

Fax: (434) 845-3493

April 24, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Chairman Frank Rogers, Campbell County Susan Adams, Appomattox County Greg Patrick, City of Lynchburg Candy McGarry, Nelson County

Staff Present:

Alec Brebner Sandy Dobyns Clarke Gibson

1. Welcome

Frank Rogers called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2024

Frank Rogers noted that Candy McGarry communicated syntax corrections to staff for the January meeting minutes ahead of the April meeting. Candy indicated that additional syntax corrections were required including changing "venue" to "revenue" and "bu" to "but." Staff apologized for the errors.

Frank asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections Candy noted. Greg moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 24, 2024. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. Financial Report, FY24 Q1-Q3, & Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Consideration Frank advanced to the agenda item regarding the Authority's budget proposal for the following fiscal year and asked staff to present.

Clarke Gibson addressed the highlights of the budget summary included in the agenda packet.

Candy asked about interest accrued in restricted accounts. Susan asked staff if the board agreed to encumber the interest and suggested that interest accrued on



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excess revenue could be returned to the Authority's operating accounts. Greg suggested that the interest should remain in the restricted accounts holding excess revenue until legal action surrounding the excess revenue is resolved. Frank offered that the distribution of excess revenue would affect interest revenue generation. Board members further discussed interest collected on the Authority's operating account and its appearance in the proposed budget. Board and staff further discussed the implications of the Authority's fiscal policy on reserve accounts, excess revenue distribution, and the member-rate tipping fee.

Greg asked how short the budget would be in FY25 without a tipping fee increase. He further noted that projected FY24 expenses exceeded FY24 revenues. Staff answered that FY25 revenues would cover FY25 expenses except for closure/post-closure obligations. A decrease in debt service year over year is reducing expenses such that projected revenues cover expenses less closure/post-closure obligations.

Alec presented four tipping fee scenarios, three of which would generate \$2 million in revenue for closure/post-closure obligations in line with the Authority's annually updated financial planning pro forma. The fourth scenario is a no-increase scenario.

Greg asked about the impact of a \$10 tipping fee increase on the top 10 to 15 haulers. Frank then asked the total tonnage of the largest commercial hauler, to which Clarke answered, 50,000 tons per year. The group noted a \$500,000 total impact.

Susan asked about the consequences of increasing the delta between the member rate and the market rate beyond \$10 per ton and if the fiscal policy allowed it. Susan asked how the \$2.50 per ton collected for future planning was programmed. Staff explained that \$2.50 per ton would be reserved by the Authority for future planning, which could include closure, and that the scenarios with fee increases proposed specifically generate additional revenue for closure.

Frank asked fellow board members if there was a need for a public hearing to contemplate any tipping fee increases. Candy answered that the public hearing was needed for the emergency rates by vehicle type. Greg answered that the resolution noticing fee increases should identify the maximum numbers possible. Candy asked that the record show that her vote in favor of the resolution did not necessarily mean she was in favor of a fee increase. She further expressed hesitation about changing the member rate.



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Clarke and Greg then discussed that the Authority could lose revenue to the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority if the tipping fee increased dramatically. Frank joined the discussion, noting that direct hauling, truck by truck to Roanoke, would be expensive.

Susan asked about past practices to contemplate tipping fee increases. Alec explained that the Authority board had in the past authorized a public hearing by voice vote.

Frank made a motion to approve the resolution as presented to propose a memberrate tipping fee of \$40.33 and a market-rate fee of \$56.08 as well as emergency rates by vehicle type. Candy moved to approve the resolution with a member rate disposal fee of \$30.25 and a market rate of \$56.08. Frank accepted that as a substitute motion. Susan seconded Candy's motion. Frank asked for clarification if that motion included the emergency rates by vehicle types. Candy affirmed. The members voted 2-2 on the motion. The motion failed.

Greg made a motion to advertise a member rate of \$35.00 and a market rate of \$56.08. Frank seconded the motion. The members voted 2-2 on the motion. The motion failed.

Frank made a motion to adopt a resolution to conduct a public hearing to authorize solid waste disposal rates in the event the scales are out of service in accordance with the schedule proposed in the packet. Susan seconded the motion. The members voted 4-0. The motion passed.

5. Director Report

a. Odor Report

Clarke presented that there had been two odor complaints since the last meeting. Frank requested a summary of all complaints for the fiscal year.

b. Tonnage Report

Clarke presented the tonnage report and noted a spike in volume collected during the COVID pandemic lockdown and a leveling off in the two years since.

c. Capacity Study Update

Clarke reported that the Authority's most recent capacity study projected that the capacity of the landfill would be consumed in late 2028. Clarke explained that a fluff layer on the bottom of Cell 5 gave the appearance that



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the cell was filling faster than projected. He fully expects the target date, the date at which the landfill would be full, to creep back up to early 2029 as layers of waste were added to the cell.

Greg asked for clarification that the resolution as adopted included no provision for an increase in the tipping fee versus the current rates of \$30.25 and \$40.25 per ton. Other board members affirmed. Greg then made a motion to amend the resolution to advertise a public hearing with a maximum commercial rate increase of \$50.33 per ton.

In discussion, Candy noted that the Authority can resolve at any time to raise rates. The members discussed that a motion proposing a fee of \$56.08 per ton had failed earlier in the meeting. They further discussed the merits and impacts of increased fees for commercial haulers versus member rates.

The members voted 4-0 on Greg's motion regarding \$50.33 per ton. The motion passed.

6. Adjournment

Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank seconded the motion for adjournment. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

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Secretary Alec Brebner

Date