

Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 5/10/23

The meeting of the OSS JSWMD Board of Directors was called to order by the Commissioner Coppeler at 9:00 A.M., held in person at the OSS Main Office, 1875, E. State St., Fremont. Present were Ottawa County Commissioners Mark Coppeler, Don Douglas (online), and Mark Stahl, Sandusky County Commissioners Scott Miller, Charles Schwochow and Russ Zimmerman, as well as Seneca County Commissioners Bill Frankart, Tony Paradiso and Tyler Shuff.

Also present were the following OSS SWD staff: Community Outreach Specialist Tim Hassinger and Director Gary Baty.
Jimmy Flint of the Seneca County Commissioners staff

OSS PLAN RATIFICATION STATUS: Director Baty showed to the board a graph sharing the OSS Plan Ratification status for all three counties. Ottawa County has a 69.83% approval rate of the population as well as approval from the County Commissioners. Sandusky County has a 68.84% approval rate of the population as well as approval from the County Commissioners. Seneca County is the only county that has not yet ratified the plan with 4.74% approval from the population and no ratification from the County Commissioners yet. Commissioner Paradiso asked what the required percentage of approval is needed in each county for the plan to pass. Director Baty responded with 60% of the population from each county including the vote from the largest city and the vote from the commissioners in each county to approve the plan for it to pass. In Seneca County they would need the approving vote from the Commissioners, and the cities of Tiffin and Fostoria for the plan to pass, though some of the larger townships could help reach that 60% too. If the plan is not approved before the OEPA deadline of June 3rd, the plan will fail and the control to make the plan will be given to the Ohio EPA and out of local input.

Commissioner Paradiso mentioned that they hope to amend the plan to add additional funds into the policy plan from The District to the Seneca County General Health District (SCGHD). Currently the plan shows a total of \$61,000 to be allocated yearly to each Health Department in the district. Seneca County Commissioners mentioned that they have been getting many messages from their residents with concerns about the oversight of the Sunny Farms Landfill and that they are wanting to do their due diligence to see what they could possibly do with the Policy Plan as it is to help in providing funding for more oversight and testing on the landfill. They wish to help protect their residents and have just gotten some information from the Seneca County Health District about the budget on their C&D fund.

SENECA COUNTY HEALTH BOARD UPDATE: Commissioner Paradiso gave some insight into the current budget for the SCGHD. The current budget in the C&D fund is 2.4 million a year. Last year they had \$300,000 in leftover funds in that line item. Paradiso continued by saying However, they are currently burning through those funds at such a rate they will be in the negative in a year's time. The SCGHD is looking for an increase of \$400,000 to aid in testing for the next five years. Funds would go towards things such as the salary of another registered environmental health specialist to help in testing samples at the landfill, especially in the chance

of an expansion. Other proposed funds would be to supplement air quality sampling equipment, radiation monitors, and well water testing for homes.

Commissioner Coppeler mentioned that the plan still needs to be approved before they can do anything to amend it. He also mentioned that the additional funding to the SCGHD can be discussed during a budget meeting that would need to be motioned and approved of.

Commissioner Paradiso understood that and that he was just looking for a type of “good faith agreement” to help out the SCGHD moving forward as they look to ratify the Policy Plan at their next Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Coppeler asked for a motion to approve of a budget meeting in the near future as the members of the budget committee would set that date following today’s meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Frankart and was seconded by Commissioner Schwochow. All Commissioners present approved. The Budget Committee has agreed to meet in the near future to discuss additional funding to Health Departments within the district.

Commissioner Schwochow and Coppeler added that the topic of funding should be left open in the future as well if more testing is needed in the Port Clinton Landfill, or groundwater testing with the Vickery Environmental underground injection well if such needs come up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business at this time.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Paradiso moved to adjourn at 9:58 AM., seconded by Commissioner Schwochow. Unanimous approval of those present was recorded. Motion approved.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

June 7th at 11:30 A.M. Location: OSS District Office, 1875 E. State Street, Fremont.