

POLLUTION CONTROL FINANCING AUTHORITY
OF WARREN COUNTY

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 27, 2007

A special meeting was called to order by Chairman, Angelo Accetturo on March 27, 2007 at approximately 4:00 PM to address the Authority's 2007 Budget, Contract issues and Personnel matters.

Authority Members Present: Angelo Accetturo, Harry R. Pool, Jr., Laurel Napolitani, Everett Chamberlain and Ty Schulze

Also present: Jim Williams, Landfill Manager/Acting Executive Director; Jeff Long, Chief Financial Officer; Joseph J. Bell, Esquire, interim General Counsel; Beatrice Gonglik, Recording Secretary

Alex Lazorisak, Mayor of Oxford Township; members of the Oxford Fire and Rescue Squad; Mary Lou MacGregor, Covanta; Jackie Lindsay, Warren Reporter; Sara Satullo, Express Times; Ron Reece, WRNJ; and several other members of the public

Pledge of Allegiance / Introductory Statement

At the last meeting a line item in the budget was questioned and a request was made by Mr. Schulze to obtain additional information from Oxford Township before formally adopting the 2007 Budget.

Mr. Accetturo recused himself at this time and Mr. Pool took the Chair.

Mr. Pool thanked everyone in the audience for attending the meeting. There was a very large turn out.

Mr. Lazorisak, Mayor of Oxford Township was introduced and addressed the members in response to the PCFA's letter dated March 15, 2007 (Attachment C-1). A formal response was distributed to the members concerning the \$60,000 given to Oxford Township in 2006. When they received the funds for the rescue, fire and police department, there were no restrictions placed on the funds. They were taken back a little by the letter.

He agreed to answer any questions this evening on how additional funding would be appropriated. Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Doyle and Peggy Hissim, Captain of the Oxford Emergency Squad were also available to answer questions and concerns regarding any money that may be donated to the fire and rescue teams this year.

Mr. Schulze asked to clear the air: Originally in April 2006, the Board was asked to make a donation to the Fire & Rescue Squad, which they did. Subsequently a portion of that money was given to the police department, not the fire and rescue squad. He does not want to stop any moneys from going to Oxford. He would like to see how the funds were used; follow where the money is being spent. Request was for funds for equipment the fire department needed to help respond to our (WCDL) particular source of fires, which are different from house and industrial fires. The reason he requested the records was to see if the fire and rescue squad actually got the funds. If not, where is it? To prevent this from happening again Mr. Schulze would like the Board to set protocol on dispersing funds allocated to Oxford Township and who allocates it. He is not comfortable with funds listed as a line item; there is no control over it. The Authority needs to know where the money is going. This is his only purpose. Any extra funds for fire and rescue are well deserved. \$30,000 should have gone for additional equipment.

Mr. Lazorisak said that was understandable, he felt the request could have been done just a little less abruptly. It was his understanding from the previous Director and chair that the money was to be given to all three departments. All three departments work together to respond to emergency services. If additional funding will be coming, and these volunteers can depend on the money, then we will appropriate it accordingly every year they know it will be coming in. Township audit from last year will be made available and in the future if requested. If the Authority wants to put a protocol together as to how and where it is going he and the rest of the committee have no problem with that. Just inform them ahead of time.

Mr. Pool thanked Mr. Lazorisak for his comments, he helped the Board gain a lot of insight and he would like to see, if each year, we could meet with the appropriate supervisors of the squad and discuss their needs. We have a partnership with Oxford Township, if we have an underground fire we need it put out.

Bruce Doyle, Assistant Fire Chief, although associated with the municipality in name they are an independent entity and in need of outside funding. They are responsible for the purchase and maintenance of their own equipment. The municipality does aid with the individual safety equipment for the fire fighters. The department itself is responsible for purchasing and maintaining all of the equipment, buildings and trucks. The same situation exists with the rescue squad. One thing they are in need of is better equipment, unique fire and rescue equipment for servicing this area. They will account for any funds allocated to them.

Mr. Schulze agreed with his remarks. Questioned if they received any funds over their allotted budget from the township in 2006? They should have seen a substantial amount of money from the PCFA towards their efforts.

Mr. Doyle stated he could not answer that question directly however they received more in 2006 than in 2005. Oxford Township has been very good to them. There is a line item for OSHA budget (purchase of safety equipment). White Township has made donations

to them also. If funds are targeted directly to Fire/Rescue Fund they will manage funding, go over specific items, needs of the squad.

Mr. Schulze understands the squad needs special equipment. He would like to see legal guidelines in place before funds are released. Issue is control and credibility of where money is going.

Mr. Chamberlain remarked, the line item/grant is not a fixture in the budget. Does not see a difference, personally, between a line item and whatever you want to call it. It's an amount that was put in to support the first responders. He voted on it that way and appreciates all the work the volunteer groups do, not only for the Authority but the surrounding communities.

Ms. Napolitani echoed what Mr. Chamberlain said. She stated the volunteers do a fine job and does not see why the terminology makes any difference. We approved this budget in October and now are in a deadlock.

Mr. Doyle asked that the Authority please do not forget the police department, even though they are the responsibility of the municipality, they do come up here to assist with emergency services.

Mr. Chamberlain interjected that as far as he is concerned, first responders include the police department.

Mr. Doyle continued, one of the concerns of the Authority is pollution control and though they are primarily first responders for fire and rescue, there is another very important function they serve, in and around Warren County and that is hazardous material control. They are considered part of the hazmat group.

Mr. Pool again thanked everyone for their comments. In his service to the Authority he learned you could give money (grants) that furthered the work of our solid waste program, and in this case, emergency management with hazardous materials. We need to work together to form the best possible partnership to serve the area and citizens of Warren County.

Mr. Lazorisak thanked Mr. Pool for allowing them the opportunity to address the Board and over the nine years he has been on the Oxford Township Committee they have had a good working relationship with the Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Ms. Napolitani to adopt the 2007 Budget in the amount of \$6,423,502.

Mr. Schulze will vote for the budget if we can provide some sort of qualifications that those moneys that are in the line item "Emergency First Responder Fund" must be approved by Board decision in the future. Moneys allocated have to come under some

means of tracking and definition of where it is going. He will not support the budget without this.

Mr. Bell stated the Authority can adopt guidelines as they move forward.

Mr. Schulze asked, does the Board agree that until we get those guidelines, those moneys will not be appropriated?

Mr. Chamberlain has a problem with this. We have committeemen, volunteers here, who know this money is in the budget for them and he thinks the people in Oxford are reputable, very honest people, and we have a very honest committee, and great volunteers. He feels, we are saying we don't trust them. He has a problem with that especially with these funds. If we want to do it in the future fine, he does not have a problem with that. We probably should have some type of criteria set up. He does not think there is one person in Oxford who sits on the committee, or sits in the volunteer aspect of the fire company or rescue squad that he would not trust with his own dollars. He feels this is a slap in the face to them and has some difficulty with that at this stage.

Ms. Napolitani stated it was her understanding that last year a \$5,000 grant was given to each municipality, which was not continued within the 2007 budget. The evening Mr. Pool and Mr. Carlton presented the check to Belvidere, she remembers them stating they would appreciate if this was used towards an environmental project and the town please respond as to what they did with the money. It was her understanding, every town was told this. During the meeting to prepare the draft 2007 budget, she questioned how many municipalities got back to the Authority and she was told none.

Mr. Pool interjected that was not correct. There were five or six municipalities that responded.

Ms. Napolitani, in November, was told there were no responses. Why didn't Mr. Schulze feel that way about that?

Again, Mr. Schulze stated, if they were going up for grants, which were removed from the 2007 budget, he would have insisted they do it.

Mr. Lazorisak interjected; the Township Committee or the volunteers would not jeopardize any future moneys. We will produce the audits and if this Board feels the money wasn't appropriated correctly, you would not give this grant/line item/donation again. The trust here, that you don't have, will sooner or later come out. If I was sitting in your place and a municipality, or department, mishandled the money I certainly would take it away.

Mr. Pool stated Mr. Lazorisak made a very valid point and, as far as he is concerned, he has trust and thanked him for making that observation.

Mr. Schulze's response to remarks made earlier, does not feel anyone in this room is not trustworthy, however, as everybody, including this Board, knows that next year you may not be here. Does he know the people who will take his place, no; and that is the whole point in keeping some sort of credibility that the Authority can rely upon for those people who will replace us in the future.

Mr. Chamberlain stated if we do this next year, and there is no guarantee the funds will be there, we can structure it. He has a lot of faith in the people sitting in this room.

A roll call on the motion to adopt the 2007 Budget was requested.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Schulze	-	No
	Mr. Chamberlain	-	Yes
	Ms. Napolitani	-	Yes
	Mr. Pool	-	Yes
	Mr. Accetturo	-	Abstain

Items A-2 and A-3 will be tabled until the April meeting.

Mr. Chamberlain will not be available on April 11th and asked if the meeting could be moved to the 4th or hold it without him. Mr. Schulze has a conflict with the 4th. The other members are available.

A motion was made by Mr. Accetturo, seconded by Ms. Napolitani to move the April Authority Meeting to the 4th.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Schulze	-	No
	Mr. Chamberlain	-	Yes
	Ms. Napolitani	-	Yes
	Mr. Pool	-	Yes
	Mr. Accetturo	-	Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Hissim, Captain of the Oxford Emergency Squad thanked the Board. She stated we want to keep our squad 100% volunteer. A lot of other municipalities are starting to go paid EMTS and they want to keep things the way it is.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Accetturo to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues, the time being approximately 4:55 pm.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Schulze	-	Yes
	Mr. Chamberlain	-	Yes
	Ms. Napolitani	-	Yes

Mr. Pool	-	Yes
Mr. Accetturo	-	Yes

A short recess was called before entering executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Schulze to return to open session at 5:30 pm.

Items addressed in executive session included the salary schedule for 2007, the goals and objectives of the Chief Financial Officer and Landfill Manager.

The Authority is going to accept Mr. Long's resignation, keeping to the contract of 45 days notice.

A motion was made to accept Jeff's resignation as Chief Financial Officer with regret, combined with the fact that the Authority will explore ways in which perhaps maybe an intergovernmental shared services agreement could be effectuated if it doesn't violate statute of charter, to consolidate some of Jeff's activities with the County of Warren's activities. At the same time too, upon completion of Jeff's service to the PCFAWC the Authority will have an audit conducted in order to ensure Jeff leaves with a clean slate and a new gentlemen comes in with a clean slate also.

Mr. Long stated we have an annual audit that is going on right now. Why do you need another audit? We have an audit on going right now that we pay \$40,000 a year for. Why bring someone else in again to redo it basically for three months. It doesn't make sense. If that's your trust level about me, fine get an accountant.

Mr. Bell explained it was no slight at Jeff, no attack against him. We are going to go to our auditor; he can just update whatever is there. What you should do when you are going to be responsible for millions of dollars is always to make sure that everything is in compliance.

Mr. Bell continued, the motion was also to approve Jeff's increase for fiscal year 2007 at the 5% as we have indicated the CFO's salary should be established in connection with the consumer price index.

Mr. Chamberlain made the motion as presented by Mr. Bell. Ms. Napolitani seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Schulze	-	Abstain
	Mr. Chamberlain	-	Yes
	Ms. Napolitani	-	Yes
	Mr. Pool	-	Yes
	Mr. Accetturo	-	Yes

A motion was made to award our acting executive director an increase of 8% plus a \$5,000 bonus, pursuant to contract.

Mr. Williams clarified for the Board that the \$5,000 bonus should not be in there for this year, it was for last year. Mr. Chamberlain stated that with the responsibilities Mr. Williams has taken on he certainly deserves this money.

Mr. Chamberlain moved to accept the motion as it stands. Mr. Accetturo seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Schulze	-	Yes
	Mr. Chamberlain	-	Yes
	Ms. Napolitani	-	Yes
	Mr. Pool	-	Yes
	Mr. Accetturo	-	Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Accetturo approving a 4% increase in salaries for the non-management employees, retroactive to January 1, 2007, as with all other motions. This motion was withdrawn, as this was not for consideration this evening.

Mr. Accetturo asked if there were any comments from the public or the board.

There being no response, on a motion by Mr. Chamberlain, seconded by Mr. Accetturo the special meeting of March 27, 2007 was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beatrice Gonglik
Administrative Secretary

APPROVED: May 9, 2007