

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2020**

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held a Regular Board Meeting on August 31, 2020. This meeting was at the Agency's Main Office located at 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY 12401. There was also a call-in audio option available through Webex.

The proceedings were convened at 10:15am.

The following Board members were present: Chair Fred Wadnola, Vice Chair Katherine Beinkafner, Treasurer Charles Landi, Member JoAnne Myers, and Member Lisa Mitten.

Also present were: Counsel/Secretary Kenneth Gilligan, Controller Tim DeGraff, Director of Operations and Safety Charlie Whittaker, Recycling Coordinator Angelina Peone, Recycling Educator Melinda France, and Administrative Assistant Brenna Whitaker.

From the public: N/A

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ken Gilligan informed the Board that they need to go into executive session to discuss contract issues with the Town of Rochester.

Charles Landi motioned to enter executive session at 10:28am. Seconded by JoAnne Myers.

The Board exited executive session at 11:32am.

OLD BUSINESS

JoAnne Myers stated that the Governance committee met a couple of weeks ago to talk about the position of Executive Director, and the possibility of eliminating that position and hiring a communication director instead to be part of a management team. She explained the list that the Governance Committee wrote regarding distinguishing features and requirements for the position. She said that they do need to make sure that all Agency personnel are subordinate to the Board.

Charles Landi asked JoAnne Myers if she had read through the ABO pamphlet, which addresses a lot of what she is saying. He said that he had given one out to all of the Board members in the past.

JoAnne Myers responded that she must have it somewhere but has not read it recently.

Ken Gilligan said that the document should read that the Executive Director may offer suggestions to the Board, instead of the other way around.

JoAnne Myers stated that the Board should also be looking for someone to be the Agency's public face, and to be more politically active. She said that this person should be able to research and evaluate new technologies and systems.

Fred Wadnola said that is something Tim Rose never did. He said that the Board always had to bring information and suggestions to him, which he never followed up on.

Katherine Beinkafner said that there is a lot of work that will have to be done relative to the LSWMP, and the Board can't do all of that. She said that there needs to be someone of staff to work on that.

JoAnne Myers said she would like someone with some experience running an Agency.

Charles Landi agreed.

Fred Wadnola said that the minimum requirement should be a Bachelor's degree and five years of experience, because you need five years to learn the industry.

JoAnne Myers said that she agrees with five years of experience, but she's asking what level of experience.

Charles Landi asked if the Board should first be defining the parameters of the job. He said that they are talking about 35 employees, a \$16,000,000 budget, 3 prime locations, 20 secondary locations, and the resumes should have applicable qualifications for those parameters.

JoAnne Myers said she understands that, but they should be more specific. She said she wants the person to be a potential Ulster County resident and have a valid NYS driver's license.

Katherine Beinkafner disagreed.

Fred Wadnola said he wasn't sure if that was something the Agency could enforce.

Ken Gilligan recommended the Board finalize their list of qualifications and get out an RFP, because it may take a few months for a candidate to tie up loose ends before starting the job.

JoAnne Myers agreed.

Fred Wadnola stated that he is in no rush to advertise the position.

Charles Landi said that maybe they want to rearrange the parameters of the job because what they're doing is working.

JoAnne Myers responded that she has been talking about that. She said maybe they should consider hiring another arm of a team to join Tim DeGraff and Charlie Whittaker as the outward face of the Agency and consider elevating Angelina Peone to do research.

Ken Gilligan said that they need someone who knows something about a landfill.

Fred Wadnola responded that he can learn.

Fred Wadnola stated that Angelina Peone is doing a phenomenal job in her current position and doesn't want to negate any of the work she is doing.

JoAnne Myers agreed and said that the Board should consider not following the same corporate model that they always have.

Charles Landi said when and if they do that, Charlie Whittaker and Tim DeGraff should be sitting at the table with them.

JoAnne Myers said that really need to sit down and figure out what exactly is needed to make the Agency the best it possibly can be, which is why the Governance Committee wanted the entire Board to meet about it. She said that over the next month, the Board should come up with ideas to give to the Governance Committee, then they will have another Special Meeting to go over it.

Ken Gilligan said that he really thinks the Board should get something out there just to see who may be interested.

Fred Wadnola said that he worries if the Board puts out the information now, the only responses they will get will be from people from the large waste management companies.

JoAnne Myers stated that is why she wants to add the minimum requirements. She said it is important to find someone who can think outside the box, because individuals from those big corporations are only worried about their bottom line. She said that the Agency is a public service and has to abide by mandates, therefore any candidate would have to understand being in the public sector.

Charles Landi said that tonight at 6:15pm Manna Jo Greene's Energy & Environment Committee is Zoom meeting.

Kenneth Gilligan warned Charles Landi not to saying else about that.

Charles Landi asked Ken Gilligan what his problem is.

Katherine Beinkafner, JoAnne Myers, and Fred Wadnola all stated that he can mention a public meeting.

Fred Wadnola said that he will be attending the Zoom call.

Kenneth Gilligan said that he can mention it, but he didn't want him to go too far.

Fred Wadnola stated that he is interested because Resolution No. 242 is to approve the LSWMP, and Resolution No. 323 states they want to declare themselves as lead agency.

Charles Landi said that he is worried about legislative oversight.

Katherine Beinkafner stated that a SEQRA has to do with an action, and the LSWMP is not an action.

Charles Landi said that David Gordon and Manna Jo Greene are misinterpreting a paragraph from the DEC's attorney.

Katherine Beinkafner said that if you read the resolution written by Laura Petit, it mentions all the different groups that can oversee the Agency, and that the Agency does not need all of that oversight.

Fred Wadnola said that they have no Authority to do that, and that is where Tim Rose screwed the Agency.

ADJOURN

Charles Landi motioned to adjourn the August 31, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Seconded by JoAnne Myers. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.


October 5, 2020

Fred Wadnola, moved by JoAnne Myers and seconded by Charles Landi. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.
Absent: N/A


The minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant. Meetings are recorded and available upon request.


Signatures:



Fred Wadnola, Chair



Ken Gilligan, Secretary



Brenna Whitaker, Administrative Assistant