



## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

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CHRISTOPHER P. ST. LAWRENCE  
Chairman

### **MINUTES**

#### **RCSWMA Meeting**

**Thursday February 26, 2009, 5:00 p.m.  
Legislative Chambers**

#### **Present**

**C. St. Lawrence  
V. Altieri  
C. Coker  
H. Cornell  
P. Du Bow  
M. Grant  
A. Gromack**

#### **Present**

**D. Kay  
T. Kleiner  
P. Marino  
P. Moroney  
H. Phillips  
I. Schoenberger  
P. Soskin**

#### **AAbsent**

**G. Bierker  
E. Devine  
D. Jobson**

#### **Others**

**B. Beckmann  
H. Benado  
K. Braunfotel  
J. Burnet  
B. Butterworth  
J. diFrancesca  
B. Gauntlett  
B. Gobioff  
E. Goldman  
S. Haggerty  
T. Pytlar  
R. Lauria  
S. Mathews**

#### **Others**

**D. O'Donnell  
A. Roppolo  
A. Roppolo  
A. Roppolo  
D. Samuels  
K. Scales  
J. Sheridan  
S. Simon  
B. Smith  
M. Tamblin  
L. Toole  
D. Wanamaker  
T. West**

1. Welcome to the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority meeting for Thursday, February 26, 2009.
2. Roll call by Clerk. There is a quorum.

**St. Lawrence:** We are going to start with new business. About two weeks ago we had interviewed the final two applicants for the Executive Director position. From both the opinions and the votes at the time of those interviews, it was decided that the strongest and best candidate to lead the Authority would be Anna Roppolo. We interviewed one other person and that was the consensus of the committee.

**Gromack:** I move to appoint Anna Roppolo as Executive Director.

**Cornell:** Anna does an absolutely fabulous job for us on this Authority. I just wanted to speak to the process because this was a very important thing for the Solid Waste Authority. I felt sad that every candidate that came to interview was basically interviewed by different solid waste Commissioners. Very few people had the opportunity to hear everybody. The last meeting which was the best attended there was one candidate that was definitely flawed and we didn't know. Although after the meeting I actually saw the interviews that had been done by Ted where he had interviewed some of the people that had worked with that other gentlemen and they were extraordinarily complimentary. Anna has done a

fabulous job in the position in which she holds and I certainly am going to support her. I really think it was a very important opportunity for the Authority and we probably didn't do it as thorough as we should have.

**St. Lawrence:** I would like to address that comment. I also looked at the references and Mr. Pytlar comments and I checked further to see who was making those comments and they were coming from the people that had scurried away from SPSA who the executive director was forced out and fined with the other people that left SPSA. The applicant was at that authority in 2001 and racked up a debt of \$450M. The State of Virginia had conducted an audit to find out what the problems were. The personnel department was not able to find all the money that was assigned to that authority.

We had about 17 applicants we I was able to attend two of the sessions which had covered about five of the candidates. I think that we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful candidate within our Authority that has the ability to understand the Authority and carry it forward.

**Kleiner:** I am going to abstain on this vote and the reason why I abstain is because I also second what Chairwomen Cornell said. With regard to Anna, as I've said publically I think she's terrific. I certainly think she can do the job and has done a fabulous job of Finance Director. I do have some of the same concerns as to the process and this wasn't on the agenda that was distributed. I want to give everybody credit at the Authority for keeping us afloat. The reason I abstain is because I have confidence that Anna will step in and do the job. So I will abstain based on the process and I appreciate everybody on the Authority that took the time to participate with the interviews. Anna best of luck.

**DuBow:** I too abstain because of the process.

**Kay:** When will we start the procedure to replace Anna as Director of Finance and what will we be doing?

**St. Lawrence:** What we will be doing as we discussed previously, we will look at the people we have in the Finance Department that we have now, and we'll see what strengths we have there. We will look to augment that and probably move someone up. We need to augment the work in the Finance Department and look at the pay scale there and budget some further savings.

**Phillips:** I do think we should examine the salary of the Comptroller if we go with the same position and reduce the salary and look at other financial positions. In this economy we should make it incumbent upon us to reduce that salary.

**St. Lawrence:** I agree.

**Grant:** As that process moves forward, if you could go through the Executive Board and do the evaluation and get a recommendation for us to consider and provide ample notice to us prior to coming to vote.

**St. Lawrence:** That is how we will do it. We'll go through the Executive Board.

**Kleiner:** We also discussed, as possible options, not in terms of salary but in the structure at the Authority and find some cost savings by looking at the structure.

**Coker:** This is coming from the heart. Mrs. Roppolo is sitting here with her husband and her daughter and I think it should be such a joyous occasion that she has been given this honor of Executive Director. So I feel bad that some of us feel uncomfortable about the process not that we wouldn't of ended up

choosing you. We don't want to take anything away from your joy and your family's joy and I just want to congratulate you so much and I appreciate the job that you've done already.

**Soskin:** As Treasurer I have worked with Anna, and I want to congratulate her and her family on this promotion. She has done a fantastic job. Having sat through several of the interviews and spoken to the people who have attended most of them, there was no doubt in my mind that she was the spotlight of all the people who interviewed. It's nice to have military people at the head especially at a time like this and the other person who was also chosen was a military man, but she stands out. She knows this Authority backward and forward. So regardless of the procedure, she will do the best job of anybody that we have interviewed. So I wish her well and her family that will be missing her because having seen the way she works, she gives all of herself to her job. So Anna, congratulations and all the best.

**Marino:** As Anna's Supervisor, being a resident of the Town of Stony Point, I too would like to add my congratulations. As I said to Anna at her last interview, coming in I didn't think I would be supporting you, but it was your interview that convinced me that you were the right individual for the job. So on behalf of the people of Stony Point that I represent, I think we chose well.

**Schoenberger:** I worked with Anna at the Town of Ramapo in 1995 for 10 months as Deputy Town Attorney and she was in the Finance Department and that's how we got and know each other. She performed the job so well and did everything so well I always thought she was from Ramapo. Anna congratulations you'll do a great job we all know that and we all have complete confidence in you and all of us are available to help you.

**St. Lawrence:** You started out the day as comptroller you spoke to the Highway Superintendents at their luncheon as a keynote speaker as Comptroller and you are going to finish the night as Executive Director. So while you have the floor, congratulations.

**Roppolo:** I would like to thank Chairman St. Lawrence and the Board for this opportunity. For the past 3 ½ years I have had the pleasure to work with a wonderful group of people who have and will continue to improve the Authority on a daily basis on behalf of the Board. John, Denis, Stan, Eden, Bracha, Suzanne, Larry, Kerri, Helene, Janet, Bridget, Debbie, Keith, John D, Erica, Tommy, Joselene, James, Teresa, George, Bob, Mike and the very new additions of Joe and Jen. We all have our unique strengths that collectively make the Authority a dynamic place. Thanks to a wonderful working relationship with our many facility partners and our consultants, we will strengthen our determination to be in the forefront of all methods of disposal, reuse or recycling of solid waste. To the Board, I would like to extend my deepest thanks for believing in the work that I have done over the past year during the absence of an Executive Director and affording me the opportunity to continue that work. To the Chairman, I want to thank you for thinking of me regarding the position of Director of Finance 3 ½ years ago. Who would have thought that phone call would have led to this career path? It just proves that we never know where life will lead us.

Again, thank you all and I look forward to the future and all of its possibilities.

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**3. Introduced by: Marino/Phillips      Unan.                      February 26, 2009**

**Resolution No. 8 of 2009  
Adoption of Minutes, Meeting of January 22, 2009**

**RESOLVED**, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are approved for the meeting of January 22, 2009, as recorded by the Clerk, and are hereby adopted.



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6. Introduced by: Phillips/Schoenberger Unan. February 26, 2009

**Resolution No. 11 of 2009  
Authorizing Appointment Of, And Execution Of A Retainer Agreement With Teno West  
Of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC As Special Counsel To The Authority**

**WHEREAS**, Teno West, formerly a partner of Holland & Knight, LLP, special counsel to the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority, has become a name partner of the law firm of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. West desires to continue providing legal services to the Authority in the capacity of special counsel; with the support of his new firm, which now includes several former Holland & Knight associates who have performed, and are performing services for the Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority values Mr. West's unique understanding of the Authority, its operations and policies, as well as his professional competence, diligence, and dedication to the Authority in his provision of legal services and wishes to continue its relationship with Mr. West at his new firm; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. West has provided the Authority with the qualifications of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West LLC, to provide legal services to the Authority, and the Chairman and Board considers the firm well qualified to represent the Authority in a broad array of legal matters formerly handled by Mr. West's prior firm; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the interest of the Authority to ensure the continuation of Mr. West's services as special counsel and the ongoing services by his new firm; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs the Chairman to execute a legal services agreement with Mr. West and Pannone Lopes and Devereaux LLC and authorizes the Chairman to enter into any additional or subsequent legal services agreements to secure the services of Mr. West and Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West, provided notice of such transaction is provided to the Board.

**St. Lawrence:** There will be some savings from the last contract to this contract. The current rate for a partner at Holland Knight was \$434.11 that will drop to \$375 for a 14% savings, senior counsel \$413.44 to \$345 for a 17% savings, senior associate \$365 to \$325 for an 11% savings, junior \$295 to \$275 for a 7% savings and paralegal \$205 to \$125 for a 39% savings.

**Kay:** I requested this information this morning and when they bill us for other costs such as transportation will there be savings there?

**West:** The reimbursable costs are less. Normally none of my attorneys or I bill hourly for travel time. It would just be a mileage charge with the firm. With the new firm there will be no charge for faxes or telephone charges. Holland and Knight was a much larger firm. Everyone that was working on the solid waste team for the Authority over such services will still be working for the Authority, but in a more cost efficient manner. I will be having more control than I had before at any previous firm.

**Phillips:** I think everywhere we could show a savings to our tax payers, we have to do so. So I think this is good news and we have to continue. I am confident with Anna having the financial background, we will find other areas to find some savings.

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**St. Lawrence:** Next is authorizing a partnership with HWRA for monitoring and assessment at selected sites. We would be a sponsor for the watershed which has over 200 organizations. It's a \$17,000 commitment for the Solid Waste Authority and \$80,000 grant from the DEC. We are going to have them monitor some sites on the Stony Point and Haverstraw border. This is part of their estuary program and they will work on the Cedar Pond Creek and the Minisceongo Creek.

**7. Introduced By: Marino/Phillips Unan. February 26, 2009**

**Resolution No. 12 of 2009  
Authorizing A Partnership Between The Authority And The Hudson River  
Watershed Alliance For Monitoring And Assessment Of Selected Sites**

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson River Watershed Alliance ("HRWA") is a regional coalition of more than 200 water-resource stakeholders working in the Hudson River basin to support watershed protection objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority desires to become a grant partner with the HRWA, to support HRWA objectives and to provide the HRWA \$17,000 to support such objectives; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority is authorized to become a grant partner with the HRWA and provide the HRWA \$17,000 to support HRWA objectives.

**Cornell:** It's very nice to know this organization identified the Solid Waste Authority as a potential place for a model.

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**St. Lawrence:** Last year the Authority sponsored the support of the Great American Cleanup with a donation of \$2,000. They are asking for our help again.

**8. Introduced by: Phillips/DuBow Unan. February 26, 2009**

**Resolution No. 13 of 2009  
Authorizing the Authority to Sponsor the Keep Rockland Beautiful  
"Great American Clean Up" in an Amount Not To Exceed \$2,000**

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has received a request from Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc. to sponsor the "Great American Clean Up" taking place in Spring 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No.10 of 2008, the Authority previously sponsored this event; and

**WHEREAS**, Keep Rockland Beautiful ("KRB") has proposed to recognize the Authority's sponsorship in the following ways: the Authority logo will be displayed on the back of at least 500 t-shirts given to volunteers; the Authority will be listed as a sponsor on display ads in local newspapers, KRB letterhead, newsletter listings of sponsors, and the KRB website; the KRB website will include a link to the Authority's website; and the Authority will be listed as a partner in all events and presentations related to the Spring 2009 cleanup; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority desires to again be a sponsor of the event in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Authority will sponsor the Keep Rockland Beautiful “Great American Clean Up” in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

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**Moroney:** When will we be looking at the contract?

**St. Lawrence:** We will have the Executive committee meet to look over the comptroller position and contracts and will report back to the Board. Motion to adjourn?

**Moroney:** Moved

**Grant:** Seconded

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Haggerty