



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 10:30 AM
Warneck Pump Station
James W. Wright Conference Room
23557 NYS Rt 37, Watertown, New York

The Development Authority of the North Country Board of Directors met in regular session in person and via Zoom Videoconference at the Warneck Pump Station, 23557 NYS Rt 37, Watertown, New York on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

Members Present

Voting

Margaret Murray, Chairperson
Thomas Hefferon
Alex MacKinnon
Dennis Mastascusa
Kenneth Bibbins*
Mary Doheny
Mark Hall
Eric Virkler

Non-Voting

Stephen Hunt
Brian McGrath*

*Attended via videoconferencing.

Members Absent

Nancy Henry

Staff Present:

Carl Farone, Executive Director
Jennifer Staples, Chief Financial Officer
Carrie Tuttle, Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Bohmer, Director of Information Technology
Dawn Caccavo, Comptroller
Michelle Capone, Director of Regional Development
Thomas Haynes, Director of Engineering
Laurie Marr, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Brian Nutting, Director of Water Quality
Shawn Thornton, Director of Materials Management
David Wolf, Director of Telecommunications
Angela Marra, Executive Assistant
Tonya Cumoletti, Administrative Associate

Guests:

Jennifer Granzow, Counsel, Wladis Law Firm
Ryan Santamour, General Public

1. Chairperson Murray called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.
2. Chairperson Murray requested a roll call.
 - A quorum of voting and non-voting members was established.
3. Privilege of the Floor -
 - A. MacKinnon commented regarding the Development Authority website, specifically the GIS section, has become so well received with real estate and surveyors that it has now become the standard. They are utilizing this website because it is current and very well managed.
4. Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by D. Mastascusa, the minutes from the October 26, 2023 Board Meeting were approved.
5. Chairperson's Report
 - a. The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has reappointed M. Murray and K. Bibbins through December 31, 2027 to the Authority Board.
 - b. Reminder for the upcoming Finance Committee Budget Work Session to take place on February 8, 2024 at 10:30 AM at the Warneck Pump Station. The next Board meeting will be February 22, 2024 at 10:30 AM at the Warneck Pump Station.
 - c. M. Murray wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.
6. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Audit firm selection -

C. Farone reviewed the audit RFP selection process. This RFP was issued and sent out to 48 certified public accountants, to include 25 minority women business owned and service disabled veterans. Two responses were received from high quality audit firms, and then reviewed by the Audit Committee when they met on November 1. The accounting firms were then ranked based upon the criteria included within the RFP. EFPR scoring a 10/10 and Lumsden McCormick scoring a 9.5/10. Based upon the Authority by-laws, the Audit Committee has the responsibility of appointing independent internal auditors to be retained by the Authority. The Audit Committee unanimously agreed to select EFPR at a cost of \$50,900 for FYE 2024 as the Authority's auditor for a term of five years.

M. Hall asked where they were from. J. Staples responded that they were out of the Buffalo area.

E. Virkler commented that he has worked with them for many years through Lewis County and feels they have done a great job. He also found it odd that only two firms submitted.

M. Doheny expressed appreciation for the staff's effort in the process of finding other firms.

- b. City of Watertown – Disinfection By Products –
C. Farone stated that Authority staff met with the City staff to discuss the status of the disinfection byproduct project. The Pilot testing lab results have been compiled and the engineer has formalized his recommendation as previously discussed, resulting in a total of \$50 million. The City has purchased property and are preparing for the project to commence in 2025. The city also received a \$5 million Federal Grant. They did not receive the New York State Grant, but can apply again next year. The Authority will continue to assist helping them obtain grant funds.

- c. Army Water Line Replacement –
C. Farone informed the Board that the Authority has received a \$5 million grant from the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) for the Army Water line replacement, reducing our projected debt from \$13 million to \$8 million. This new water line is complete and the by-pass has been removed. Final restoration work will be completed in the spring.

- d. Army Sewer Line Replacement –
C. Farone reported that the contractor has lined 5800 feet on the Calcium Trail and plans to do an additional 4500 feet this year. They will demobilize for the winter and complete lining the remaining 7000 feet in the spring, with a projected completion date in the summer of 2024.

7. Financials –

- a. Finance Report – Chief Financial Officer

J. Staples reviewed the October year to date financials. The Statement of Net Position reflects a change in assets and liabilities of an overall increase of \$8 million over fiscal year end March 2023. Under Assets, Loan Receivables shows an increase of \$1.5 million due to various loan draws from the Affordable Rental Housing Program, the Tourism Fund, and NCEDF. Capital Assets shows a net increase of \$8.1 million over the previous year. This increase is mainly due to the Army Water Line construction-in-progress account associated with the AWL Replacement Project, which shows an increase of \$9.3 million. Under Liabilities, Long-term Liabilities increased due to the Army Water Line replacement project loan, where we have drawn \$9.3 million in funds as of October year to date. The first interest payment on this EFC loan was due October of this year, and will be due every six months.

Under Change in Net Position for all units, Total Operating Revenue is running very close to the year-to-date budget in total. Customer Billings is under budget due to MMF, which is under budget by \$309,000. MMF year-to-date projected tons were at 139,869, versus the actual tons received of 136,360, for a difference of 3,509. The reason for the difference between the budget vs actual is due to the budget being spread evenly over 12 months, and the Tip Fee increase not going into effect until January 1. This is inflating the budget by approximately \$169,000. Grant Revenue is over budget in connection with the

NYPA ConnectALL project. Looking at Operating Expenses, Depreciation and Amortization are under budget by \$1.2 million, due to the way we spread the budget over 12 months equally plus several large projects going on at MMF, Telecom, and Water Quality that are not capitalized and still ongoing in this fiscal year. Waste Diversion in total is over budget \$74,000 due to high costs of mattress recycling and a total year-to-date of \$80,000.

Under Non-Operating Revenue and Expense, Total Interest Income, is over budget by \$168,000, but the true interest income is \$1.3 million. The market adjustment is a negative \$25,000, mainly associated with MMF investments. As these investments mature, investments are being purchased at a much higher rate of around 4 to 5% return; however, J. Staples further cautioned that she has been told by our investment broker that we are starting to see interest rates begin to decline a bit. Interest Expense is under budget because we have just made our first interest payment associated with the Army Water Line financing. These payments are due every six months. The Army Sewer Line interest payments have been minimal since October year-to-date because we have only seen one very small draw. The Debt Issuance Cost is associated with the Army Water Line replacement project and the Army Sewer Line rehabilitation project, which cannot be capitalized as per GASB requirements, and were not budgeted as an expense.

In summary, the change in net position is a loss of \$699,000 versus a year-to-date budgeted loss of \$3.2 million, or \$2.5 million better than the year-to-date budget largely due to the lack of depreciation expense.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler, and seconded by A. MacKinnon, financials ending October 31, 2023, were unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2023-12-83, authorizing and directing the Chief Financial Officer to submit the PARIS five year budget and financial plan for FYE 2025 as attached to the resolution, and direct said plan to be posted on the Authority's website.

J. Staples reviewed the report as attached to the resolution and further explained how it is assembled as per ABO Guidelines. She continued by explaining the front page line by line, and what is included in the FYE Capital Projects.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2023-12-83, Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS), Five Year Budget and Financial Plan for FYE 2025 Annual Submission, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2023-12-84, amending the FYE 2024 Administrative Division Capital Project Budget to establish a new capital project for Enterprise Resource Planning System Replacement in the amount of \$500,000, to be funded from Administrative Reserves.

J. Staples explained this would be a replacement for the current financial system that has been in place for 25 years and soon will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by D. Mastascusa , Resolution No. 2023-12-84, Administrative Division, FYE 2024 Capital Project Budget Amendment, Enterprise Resource Planning System Replacement, was unanimously approved.

8. Technical Services Summary Report –

a. Non-Lewis County Contracts –

- I. Town of Lisbon, Operations & Maintenance, Water Quality Operation & Maintenance for Water and Sewer Facilities (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$203,094, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- II. Town of Edwards, Technical Services Agreement, Lead Service Line Inventory, Total Agreement Amount of \$7,500, 01/01/24 – 11/01/24, St. Lawrence County
- III. Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, Technical Services Agreement, NBRC Grant Administration (NBRC23GNY09), Total Agreement Amount of \$20,000, 01/01/24 – 12/31/25, St. Lawrence County
- IV. Jefferson County, Technical Services Agreement, Demolition and Revitalization of Deferiet Paper Site, Total Agreement Amount of \$15,000, 01/01/24 – 01/01/25, Jefferson County
- V. Jefferson County, Technical Services Agreement, NBRC Grant Administration (NBRC23GNY11) – Demolition of Former Abbass Foods Warehouse Leray, Total Agreement Amount of \$15,000, 01/01/24 – 01/01/25, Jefferson County
- VI. Town of Wilna, SCADA Services Agreement, Natural Bridge Water Treatment Plant Controls Upgrade, Total Agreement Amount of \$39,500, 01/01/24 – 01/01/25, Jefferson County
- VII. Village of Rensselaer Falls, Technical Services Agreement, Demolition and Revitalization 209 Rensselaer Street, Total Agreement Amount of \$10,000, 01/01/24 – 01/01/25, St. Lawrence County
- VIII. Town of Potsdam, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$4,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- IX. Town of Brownville, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$4,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, Jefferson County

- X. Town of Lyme, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$4,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, Jefferson County
- XI. Town of Fine, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$4,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- XII. Town of Colton, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$4,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- XIII. Town of Clayton, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$8,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, Jefferson County
- XIV. Franklin County, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$8,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, Franklin County
- XV. Town of Malone, GIS, GIS Web-Based Hosting Services Agreement (renewed 5 year contract for services), Total Agreement Amount of \$8,500, 01/01/24 – 12/31/28, Franklin County
- XVI. Town of Pamelaia, Water Service Agreement, Water Service Agreement Town of Pamelaia Amendment 2 extend term to 3/31/2054, 02/10/14 – 03/31/2054, Jefferson County

C. Tuttle explained that this is a simple amendment to increase the term of the agreement as they go through closing on a capital project and Environmental Facilities Corporation is requiring the term of their water service agreement match the financing that they would be getting with EFC.

Upon a motion by M. Doheny, and seconded by E. Virkler, Board Contract Summary Table items numbered I through XVI for the month of December were approved. M. Hall abstained from the vote.

9. Materials Management –

- a. Resolution No. 2023-12-85, amending the FYE 2024 Materials Management Facility Budget Mattress Recycling to increase by \$126,000, and this additional cost will be paid through utilization of the tip fee stabilization fund.

C. Tuttle explained that it had been expected that the Harrisville site would be permitted and operational by the last fiscal quarter, but that has not happened. We have been working closely with them trying to assist them through that process, but there have been delays in the way they have responded to the DEC resulting in an incomplete permit application. We will also need to review their updated pricing once they are operational.

M. Doheny asked if the main issue was permitting. C. Tuttle responded yes, and the DEC has deemed their application complete and they are now on to the public notification process as a SEQRA requirement by the state. Once this is complete, they can begin operations. They have hired a facility manager and some staff but we are still uncertain of this timeline.

A. Mackinnon stated that there is activity there, which is a plus.

C. Tuttle stated that she and C. Farone have been in frequent communications with them to figure out what the financial impact will be to the Authority.

C. Farone stated that the owners stepped into the operation in Buffalo and had not been part of the permitting process in the past. They have to abide by the process and they are making progress.

Upon a motion by D. Mastascusa and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2023-12-85, FYE 2024 Operating Budget Amendment, Materials Management Division, was unanimously approved.

10. Telecommunications –

- a. Resolution No. 2023-12-86, amending the FYE 2024 Materials Management Facility Budget Wireless Tower Service to increase by \$150,000.

D. Wolf stated that this would result in \$1 million in additional revenue.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2023-12-86, FYE 2024 Capital Budget Amendment, Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2023-12-87, authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with Franklin County to accept ownership and operate approximately 50 miles of fiber in Franklin County between Chateaugay and Brainardsville. Said agreement shall be for 20 years and shall require that Franklin County reimburse the Development Authority of the North Country for expenses incurred that are in excess of revenue in any year of the agreement. Such reimbursement applies only to expenses incurred and revenue generated on the additional 50 miles of telecommunications infrastructure in Franklin County.

C. Farone stated that when ConnectAll awards these funds, they require this to be operated as an open access telecommunications network, which happens to be what we are.

M. Hall asked if this included Paul Smiths.

D. Wolf stated that we are already at Paul Smiths, and this would go by there.

M. Hall asked if this was positive or negative, and if this was done annually.

C. Farone stated this is not cumulative, and we believe it will be positive, but it is still good to have the guarantee.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2023-12-87, Franklin County Telecommunication Project, Capital Project Authorization, Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2023-12-88, authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Hamilton County in the Amount of \$555,000 to construct, own and operate 12 miles of fiber to connect public emergency towers between Morehouse, NY and Lake Pleasant, NY. Upon execution of said agreement, the Development Authority of the North Country Board of Directors authorizes the establishment of a new capital project, Hamilton County Public Emergency Project, in the amount of \$555,000.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2023-12-88, Hamilton County Telecommunication Project, Capital Project Authorization, Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

- d. Resolution No. 2023-12-89, authorizing Carl E. Farone, Jr., Executive Director, the Authorized Official to submit an application in the amount of \$70,000 to be matched with \$7,000 in Authority staff time to the New York State ConnectAll office/Empire State Development (ESD). If awarded, the Development Authority of the North Country Board of Directors authorizes Carl E. Farone, Jr., Executive Director, the authorized official to make and sign an agreement with Empire State Development to receive a Regional and Local Assistance Capacity Grant to verify the accuracy of the FCC Broadband map for a total project cost of \$77,000, of which \$70,000 will be funded by the grant.

M. Hall asked how old our surveys are. C. Farone responded they are from 2021, however things are changing everyday. This funding will be very helpful to look at the areas we believe to be unserved. This type of survey will need to be done on a regular basis to continue the momentum forward.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2023-12-89, Regional and Local Assistance Capacity Grant Authorization, Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

11. Water Quality –

- a. Resolution No. 2023-12-90, amending the FYE 2024 Army Sewer Line Budget to increase Customer Billings (GL 4001) and Chemicals (GL 5815) each by \$50,309.40.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2023-12-90, Army Sewer Line, FYE 2024 Operating Budget Amendment, Water Quality Division, was unanimously approved.

12. Regional Development –

- a. Loan Report –

M. Capone reported that there are three loans past due: Northview LeRay housing project in Evans Mills is two months in arrears, and Golden

Technology Management is three months in arrears. She has been in contact with both of them and is not worried about either. The Zoo is two months in arrears, and has a resolution coming up to further discuss this.

Under the NCEDF, the funds that we manage for NYPA, Johnson Newspaper is still in arrears. M. Capone stated that she has had a very good discussion with them and expects payments to resume in January.

- b. Resolution No. 2023-12-91, ratifying a loan in the amount of \$250,000 from the Regional Tourism Transformational Community Revolving Loan Fund to Sunshine Daydream Retreats LLC, d/b/a Black Bear Lodges, at the terms and conditions outlined on the Term Sheet attached to the resolution, and further authorizes the Executive Director or the Chief Financial Officer to execute all documents necessary to make the loan. It is further resolved that this is a Type II Action under the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA) and is considered an exempt activity requiring no further action.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2023-12-91, Regional Tourism Transformational Community Revolving Loan Fund, Sunshine Daydream Retreats LLC, Loan Ratification, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2023-12-92, extending the term of the Jefferson County Historical Society loan for an additional four months, subject to the term sheet attached to the resolution.

M. Doheny recused herself from the discussion.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2023-12-92, Economic Development Fund, Jefferson County Historical Society, Loan Extension, was approved. M. Doheny recused herself from the vote.

- d. Resolution No. 2023-12-93, approving the Thompson Park Conservancy Inc. a 6-month principal and interest moratorium on its Community Development Loan Fund loan beginning with the October 1, 2023 payment and ending with the March 1, 2024 payment, with all other terms and conditions remaining the same.

M. Capone stated that as seen in the news the mayor of Watertown formed a blue ribbon panel of community stakeholders to review the longevity and viability of the zoo. It has been suggested that either the city or the county take the zoo over again, and the survey showed public support for keeping the zoo open. There is still a need for the financial support for this to succeed long term. They are doing the right things, but it will come down to how to operate on the short term and hope they can reopen in the spring with the long plan to sustain. We do not want to hold this back.

A. MacKinnon asked if we have representation on the panel. M. Capone responded we do not, but it is comprised of subject matter experts.

M. Doheny asked who was on the panel. M. Capone stated Mark Irwin, Zoology professor at JCC, is the interim executive director.

C. Farone commented that he has been in contact with their chairman to discuss financials where it was revealed the zoo could be out of money in November. C. Farone asked how they were going to feed the animals. He stated that he informed them that they could ask for a moratorium, which would allow them to pay staff and feed the animals rather than pay us at this time. We should know within the next year what direction this is all going to go.

M. Hall asked if they have an emergency plan. C. Farone responded that they have implemented their contingency plan in conjunction with a fundraising campaign. We need to make sure that the right things happen to the animals. The city has also allocated \$60,000.

M. Doheny stated that based on the news, the county has declined at this point.

T. Hefferon clarified that what we are asking for approval on. M. Capone stated a six-month moratorium on the principal and interest at this time. He further asked if they hand the keys to the city, we lose our money. The zoo is asking the city for \$750,000 to operate each year, he does not see that happening but we need to keep working with this because of the animals.

M. Capone stated that part of the issue is that the zoo has yet to submit a well-defined plan to the city, but she hopes the blue ribbon panel will be able to assist with this. T. Hefferon stated that the zoo needs to be recertified and run year in and out but he does not see the city giving them the \$750,000.

B. McGrath stated that effectively the zoo will default if we do not authorize this resolution. The interest is all we are giving up here because they are not in a position to pay. M. Capone confirmed this to be correct.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2023-12-93, Community Development Loan Fund, Thompson Park Conservancy Inc., Loan Modification, was unanimously approved.

13. Mattress Recycling Program Revaluation Presentation –

C. Farone, C. Tuttle, and S. Thornton reviewed the details and expenses of the current mattress recycling procedure, as well as program history. C. Tuttle discussed the current bill, A6436, which is currently before the state senate. This Bill would require that mattress producers establish a collection program and there would be at least one collection site within each county and the cost of mattress recycling would be transferred to the mattress producers. C. Farone also added that this could incentivize the producers to make more sustainable mattresses.

S. Hunt asked what specifically constitutes a mattress. C. Tuttle clarified and stated the assembly bill has a lengthy definition as to what constitutes a mattress, but further stated that the new foam mattresses are included.

C. Farone stated that New York State does not currently require mattress recycling, that we are currently one of two landfills in the state recycling mattresses, and that the Authority will spend roughly \$425,000 on mattress recycling in 2024.

C. Tuttle went on to discuss waste density, citing a recent compaction rate average of 66%, while our measurable rate is 89%. A. MacKinnon clarified that the higher percentage is better. T. Hefferon asked if the 89% was close to normal. C. Tuttle stated that is our actual compaction, and is measured annually using a drone and then calculating the used air space versus the total tons brought in.

T. Hefferon asked if we are including the county. C. Tuttle stated that we pay a private hauler to pick up the mattresses at the transfer station and haul them to Buffalo. She further stated that none of the counties likes the program, the fees or handling the mattresses.

C. Tuttle continued with the presentation with a review on airspace, mattress alternatives, the process and cost at the Harrisville facility, and reviewed what would happen if we were to resume accepting mattress at the landfill. We are currently paying over \$1,000 per ton to recycle mattresses; trash costs \$50 per ton and single stream recycling costs \$250 per ton. We are only removing 450 tons of mattresses each year, there may be a better recycling opportunities that remove more tons at a lesser cost.

M. Hall asked if our landfill is compacted at a rate better than the industry standard. C. Tuttle replied yes, we are.

C. Tuttle continued with discussing mattress impacts on airspace value and explained that 7,997 cubic yards of air space could be filled with 452 tons of mattresses or 7,148 tons of MSW at a value of \$364,580 per year. This was also put into place prior to the Climate Leadership Community Protection Act existed, which is legislation that has been passed in New York State that requires us to look at our greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally we had to submit a plan showing what we are doing to mitigate our gas emissions. This act was not a factor when we began mattress recycling but we now realize that shipping mattresses is currently generating greenhouse gases equivalent to 12 households. From a tip fee perspective, because we are paying these costs everyone is paying \$2 per ton additional for trash because we are recycling mattresses. The option of recycling the mattresses by shredding costs more than we are currently paying to ship them to Tonawanda and have them disassembled by hand.

C. Farone summarized by stating that continuing to drive to Tonawanda is not feasible and they are recommending that we discontinue this as of March 31, 2024. We could then take this funding and put it toward recycling another material in a much greater quantity that would have a greater impact on the landfill. Recycling of other materials could extend the life of the landfill much further than recycling mattresses. C. Farone also stated that he has been up front with Harrisville about exploring other options. He continued in saying that today's meeting is informational only as no decisions are being made. We will continue to work with Harrisville through March 2024 to get them operational and negotiate prices, and we will continue to work with our representatives regarding Bill A6436. We may be bringing this before the Board in the next year to propose bringing mattresses back into the landfill.

T. Hefferon asked if the mattresses come back to the landfill would this solve the issues with the counties and their staff handling these mattresses, or would staying with Harrisville solve this. C. Tuttle replied that using Harrisville would be the same issues we have now because they would still be packing them into trailers.

A. MacKinnon commented that this is a great job of suggesting putting material back in the landfill, and asked when we begin planning to do this. C. Tuttle replied that the existing contracts with the recycling company in Tonawanda requires 90 days notice to end mattress recycling.

A. MacKinnon and M. Murray both stated that recycled mattress material would not make good animal bedding because it is a non-organic material, would cause bacteria growth, and does not break down.

M. Hall asked if we evaluated purchasing a shredder for the landfill. C. Tuttle stated that we did but it would have cost over \$1 million dollars, required staff to run it and a building to house it. If the assembly bill goes through, this would all become the manufacturer's responsibility, which is very possible because a similar bill has already been passed for carpets.

S. Hunt asked if Geiter Done is in the same situation. C. Tuttle responded yes, but they are also recycling other things, and their main business is tire shredding. C. Farone also commented that they are already advertising the new facility and currently have so much business shredding tires that they will need an additional shredder. C. Tuttle stated that mattress manufacturers would also need these services if the assembly bill were passed, which would create other opportunities for Harrisville.

M. Doheny asked if until this legislation is passed, don't some of the mattresses come to the landfill. C. Tuttle replied that inspections are currently done because they are banned, and if they are found, we return them to the hauler.

A. MacKinnon commented that it seems best to bring them back to the landfill and spend this money in a new area.

T. Hefferon stated that C. Tuttle is very environmentally conscious; she would not be bringing it to us if she did not believe in it.

M. Murray stated that with the budget in process, it is a good time to consider this situation.

There was general agreement amongst the board to look at bringing mattresses back into the landfill in the near future.

14. Next Board Meeting Date – February 8, 2024 (Budget Work Session)
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

15. Adjourn -

a. Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by T. Hefferon, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Mastascusa
Board Secretary