

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, AT 6:00 PM**

The Public Hearing was held at Agency's Administrative Office, 999 Flatbush Rd, Kingston, NY 12401. The Hearing commenced at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance were Board Members: Regis Obijiski, Jim Gordon, Andrew Ghiorse, and Donna Egan. David Gilmour was absent. Agency Staff in attendance were Karen Sheard, Marc Rider and Timothy DeGraff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Board Chair Regis Obijiski.

MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED 2025 AGENCY BUDGET

Regis Obijiski called for public comments.

Marc Rider read the contents of an email he received from Mike Pitt, VP of Teamsters local 445 which states "Good afternoon Marc,

I wanted to email you and let you know I am unable to attend Thursday night's meeting on behalf of the union and the membership of UCRRA. I had scheduled another union meeting and I could not reschedule the meeting due to some issues that needed immediate attention.

I wanted to see if you could share my thoughts and feelings on the topic of Retiree Health Insurance Benefits for the union members at UCRRA.

First and foremost, the union fully supports retirees being offered health insurance benefits. The workers at UCRRA are essential workers for the county. During the last few years, all of us felt the impact of COVID-19 and how it affected our daily lives and health. Through it all, these essential workers at UCRRA came to work and did their jobs, and did them well, as others worked remotely and in other capacities.

The union also feels strongly about this topic because it shows the workers that you care. It shows that you have the utmost dedication to the job and fully support the work they do. This benefit not only encourages others to want to come and get a job at UCRRA, but it also will retain the dedicated hard working employees who currently work there now.

Many other municipalities that we represent through this, and surrounding counties, offer this benefit to their workers and it does not go unnoticed. This is a major part of why workers look specifically at jobs like this because of the commitment the employer has to its workers.

This is a major part of what the members look for when dealing with their employers when we have negotiations, and I feel it will go a long way with the membership if the board agrees to this benefit.

Please let me know if the union can assist in any way to help facilitate this. We look forward to hearing from you and the board in the near future.

Respectfully, Mike Pitt, Vice President, Teamsters Local 445"

Regis Obijiski asked for additional public comments.

Doug Meir, Town of Saugerties, Department of the Transfer Station, appointed position stated “I am not here to complain; believe me I get it. I was Highway Superintendent for ten years and in private business prior to that. I’d love to see the tipping fee come down, but if it doesn’t, like I said I understand. My presence here is just to see if there is a possibility of a motion this evening to drop it down so that the budget’s can be completed and turned in”.

There were no additional public comments offered at the time. The executive director suggested that opportunity for public comments be held open to accommodate any members of the public who had not yet arrived. Jim Gordon made a motion to recess the public hearing, the motion was seconded by Andrew Ghiorse, and approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent (Gilmour).

The Public Hearing resumed at 6:13 and Regis Obijiski noted that no additional members of the public appeared seeking to provide comment.

ADJOURN

A motion to Adjourn the September 26, 2024, Public Hearing was made by Jim Gordon and seconded by Andrew Ghiorse.

Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1 (Gilmour)

Time: 6:15 p.m.