

Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste District Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 12/4/23

The meeting of the OSS JSWMD Board of Directors was called to order by the Commissioner Coppeler at 1:05 P.M., held in person at the OSS Main Office, 1875, E. State St., Fremont. Present were Ottawa County Commissioners Mark Coppeler, Don Douglas, and Mark Stahl, Sandusky County Commissioners Scott Miller, Charles Schwochow and Russ Zimmerman, and Seneca County Commissioners Bill Frankart, Anthony Paradiso, and Tyler Shuff.

Also present were the following OSS SWD staff: Director Gary Baty and Communications Specialist Tim Hassinger.

Others at the meeting:

Albin Bauer representing Peters Kalail & Markakis LPA
Sheri Trusty representing Seneca County Commissioners
Jack Van Kley representing Seneca County Attorney (via phone)
Zachary West representing Seneca County General Health District Board
Susan Coppus representing RAT Patrol Inc
Lori Wolph representing RAT Patrol Inc
Logan Wolph representing RAT Patrol Inc
Bill McAllister

SENECA COUNTY PRESENTATION REQUEST FOR LANDFILL OVERSIGHT:

Commissioner Paradiso introduced a letter written by the Seneca County Health Commissioner, Julie Richards requesting funds from the OSS Solid Waste District for oversight of the landfill located in Seneca County. The letter discusses that the Seneca County General Health District (SCGHD) has a current unencumbered balance of \$2,807,497.69 in the fund account 089-Construction and Demolition Debris. The SCGHD have current purchase orders totaling \$621,630.00. The letter discusses expenses they request funding from The District to help cover. The SCGHD requests \$500,000 for the 2024 oversight of the landfill in Seneca County.

Seneca County Board of Health Vice President, Zachary West added further insight on what the funding will go towards. West said the SCGHD Board spoke with advisors who recommended purchasing additional ambient air monitoring systems similar to those previously installed by WIN Waste as part of their consent order in 2019. The systems that have been bought by the SCGHD will sit outside of the landfill property in the prevailing wind direction of the landscape in relation to the landfill. West mentioned the concerns of impartiality of already existing air monitoring systems sitting on landfill property as one of the reasons the SCGHD pursued these additional air monitoring systems which will be placed in the communities near the existing Sunny Farms Landfill.

West also brought up the performance of a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Study (CEIS) which would assess the environmental, social, economic impact of a landfill expansion, as well as the stakeholder engagement plan and ESG performance monitoring. West estimated the cost of this CEIS to range between \$500,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00. He also noted that if this landfill was in any of the surrounding states, the EIS would have to be funded by the landfill, or the entity applying for expansion but in Ohio there is no such rule.

Commissioner Coppeler introduced an email consisting of a conversation with Ohio EPA

Environmental Specialist, Lindsey Grimm asking Lindsey if it is an allowable expense for a Solid Waste District to fund the building and maintaining of an air monitoring system outside one of our in-District Landfills. Grimm responded in the email by saying, "I have reviewed with the other Planning Members, and we are all in agreeance the purchasing and maintaining of an air monitoring system outside one of your in-District Landfills does NOT fall within one of the ten allowable expenses for a Solid Waste Districts.". Director Baty also mentioned that he had reached out to the Ohio EPA on the matter and asked if there are other options available for the SCGHD to get funding for such a thing and he got back a set of links for three OEPA grants that can help fund for air monitoring systems as well as links on technical assistance on how to fill out the grants. West had mentioned he was aware of grant opportunities to help fund the CEIS but was not aware of the grants that can go towards the air monitoring system and asked Director Baty if those grants would allow reimbursement for equipment already purchased, but Baty said he wasn't sure on that.

The Commissioners agreed they would revisit the funding of air monitoring systems in 2024 after OSS' attorney and Seneca County's attorney were able to get together and further discuss the rules and guidelines set forth by the OEPA and the 10 allowable expenses that are outlined in ORC 3734.57(G) as well as the point of understanding from the Ohio Attorney General and reach an understanding together.

Commissioner Paradiso wanted to be sure that the OSS Board were all still in understanding and agreement that The District was still planning on supporting the \$100,000.00 in funding for Landfill Inspectors hired by the SCGHD. Board members that are in the budget committee for The District (Commissioner Stahl, Zimmerman, as well as Commissioner Paradiso) agreed that those funds were already prepared in the upcoming 2024 budget as it was agreed upon in July. Commissioner Paradiso also asked that after legal review and checking into grant opportunities by the SCGHD that The District was able to still help in providing funding for the request of \$500,000.00 for the air monitoring system that the OSS Board would entertain discussion to take action. The Board agreed that was fair.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Paradiso moved to adjourn at 2:34 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Stahl. Unanimous approval of those present was recorded. Motion approved.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

December 11th, at Noon at 1875 E. State Street, Fremont.