

NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2023

The New River Solid Waste Association Board of Directors met for the Regular Board Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on November 9, 2023 with the following members present:

Commissioner Cathy Rhoden, Chairwoman
Commissioner Kenny Thompson, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Channing Dobbs, Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Jimmy Tallman

Others present: Perry Kent, Executive Director
 Joel Woolsey, Assistant Director
 Melissa Waters, Finance Officer
 Lydia Greene, Office Manager/Admin. Asst.
 Russ Wade, Board Attorney

Chairwoman Rhoden called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Commissioner Dobbs followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on agenda item #2, Approval of Expenditures for August, September and October 2023. Commissioner Tallman made a motion to approve the expenditures for August, September and October 2023. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on agenda item #3, Approval of Regular Board Minutes for August 10, 2023. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Minutes for August 10, 2023. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion of agenda item #5, Engineering Updates. Ms. Sawyer, Jones Edmunds, said 18 new vertical gas wells have recently been installed by Sullivan Environmental which

adds to gas collected. Jones Edmunds is currently working on scheduled Groundwater Monitoring and Semi-Annual Reporting.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion of Agenda Item #6, Update – OPAL RNG Plant. Mr. Kent said that OPAL has paid part of the cost for the new gas wells based on their agreement with New River. Our contract states that if we produce a certain amount of gas and revenue in a year for the RNG plant our revenue is based on a higher percentage and we are on track to reach the revenue and production goal in November. Mr. Kent stated that so far, we have paid \$162,346 to each county for RNG revenue from the gas plant and that the last 2 months of the year our revenue will now be paid at a significantly higher percentage. Mr. Kent added that OPAL feels the total revenue will be higher than they have previously stated and that they are very excited about the amount of gas being produced from our RNG plant. OPAL also said that an expansion of the RNG plant is being discussed to handle the higher gas volume.

Mr. Kent said that during the meeting with OPAL yesterday, bonuses for employees was mentioned. OPAL has bonus incentives for their employees and would like to see New River do this also. They have offered to match \$24,000 in bonus money this year for our employees which would be \$3,000 for each employee with more than one year of employment. Mr. Kent clarified that the money to be spent by New River on employee bonuses is from our RNG revenue and not connected in any way to solid waste and asked if the board would be in agreement. Commissioner Dobbs asked if this would be an annual bonus. Mr. Kent responded that it would be. Commissioner Tallman said that he would like to see employee bonuses paid and that he feels New River has saved a lot more than that amount by using employee labor on so many of our projects including the gas plant.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on issuing employee bonuses for New River employees. Commissioner Tallman made a motion to approve using RNG revenue funds of \$24,000 this year for employee bonuses as discussed. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under Agenda Item #7, Discuss RFQs Received for Engineering Services. Mr. Kent said that two responses for RFQs for Engineering Consultants was received. One from Jones Edmunds, our current engineering firm, and one from Geosyntec who has an office in Jacksonville. Mr. Kent introduced Kwasi from Geosyntec who is at the meeting today. Mr. Kent said staff has ranked the submittals

and that he would like to hire both of these engineering firms in order to have both under contract if needed. Mr. Woolsey added it is standard practice to have more than one engineering firm under contract. Mr. Kent said if the board was in agreement to hire both, he would look at contracts and bring those back to the board for approval.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for a motion on hiring Jones Edmunds and Geosyntec as New River's engineering consultants. Commissioner Tallman made a motion to hire both engineering firms. Commissioner Dobbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under Agenda Item #8, Discuss Budget Amendment #1 FY 2022-2023. Ms. Waters said that budget amendments are needed to move unused engineering expenses from last fiscal year to the current fiscal year. There are 3 work orders from Jones Edmunds for projects that were not completed in FY 2022-2023 for a total of \$44,585. Budget Amendment #1 FY 2022-2023 would remove that amount from Operating Expenses in FY 2022-2023. The budget amendments would need board approval.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 FY 2022-2023 as presented. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under agenda item #9, Discuss Budget Amendment #1 FY 2023-2024. Ms. Waters said that \$44,585 for engineering work orders removed from Operating Expenses with Budget Amendment #1 FY 2022-2023 would need to be added to Operating Expenses for current fiscal year budget with Budget Amendment #1 FY 2023-2024.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 FY 2023-2024 as presented. Commissioner Tallman made a motion to approve. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under agenda item #10, Alachua County Issues/Items. Mr. Kent said that no one from Alachua County was in attendance today.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #11, Attorney Issues/Items. Mr. Wade stated he had nothing for discussion.

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Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #12, Executive Director Issues/Items. Mr. Kent said he did not have anything else for discussion.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #13, Board/Chairman Issues/Items.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Tallman. The meeting was adjourned.