

**Montgomery-Otsego-Schoharie Solid Waste Management  
Authority  
Finance Committee Meeting**

**Date:** September 15, 2008

**Location:** Howes Cave Administrative Complex

**Members Present**

Meredith McNeil  
Martha Clarvoe

**Members Absent**

**Others Present**

Gilbert Chichester  
Barbara Corrigan  
Olga Podmajersky  
Edward Wesnofske  
John Mattas

**Opening -**

Meredith McNeil called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

**Minutes of the Prior Meeting -**

Martha Clarvoe moved the acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting. Ed Wesnofske seconded the motion that was unanimously approved.

The agenda was set to be the discussion of four topics: GAT, the operating budget, the capital budget and the decisions from the meeting of the three Counties.

**1. GAT -**

Inquiry was made regarding the waste flow in neighboring Counties and it was indicated that minimal reduction was being seen.

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that Casella was reporting a downturn in C & D pickups. He had talked with waste generators and softness in generation was reported. He felt there is a good argument that there has been a peaking of waste volumes and now we are in a downslide.

C & D waste deliveries represent about 25% of the waste flow to the Authority.

Martha Clarvoe indicated she felt there was sufficient evidence of a downturn to make a downward adjustment to the GAT for the coming year.

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that he thought they would gather more information at the upcoming NYS Association of Solid Waste Managers meeting to be held in Lake Placid.

Mr. McNeil indicated that it would be positive if the three Counties could agree to subsidize at a uniform rate that, at the same time, would be high enough to attract waste to the MOSA system. He felt that Schoharie could lower their subsidy some but realized that Otsego County would be reluctant to raise their subsidy. He thought it looked like Schoharie would end the year slightly above their GAT.

It was pointed out that a recent demolition done on Chestnut Street in Oneonta had been diverted.

Mr. Wesnofske also pointed out that Waste Recovery Enterprises (WRE) took in C & D and recovered valuable materials and disposed of the residue, which has not been coming to MOSA.

Meredith McNeil pointed out that at one time in Schoharie County, a letter was sent to all the towns, villages and schools pointing out that it was advantageous to Schoharie County taxpayers for all waste generated within Schoharie County to go to MOSA. It seemed to help for a short while. Now that there has been a change in personnel at the County, no effort is being put on this project.

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that Montgomery County was now trying to direct demolition projects to MOSA. The County was giving incentives for such projects.

Meredith McNeil indicated that it would be good to resend a letter to the Counties encouraging their support to meet the GAT.

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that a letter had been recently sent.

Meredith McNeil suggested reducing the GAT by 5%.

John Mattas asked about looking at the actual deliveries for the past 12 months.

Mr. Wesnofske explained that due to the diversion of waste in the three counties that the actual deliveries for the past 12 months did not give an estimate of waste generation. Such an action would not be in keeping with the Service Agreement

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that in good times the EPA estimated that waste generation was growing at a rate of 2% – 3% per year. He felt under the current circumstances it was clearly justifiable to discount by an amount up to 5%.

Martha Clarvoe suggested reducing the GAT by 2.5% from the 2008 figures.

Olga Podmajersky indicated that she had looked at some areas in Montgomery County and felt that residential deliveries were down.

Meredith McNeil suggested adjusting the GAT downward due to recessionary pressure. He felt that such an action would put pressure on the Counties to do something to encourage deliveries to MOSA.

John Mattas questioned the deliveries in Oneonta.

Ed Wesnofske pointed out that Oneonta did not have municipal pick-up. Everyone subscribed to a hauler or took their waste to the Transfer Station.

No specific adjustment of the GAT was agreed upon for recommendation to the Governing Board.

## 2. **Operating Budget -**

Barbara Corrigan handed out an updated draft of the 2009 budget.

She indicated that more work was needed on phone, overtime, part time, and fuel.

Meredith McNeil indicated that fuel seemed to be coming down. It would make sense to budget without consideration for a fuel surcharge. He felt that reserves could be used if fuel goes up again in the future.

Barbara Corrigan spoke to the fuel surcharge that was imposed in July.

Olga Podmajersky felt that there was a big increase in manpower and benefits.

Barbara Corrigan indicated that she had found a need to adjust the amount put in for retirement.

Ms. Podmajersky also pointed out the increase in fuel and felt that it was justified due to the situation at hand. She also questioned the amount being budgeted for property repairs and indicated that she felt \$100,000 was too much for contingency.

Meredith McNeil indicated that he did not find anything that was unrealistic.

Barbara Corrigan spoke to the staffing costs.

Meredith McNeil indicated that with regard to the big picture, the board would need to decide on the GAT. If the GAT is reduced that would put upward pressure on the tip fee.

Mr. Wesnofske asked that Barbara Corrigan prepare a report to show the board the changes made since the last version distributed.

### **3. Capital Budget -**

A copy of a draft capital budget was distributed and discussed.

It was felt that additional information was necessary before a more final version can be developed.

Meredith McNeil made a motion to submit the budget with the agreed upon revisions to the full board. This was seconded by Martha Clarvoe and all committee members were in favor.

Meredith McNeil also moved to recommend a 2.5% reduction in the GAT from the 2008 GAT. This was seconded by Martha Clarvoe and unanimously agreed upon.

#### **Closing -**

A motion to adjourn was made by Meredith McNeil and seconded by Martha Clarvoe. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Gilbert L. Chichester  
Executive Director