

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING  
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.  
May 3, 2022**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 4:00 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 mailed to the news media.

Present were the following Board Members: Bo Ives, Chairman; Amos C. Berry Vice Chairman; W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary; Carl H. Schwarzkopf, Treasurer; and Board Members Michael H. Hughes, Samuel T. Johnson Jr., and Robert J. Kemp.

There were no members of the public or media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director, and staff member Monica Collier.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order, and he rendered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Schwarzkopf moved to approved Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Jones and the Motion was carried.**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request**

Chairman Ives stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public input regarding the Fiscal Year 2023 Draft Budget.

Chairman Ives asked Mrs. Bitting to give a brief update on the proposed FY2023 Budget. Mrs. Bitting stated that the Budget Workshop was held on March 8, 2022, and Horry County Council had their Workshop on April 7, 2022. Ms. Bitting indicated that the only change made during the Budget Workshop was an increase in the budget for fuel. She stated that funding was taken out the contingency for equipment. Mrs. Bitting stated there was no tipping fee increase budgeted.

Mrs. Bitting reported during the Budget Workshop the Board discussed a 5% cost of living increase for all employees. She advised the Board that the County is considering different options. Mrs. Bitting stated she thought that the County believed a 5% increase is not enough based on what other municipalities in the area were doing.

Chairman Ives asked if there was a need for a motion to allow Mrs. Bitting to adjust the cost of living based on County actions. Mrs. Bitting responded that the Board could purpose a motion, or she could bring information back to the Board for their reconsideration. Chairman Ives stated that the SWA program is not identical to the County, but it would make more sense that the cost-of-living adjustments be in sync with County employees.

Mrs. Bitting indicated some contractors were not able to hold their bid prices due to price fluctuations. She said that she had discussions with various counties and the auditor to determine the best way to handle these issues. Mrs. Bitting said that she and Mr. Knight discussed setting up a contingency fund for the capital budget. She commented that the contingency fund would not affect the budget but would be an account set aside for the capital budget. Mr. Knight commented on the purpose of the contingency fund and said the Board would be informed when funding was utilized from the account. General discussion followed regarding purchasing challenges. Mrs. Bitting said she would present the FY2023 Budget to the Board for their approval at the May Board Meeting.

Mrs. Bitting then opened the meeting to the public for input; however, there were no members of the public in attendance. Mr. Hughes asked who was responsible for paving the road coming into the SWA. He stated that the road was in bad shape and asked what could be done to repair it. Mrs. Bitting responded that road belongs to the SWA. She advised the Board that funding to repair the road had been included in previous budgets but was not included in the FY2023 Budget. Mr. Knight offered a history on the road and said it would be expensive to repair. General discussion ensued. Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that she would include the funding in the FY2024 budget. The Board concurred.

Chairman Ives asked if there was anything else the Board would like to discuss. Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Bitting for a breakdown of personnel working at the MRF. He asked what salary the temporary employees were receiving as compared to what the third-party vendor was being paid. Mrs. Bitting responded that the temporary employees were being paid \$13 per hour per hour whereas the third-party vendor was being paid \$19 per hour. Mr. Johnson indicated that \$13 per hour was good money for the people in the area especially with benefits. He commented that the SWA had individuals who have been working at the MRF for 10 to 15 years with no benefits and he felt that it was time to reward the community.

Mr. Johnson stated the Board needs to revisit salaries for MRF employees and requested information on what it would cost to convert temporary employees to full time SWA employees. Mrs. Bitting stated she would prepare the information.

Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Bitting to provide a copy of the post closure report. He voiced concern about the funding of accounts and stated there may not be ample funding to cover the cost to construct the next phase of the landfill. Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. Bitting if there would be another meeting before the next Board meeting. Mrs. Bitting responded that there was not another meeting scheduled but stated a Finance Committee Meeting could be held before the next Board Meeting. Chairman Ives stated that he did not see the need for a Finance Committee Meeting. He asked Mrs. Bitting if she would provide the information to the Board for review before the next Board Meeting. Mrs. Bitting indicated she would.

Mr. Hughes asked if there was still funding in the budget for the Assistant Executive Director position. Mrs. Bitting replied it was. Mr. Knight commented that he was currently interviewing for that position.

Mr. Johnson asked where the SWA advertises bids. Mrs. Bitting answered that the SWA advertised through BidNet. She remarked that the SWA has had great success with BidNet and commented that capital items over \$10,000 must go through BidNet. Mrs. Bitting advised the group that Horry County, The City of Myrtle Beach, and Grand Strand Water & Sewer all utilize BidNet.

Mr. Hughes asked if staff had considered adding Juneteenth as a SWA holiday. Mrs. Bitting commented that she and Mrs. Bell had spoken about it and indicated Mrs. Bell was planning on discussing the matter with Mr. Knight since the County added the Juneteenth holiday this year. Mr. Ives stated that the SWA does not always observe the same holidays as the County because the SWA needs to be open. Mrs. Bitting concurred but stated that the SWA also tries to compensate holidays that the SWA is open with personal days. Mr. Hughes commented that he understood the need to be open; however, Juneteenth had been around for a while and if the County was recognizing it the SWA should consider it. Mrs. Bitting reminded the group it would take the Board's approval to add Juneteenth to the holiday schedule. Mr. Hughes indicated that the cost to add the holiday should be discussed and considered prior to the budget being approved. Chairman Ives concurred. Mrs. Bitting stated she would forward to the Board the Juneteenth cost information, along with the post closure and MRF information.

Chairman Ives stated the floor was still open and asked if there were any other items that the Board would like to have the staff work on; however, there were none.

In closing Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Bitting and all department heads for developing a streamlined budget and achieving such good financial reports.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There was no further business to come before the Board during the Public Hearing. **Mr. Jones made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartzkopf to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried;** the Public Hearing adjourned at 4:27 P.M.

Minutes approved on May 24, 2022

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)  
Bo Ives, Chairman

ATTEST:

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W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary (L. S.)

\_\_\_\_\_(L. S.)  
Amos C. Berry, Sr.

\_\_\_\_\_(L. S.)  
Michael H. Hughes

\_\_\_\_\_(L. S.)  
Samuel T. Johnson. Jr

\_\_\_\_\_(L. S.)  
Robert J. Kemp

\_\_\_\_\_(L. S.)  
Carl H. Schwartzkopf