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The Municipalities of Annapolis and Kings and the Towns of Annapolis Royal, Berwick, Kentville, Middleton and Wolfville

**Valley Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority
Special Meeting
March 29, 2018
6:00 pm
Valley Waste-Resource Management Office – Boardroom**

Attendees

Members/Alternates: Wendy Elliott, Eric Bolland, Martha Roberts, Barry Corbin, Brian Hirtle, Gail Smith, John Kinsella, Craig Gerrard, Martha Armstrong, Michael Gunn

Staff: Geoff McCain, Jeff Martin, Andrew Garrett, Sue Visentin and Karen McQuaid

Guests: Mark Phillips, CAO, Town of Kentville, John Ferguson, CAO, Municipality of Annapolis County, Scott Conrod, CAO, Municipality of the County of Kings, Mayor Sandra Snow, Warden Timothy Habinski, Mayor Jeff Cantwell, Peter Muttart, Mayor of the County of Kings, and Anna Ashford-Morton, Councillor

Agenda Item No. 1 - Call to Order

Chair Kinsella called the meeting to order welcoming everyone and thanking all for adjusting schedules to attend. Round table introductions were held for the benefit of all.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF WENDY ELLIOTT AND SECONDED BY ERIC BOLLAND THAT THE AGENDA BE RECEIVED AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 3 – 3-Month Temporary Operating Budget

Geoff McCain, Finance Manager and Acting General Manager, referred to the package prepared for the meeting titled Operating Budget Detail. The numbers reflect the same as the April, May and June numbers of 2017. Mr. McCain referred to page 3, the Transfer to Capital Reserve

explaining these numbers need to be removed. Councillor Hirtle and Councillor Roberts brought to the attention of the board that the numbers are not reflective of the 2016/2017 budget as previously passed in the March 21st, 2018 meeting.

ON MOTION OF MARTHA ROBERTS AND SECONDED BY BRIAN HIRTLE THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD POSTPONE THE FUNDY COMPOST ORGANICS CONTRACT UNTIL AN AUDIT HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

MOTION DENIED.

A discussion ensued. Mayor Muttart expressed concerns for breaching a signed contract. The County of Annapolis is concerned about the numbers in the Operating Budget and referenced account number 61700 (Organics Processing) not adding up. Mayor Cantwell expressed that we must continue to provide service to our citizens regardless of these issues.

Councillor Corbin stated the main purpose of this meeting is to provide some resolution so the organization can function successfully for the next several months and services can continue to be provided.

. Councillor Hirtle and Councillor Roberts said they could not support the temporary 3-month Operating Budget as presented. Mayor Muttart said that if you read the documentation in the Municipal Government Act, the word “commitment”, does not apply to solid waste, therefore, it does not apply to the organics contract either. Mayor Muttart also noted the reason for Ministerial approval on contracts is to ensure municipalities are not overspending; not to nullify contracts.

The Board asked Mr. McCain if he could quickly provide the 2016/2017 figures. Mr. McCain said he could and left the meeting to do so.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Update on Hiring of the General Manager Position

Chair Kinsella asked each Board member whose Council would support the hiring of the new General Manager at this time. It was decided that this process should be delayed.

ON MOTION OF WENDY ELLIOTT AND SECONDED BY ERIC BOLLAND THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD POSTPONE THE HIRING OF A GENERAL MANAGER FOR A 3-MONTH PERIOD.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Acting General Manager’s Overtime Pay

Item No. 5 to be discussed in-camera when Acting General Manager returns to meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6 – Update on Letter from Warden Habinski, dated March 23, 2018

Chair Kinsella asked each Board member who would accept the Certified Motion request made by the Municipality of the County of Annapolis. All Board members accepted.

A request was made to view the Inter-Municipal Service Agreement by the CAO of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis.

Mayor Muttart spoke on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Kings. He spoke of supporting the continuation of what he termed a National Class Organization and ensure it continues to operate successfully. He added that there may have been contractual issues from previous years unbeknownst to anyone at the time, but “we are where we are” and must continue to perform and honour the current contracts. He stated that good will amongst the Municipalities must be ensured and those members wishing to withdrawal from the Inter-Municipal Service Agreement must step-up and do so at this time. Diversions must not be created and municipalities must do what it takes to move forward.

Chair Kinsella also spoke about moving forward and addressing the problematic issues on the table and the need to have a common goal for all municipalities.

Chair Kinsella called for a break at 7:05 p.m..

The Board went back in session at 7:15 pm.

Geoff McCain took the floor and distributed the updated Operating Budget Detail. He referred to sections of the budget that will require more work, specifically salaries and benefits, legal and professional services.

ON MOTION OF MARTHA ROBERTS AND SECONDED BY BRIAN HIRTLE THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MOVE TO AN IN-CAMERA SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER.

MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF GAIL SMITH AND SECONDED BY ERIC BOLLAND THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD COME OUT OF THE IN-CAMERA SESSION.

MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF BRIAN HIRTLE AND SECONDED BY BARRY CORBIN THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD RECOMMEND A 3-MONTH

TEMPORARY OPERATING BUDGET, USING THE 2016/2017 NUMBERS, BE FORWARDED TO MUNICIPAL PARTIES FOR APPROVAL WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- **WAGES AND BENEFITS FROZEN AT CURRENT LEVEL;**
- **NO NEW SPENDING;**
- **PAST COMMITMENTS TO BE HONOURED;**
- **LANDFILL TIPPING FEE STRUCTURE AT \$92.23/TONNE;**
- **NEW DEBENTURES INCLUDED**
- **ALL SURPLUSES BE GIVEN BACK TO THE MUNICIPAL PARTIES;**
- **TRANSPORTATION FIGURES REMOVED FROM ITEM 61700, ORGANICS PROCESSING CAPITAL RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ZERO**

MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF BRIAN HIRTLE AND SECONDED BY ERIC BOLLAND THAT THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MAKE A ONE TIME PAYOUT TO THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER FOR ACCUMULATED OVERTIME.

MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Update on Letter from Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA Kings West, dated March 19, 2018 and Draft Response Letter dated March 28, 2018.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not any response to Mr. Glavine’s letter is required and it was determined that because the letter was not directly sent to the board, no action is required.

Agenda Item No. 8 - Adjournment

ON MOTION OF BARRY CORBIN AND SECONDED BY WENDY ELLIOTT THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VALLEY REGION SOLID WASTE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ADJOURN AT 8:30 PM.

MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Visentin and Karen McQuaid
Valley Waste-Resource Management