

February 6, 2020

The February 6, 2020 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ellen Nerbak. Present were Ellen Nerbak, Linda Gabel, Lynne Rutkoski, Joseph Watters, Donald Niece, Robert Finke, Richard Kowal and James Smith. Also attending were Freeholder Representative Jason Sarnoski, David Dech, JoAnn Fascenelli and Brendan Bowers. Excused were Steven Haydu, Thomas Fey and Kevin Cavotta. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Minutes

In the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting, last page, first sentence of the second paragraph, Mr. Smith noted a discrepancy in his comments and suggested the words "with the closing of the Covanta plant," be removed to avoid confusion. Also, in the third paragraph, sixth sentence, the word "no" shall be inserted to read "... going nowhere, with no plans for a resolution". In the fourth paragraph it was incorrectly reported that Mr. Smith moved to send a letter to the Freeholders when in fact it was Mr. Watters who made the motion. Mr. Finke MOVED to accept and approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Watters; all in favor.

Correspondence

Combine with Mr. Dech's Solid Waste report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste/Recycling

Mr. Dech offered to share the reusable tote bags he brought to the meeting. Mr. Dech reported he toured the Colgate recycling plant and found it informative, and he reported on their recycling separation. The recycling numbers for 2017 have been circulated, and Warren County fell to 24 percent for Municipal Solid Waste; total solid waste was 61 percent, lowest in the state. Union County is at 28 percent and Hudson is at 27 percent. The highest is Cumberland County at 59 percent; Gloucester is next at 52 percent. This is the first year the DEP calculated by municipality, and the numbers for Warren County are: Alpha at 85 percent; Belvidere at 43 percent; Mansfield at 41 percent; Pohatcong at 38 percent; all others are lower. Members present acknowledged there are problems with the reporting.

The County recycling enhancement grant application is to be submitted. In discussion is what improvement(s) can be made for recycling in the schools and the reporting therefor. Plans are being made for a municipal recycling coordinator event as well as a breakfast in the spring. Mr. Dech asked what topics are of interest, and Mr. Smith asked who will take recycling. The charge for recycling disposal is now at \$128 per ton, and the dumping charge for garbage is double that amount.

Mr. Dech reported the letter to the Freeholders concerning the failure to accept garbage is to be written and submitted soon.

REHS No one present

PCFA No one present

NJDEP No one present

Freeholders

Mr. Sarnoski promised to attend more SWAC meetings. He found the recycling numbers reported above as surprising and agreed the discrepancies must be in the reporting. Budgets are to be decided soon. Angelo Acceturo is replacing Bud Allen at PCFA, and work on Covanta issues is a priority. Mr. Finke asked if any details might be shared, but Mr. Sarnoski said not at this time. When Mr. Smith asked about the amendment plan, the response was again not now because negotiations with the PCFA Board are in progress. To be discussed are expenses, Covanta, and solid waste management issues.

Mr. Bowers questioned an opinion of where Warren County waste goes if there is no transfer station; Mr. Sarnoski agreed that we are reaching capacity at the landfill, and the solid waste must go somewhere. Mr. Watters asked how much garbage goes to the landfill now, to which Mr. Sarnoski replied he does not know. ID-13 waste from outside Warren County is currently being accepted at the landfill, using limited capacity for the out-of-county trash. Mr. Dech receives monthly reports, and he will bring a report to the next meeting. Contracts are being considered at this time and the landfill is at capacity; Mr. Sarnoski said PCFA has control over the flow at the landfill. The issue goes back in time, therefore agreements are with PCFA, not Warren County. Asked if there is an outside chance that Covanta would reopen the burner, Mr. Sarnoski reminded that is all pending in negotiation.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Reorganization

The present SWAC officers are Ellen Nerbak, Chair; Donald Niece, Vice Chair; Todd Tersigni, Secretary. Ms. Nerbak asked for nominations from the floor; Mr. Finke nominated the existing Board continue for the 2020-21 year, seconded by Mr. Watters; all in favor with no discussion and no opposition.

The meeting dates for the coming year are: April 2, June 4, September 3, October 1, November 5, 2020; and February 4, 2021, all to be held in the meeting room at the County Administration Building at 7:30 p.m.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth A. Panté, Clerk