

Present were the following Board Members: Michael H. Hughes, Chairman; Bo Ives, Vice Chairman; Pam J. Creech, Treasurer; J. Michael Campbell, Secretary and Board Members W. Norfleet Jones, Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. and Carl H. Schwartzkopf.

Carlisle Berry represented the public in attendance. There were no members of the media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Mike Bessant, Director and other staff to include Nannette Powell, Cecil Terry, and Susie Wofford.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order and rendered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Campbell led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Hughes asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Agenda Packet. Mr. Johnson said that he wanted to add the discussion of the Executive Director's Contract to the agenda. He commented that he had not had a chance to read the contract and wanted a discussion. Mr. Johnson asked the Board Members if they had in fact read the Executive Director's Contract. Ms. Creech and several Board Members said they had read the contract. Mr. Johnson commented about the buy-out and the liabilities to the SWA. He wanted the Board to reconsider until the contract was discussed.

Chairman Hughes remarked that the Board could add this item to the Roundtable Discussion. He stated that he took issue with the fact that Mr. Johnson did not read the contract. Chairman Hughes commented that Mr. Johnson was one of the first persons that he gave the document to. Mr. Johnson said that he only had 30 seconds to scan the document before it was voted on and signed. He commented that he met Mr. Hughes to discuss the contract. Chairman Hughes stated that he sent the information Mr. Johnson requested via certified mail to the address that Mr. Johnson had given him and the receipt was in the car. He remarked that this could be discussed under Roundtable Discussion. Mr. Johnson commented that after the Agenda was approved then it would be a moot point.

Chairman Hughes stated that the contract was official and that if Mr. Johnson had any concerns to discuss he could do so during Roundtable Discussion. He said then Mr. Johnson would not need a second for discussion. Chairman Hughes said if the item was on the Agenda when the contract was approved then the only way to rescind the contract was if Mr. Johnson made a Motion and received a second. He said at that time the Board could rescind the Executive Director's Contract. He asked Mr. Johnson if he wanted to make a Motion. Mr. Johnson said that he would discuss the Executive Director's Contract during roundtable discussion.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Jones and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hughes asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the May Board Meeting held on May 26, 2020, as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 26, 2020. There was a second by Mr. Schwartzkopf and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no Public Input to come before the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 15-30 in the Board Packet.

FY 2019 Annual Progress Report Update – Mrs. Murphy stated the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) requires each county to report the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled within its municipalities. She indicated staff annually completed several reports, including the Horry County Annual Progress Report, which determined the County’s recycling rate for the previous fiscal year.

Mrs. Murphy stated the State’s MSW recycling rate had a slight increase from 28.1% in FY2018 to 28.2% in FY2019. She indicated that Horry County’s MSW recycling rate had increased from 27.6% in FY2018 to 33.87% in FY2019. Mrs. Murphy mentioned that there were increases reported in organics with residential organic commodities being up approximately 7,000 tons and commercial/institutional organic commodities, increasing about 2,200 tons. She indicated this was related to Hurricane Florence FY2019.

Mrs. Murphy commented that the most significant increase was reported in Commercial/institutional metal commodities, which were up more than 33,000 tons. She indicated this increase was primarily due to the demolition of the Palace Theater and the recycling of the scrap metal during FY2019. She stated the total solid waste (TSW) recycling rate increased from 19.19% in FY2018 to 29.13% in FY2019.

Mr. Knight commented that only the governmental entities had to report but businesses were not required to report any recycling within the county.

SWA Recycling Grant Update – Mrs. Murphy stated that the Board Packet contained an overview of the SWA Recycling Grant recipients. She indicated that the SWA had awarded eight grants this fiscal year. Mrs. Murphy commented that due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic two grantees requested and received a final report extension through the end of June 2020. She indicated that the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce was not able to develop their Visitors Education Program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Murphy commented that the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce instead developed the Responsible Travel Page for their website which highlights plastic and litter awareness for its visitors and tourist.

Mrs. Murphy commented that last year the SWA Recycling grantees were able to come and give a presentation on how they utilized their funding. She remarked that this year that was not possible due to COVID-19.

Talkin' Trash 2019-2020 Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the Talkin' Trash campaign had concluded with the fourth graders from River Oaks Elementary School, Kingston Elementary School and Daisy Elementary School as the grand finale winners. She indicated she contacted WMBF News and MIM Media and decided to give each fourth-grade student a prize pack to include a tee shirt and vouchers to both the Fun Warehouse and Mellow Mushroom.

Mrs. Murphy commented that staff was keeping in touch with Horry County Schools to see if they had plans to reopen in the upcoming year. She said at the present time plans are unclear. Mr. Ives asked if the SWA would be prepared to conduct field trips when the schools did reopen. Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the SWA had been doing virtual tours of the landfill and MRF facilities on the SWA's website and would most likely prepare/use virtual presentation, workshops, etc. regardless of how schools reopened, virtually or in person.

Ms. Creech commented that conferences that were cancelled were now virtual. She stated she would be interested in viewing conferences and suggested the SWA having them at the office.

Mrs. Murphy indicated that the Public Education Department had been doing virtual educational segments entitled "Watch Out Wednesday" WOW which could be seen on the SWA Facebook page. She commented that Mr. Hughes interview on Inside Out with Diane DeVaughn Stokes would soon be on Facebook.

UCS Monthly Reports – Mrs. Murphy stated that there was a slight decrease in tonnage and pulls in May as compared to April. She stated that pulls had increased by 18% and tonnage increased over 17.6% over this time last year.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group the May "Caught Green Handed" winner was Mr. Reynaldo Perez. She indicated that Mr. Perez used the Homewood Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy stated Mr. Perez received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Financial Reports – Mrs. Bitting was not in attendance at the June Board Meeting. Mrs. Wofford Accounting Supervisor offered an update of the following which was included as page 21-35 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Wofford stated for the period ending May 31, 2020, the overall budget should be at 91.63%. She indicated MSW revenue was at 90.66% of budget. Mrs. Wofford stated Construction and Demolition revenue was at 96.44% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 96.67% of budget. She stated the sale of recyclables revenue was at 79.66% of budget. Mrs. Wofford stated the Construction and Demolition Processing Facility revenue for May was \$410,544.74 and expenses were \$544,019.37 with airspace saved equating to 56.25 days. Mrs. Wofford commented the MRF revenue year-to-date was \$2,360,564.53 and the expenses year-to-date were \$3,832,654.89 with a savings of 94.76 days of airspace. She indicated net income for May was \$84,794.31 and year-to-date was \$1,853,265.27.

Operations and Planning Update – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 36-43 of the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mr. Bessant indicated that the work on the stormwater ponds was almost complete but had experienced delays because of the rain. He stated that King Construction was awarded the bid to complete the upgrade. Mr. Bessant commented that last month the Construction and Demolition Facility's recycling rate was 87%.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant indicated that the commodities pricing continued to drop. He stated that newspaper prices in May were \$187 per ton and dropped in June to \$90 per ton. Mr. Bessant commented that the plastics market had declined. He informed the group that staff would stockpile the MRF material until plastic prices started to increase. Mr. Bessant commented that MachineX had finalized their upgrades at the MRF and staff had completed their performance testing. He indicated that the machinery was operating up to standard. Mr. Bessant commented that the MRF reject rate was at 10% for June.

Collection and Hauling Update – Mr. Bessant commented that since COVID-19 the Collections and Hauling Department had seen a drastic drop in cardboard tonnage. He remarked that before the pandemic approximately 1,000 tons of cardboard per month was collected by Collection and Hauling. Mr. Bessant stated that in April 332 tons of cardboard was collected, in May 480 tons was collected and June 732 tons was collected. He indicated that the commercial cardboard had a huge decrease since March.

National Garbage Man Day – Mr. Bessant informed the group that the SWA staff had selected Mr. Robert Hayes from Collection and Hauling Department for National Garbage Man Day for SWA. He commented that this could be viewed on the SWA Facebook page.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the June Driver of the Month was Mr. Melvin Wilson from Unlimited Sanitation. Mr. Bessant commented Mr. Wilson has been driving for 12 years. He commented that Mr. Wilson worked well with staff.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight offered an update of the following which was included as pages 44-48 in the Board Packet.

The Store Update – Mr. Knight informed the group that the storage building for The Store was completed within budget. He indicated that a firewall and fire door was added. Mr. Knight commented that he wanted a shed or awning across the front of the building so the storage building and The Store could have a uniform look or appeal. He said this would be done later.

Chairman Hughes comment that the grounds and The Store looked so much cleaner, better organized and there was space to walk around.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nomination Committee Update – Committee Chairman Pam Creech stated the Nomination Committee met on June 10, 2020 at 11:05 A.M. Ms. Creech indicated Committee Members J. Michael Campbell and Michael Hughes were present.

Ms. Creech stated the Committee would have a recommendation at the Annual Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS.

Roundtable Discussion – Ms. Creech commented that she requested another copy of the Executive Director's Contract to read. She said that she had issues with employees who have \$300,000 buyouts options in their contracts. Ms. Creech commented that she did not think this was fair to the taxpayers. She said that the Board added that if the executive director was removed that he would receive a three-month severance package.

Chairman Hughes commented that he reviewed each of Mr. Knight's contracts since 2009. He said the contracts were basically the same but in 2011 a 3% merit increase was included to match the SWA employees. Chairman Hughes commented that Mr. Knight's sick and vacation time was also adjusted. He said that none of the Board Members spoke against the contract. Chairman Hughes stated that anytime the Board has a personnel issue to discuss about the Executive Director's contract that the Executive Director needed to be present.

Chairman Hughes remarked that he was surprised that Mr. Johnson said nothing during that time. He commented that he and the Board reviewed the contract as well. Chairman Hughes stated that the Executive Director's Contract was legally binding. He indicated that the Board could vote to rescind the Executive Director Contract. Chairman Hughes commented he thought the contract was fair.

Mr. Jones stated that he was on the Board when Mr. Knight was hired. He commented because of Mr. Knight's experience with county government this made his transition to Executive Director of the SWA a lot easier.

Mr. Johnson said the May Agenda included an Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's Evaluation/Contract. He said he did not think the Board would sign the contract with no public input or discussion. Mr. Johnson commented that the Board did not have a chance to meet and discuss Mr. Knight's contract. He said members of the Board received a copy of the contract but he did not.

Chairman Hughes commented that he handed Mr. Johnson a copy of the contract the night of the Board Meeting. He remarked that when discussing a personnel matter that there was no input from the public. Chairman Hughes stated that personnel matters were not for public review. He asked Mr. Johnson if he had any concerns about the contract why not voice his concerns during the Executive Session. Chairman Hughes indicated that at any time Mr. Johnson could have asked the Board to give him time to read and review the contract. He commented that Mr. Johnson had given Mr. Knight a raving review on his evaluation.

Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Johnson what part of the Executive Director's contract did he disagree with. Mr. Johnson said that he still had not read the contract. Chairman Hughes informed Mr. Johnson that he mailed all five copies of the Executive Director's contracts to the address that was given to him by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson said that he did not receive any copies of the contracts.

Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Johnson if he did not have confidence in the contract why not abstain from voting or just vote no. He said the vote was unanimous for the contract. Chairman Hughes commented that Mr. Ives was the only member to ask a question.

Mr. Ives commented that he had some concerns with the contract but Ms. Creech addressed them earlier. He stated that if Mr. Johnson had concerns why not ask the members to have a discussion before voting and then sign the contract. Mr. Ives said he and other Board Members had a chance to review Mr. Knight's contract in the previous years and knew what the differences were. He commented that Mr. Knight was present to discuss any questions that the Board might have. Chairman Hughes said that the contracts were verbatim except for the dates he served and the salary. Mr. Johnson commented that he would have liked more time to review and discuss the contract before voting. Mr. Schwartzkopf stated that in the future that the Board could distribute the contract for review 10-days before signing them.

Chairman Hughes remarked that the Agenda was posted five-days before the Board Meeting. He commented that Mr. Johnson could have contacted him or staff for a copy of the contract before the meeting. Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Johnson if his only concern was the buyout and the sick/vacation time. He stated that if Mr. Johnson wanted to rescind the contract that he would need to make a Motion and receive a second.

Mr. Knight commented that he never wanted a contract but the Board insisted that he have one. He indicated that his contract was more in line with SWA employees as well as sick time and vacation. Mr. Johnson asked if the SWA employee had contracts with severance packages. Mr. Knight replied no they did not.

Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Johnson if he wanted to make a Motion to rescind the Executive Directors contract. Mr. Johnson commented that he was good.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Schwartzkopf moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the June Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Minutes approved on July 28, 2020.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Bo Ives, Chairman

ATTEST:

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr., Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Pam J. Creech

Michael H. Hughes

W. Norfleet Jones

Carl H. Schwartzkopf