# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY OF VIRGINIA

## July 22, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) was held at 9:30 a.m. in the Regional Board Room at the Regional Building, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia. The following members were in attendance or as noted:

Mr. John Maxwell	(CH)	Mr. Earl Sorey	(CH)
Ms. Sheryl Raulston	(FR)	Ms. Amanda Jarratt*	(FR)
Mr. Dale Baugh	(IW)	Mr. Randy Keaton	(IW)
Mr. John Keifer	(NO)	Mr. Richard Broad (absent)	(NO)
Mr. C.W. "Luke" McCoy	(PO)	Mr. Solomon Ashby	(PO)
Mr. Mark Hodges (absent)	(SH)	Ms. Lynette Lowe	(SH)
Mr. David Arnold	(SU)	Mr. Patrick Roberts	(SU)
Mr. William Sorrentino*	(VB)	Mr. John Barnes*	(VB)

(CH) Chesapeake; (FR) Franklin; (IW) Isle of Wight; (NO) Norfolk; (PO) Portsmouth, (SH) Southampton County; (SU) Suffolk; (VB) Virginia Beach

Others present at the meeting included the Alternate Ex-Officio Member, Mr. Michael Etheridge (IW), and the following SPSA executives, Ms. Liesl R. DeVary, Executive Director and Treasurer, Mr. Dennis Bagley, Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Tressa Preston, Secretary and Executive Administrator, and Mr. Brett Spain, General Counsel.

\* Indicates Attendance via GoTo Webinar Teleconference after the adoption of the Policy on Individual Electronic Participation. See below for stated location and reason for electronic attendance.

Ms. Amanda Jarratt (FR) participated from her office at Franklin City Hall for medical reasons. Mr. William Sorrentino (VB) participated from his home in Virginia Beach for medical reasons. Mr. John Barnes (VB) participated from his home in Virginia Beach for medical reasons.

Also present at the meeting electronically via GoTo Webinar after the policy vote were Alternate Ex-Officio Members, Mr. Chad Edwards (FR) who participated from his office at the Franklin Public Works building for medical reasons and Ms. Trista Pope (NO) who participated from her home in Norfolk for medical reasons.

There were no objections to anyone's electronic attendance.

To encourage social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, through the meeting notice, members of the public were also invited to listen to and view presentations displayed at the meeting by registering for attendance using a GoTo Webinar teleconferencing platform. Members of the public were also invited to speak at the SPSA Board of Directors Meeting during the designated public comment period at the beginning of the meeting by registering in advance with the Secretary though contact information published in the meeting notice. Members of the public were also invited to listen to the SPSA Board Meeting via toll-free telephone.

# 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Keifer, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

# 2. PROPOSED POLICY ON INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

Chairman Keifer referenced the following proposed policy located in the July 22, 2020 Board Agenda:

# Policy on Individual Participation in SPSA Board of Directors Meetings by Electronic Means under § 2.2-3708.2

It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Public Service Authority of Virginia (the "Board of Directors") that individual members of the Board of Directors may participate in meetings of the Board of Directors by electronic means as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Board of Directors to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location, and arrangements will be made for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location. The reason that the member is unable to attend the meeting and the remote location from which the member participates will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

A member may participate remotely by notifying the Chair and Secretary of the Board of Directors on or before the day of a meeting that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance, or due to a personal matter. When remote participation is due to a personal matter, the nature of the personal matter must be identified with specificity and such participation is limited by law to two meetings of the public body per member each calendar year.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Board of Directors shall vote whether to allow such participation. If the Board of Directors votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval will be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

Chairman Keifer asked Mr. Spain to speak about the proposed policy. Mr. Spain informed the Board that the proposed policy is based on existing state law in keeping with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and has always been an option for SPSA to adopt, but has not been proposed until now. There has been legislation during the pandemic to allow public meetings to be conducted electronically during the state of emergency. The previous two meetings were conducted under that legislation. SPSA is moving forward and proposing policy under existing legislation at the suggestion of the FOIA Advisory Council so that Board Members can begin

to meet in public again and those who have issues around attending in person may participate remotely without the entirety of the meeting being conducted electronically, as the emergency statute requires.

Mr. Ashby requested that Mr. Spain clarify the legal obligation of a Board Member to disclose information in this setting. Mr. Spain reiterated the statements in the policy which have been communicated to the Board, reminding members that according to the FOIA Advisory Council, when citing a medical reason for the need to participate electronically, Board Members do not need to give a further explanation. If a Board Member is participating electronically due to a personal reason, they are obligated to give a further explanation and may only attend remotely for personal reasons twice per calendar year.

Mr. McCoy moved, seconded by Mr. Ashby to approve the Policy on Individual Participation in SPSA Board of Directors Meetings by Electronic Means. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Following the vote, Ms. Jarratt, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Pope, Mr. Sorrentino, and Mr. Barnes joined the meeting electronically. Ms. Preston recorded their location and reason for attending electronically, as recorded in the attendance above. There were no objections to anyone's electronic participation.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Preston reported that she received a phone call requesting to register to make a public comment by electronic means, but the citizen did not join the meeting to make their comment.

## 4. ANNUAL MEETING

A matter of order for the Annual Meeting is the Election of Officers and the Appointment of Committees. Chairman Keifer read the slate of officers presented at the June 24, 2020 Board Meeting by Mr. Baugh, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and asked if there were any additional nominations. Noting that there were none, Chairman Keifer offered the following slate of officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020:

John Keifer Chair
Luke McCoy Vice Chair
Liesl DeVary Treasurer
Tressa Preston Secretary

Chairman Keifer also noted that a vote on this matter would be deemed as approval for himself and Mr. McCoy to serve a fourth consecutive term as Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the SPSA Bylaws.

Ms. Raulston moved, seconded by Mr. Ashby to approve the slate of officers as presented. Electronic participants were polled individually. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Keifer went on to appoint the following members of the following committees:

Executive Committee
Luke McCoy
Sheryl Raulston
Randy Keaton

Audit Committee
Dale Baugh
Lynette Lowe
John Maxwell

# 5. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Keifer thanked the Board for their confidence in him to continue as Board Chair and for the excellent work that they do, stating that it is a pleasure to work with them all.

Mr. McCoy also thanked the Board and added that he would like to personally thank Mr. Sorrentino for his commitment to serving on the Executive Committee for the past several years. Chairman Keifer added his thanks to Mr. Sorrentino, adding that Mr. Sorrentino will continue to be involved on matters regarding the Corp of Engineers and regulatory matters, stating that his contributions, including the negotiation of the Wheelabrator contract, have been very valuable and will continue to be so.

Mr. McCoy went on to welcome Ms. Raulston to the Executive Committee, along with welcoming Mr. Sorey, the new Ex-Officio Board Member representing the City of Chesapeake. Mr. Sorey addressed the Board, teiling them it was an honor and privilege to be serving alongside the Board, many of whom he has worked with previously. Chairman Keifer welcomed Mr. Sorey and thanked him for his contribution, as well.

## 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

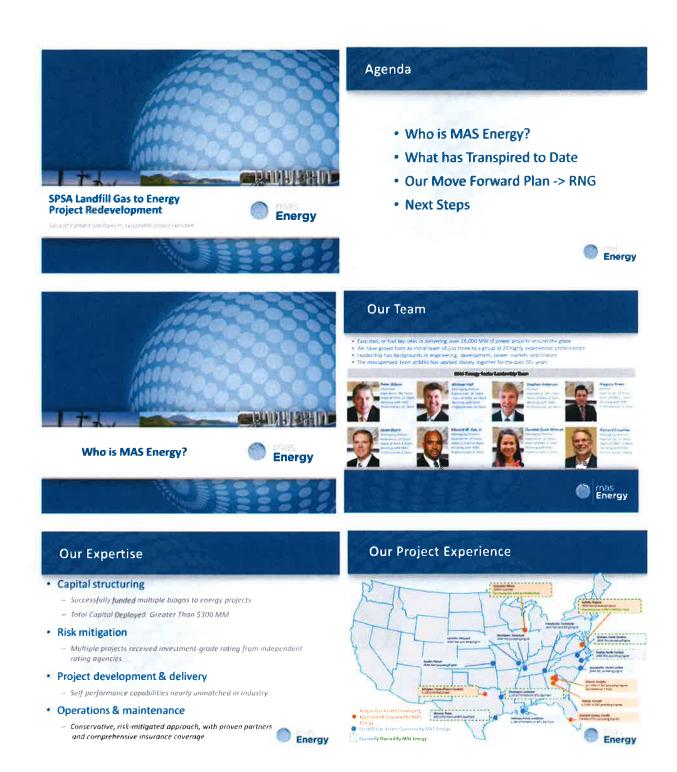
The minutes of the June 24, 2020 Board meeting have been distributed. Chairman Keifer asked if there were any additions or changes and there were none.

Ms. Raulston moved, seconded by Ms. Lowe to approve the June 24, 2020 minutes of the SPSA Board of Directors as presented. Electronic participants were polled individually. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

## 7. MAS ENERGY LANDFILL GAS PRESENTATION

Ms. DeVary informed the Board that Mr. Richard Crowther, the Managing Director of Onsite Power and Central Utilities, and Mr. Michael Hall, Principal and Chief Development Officer, of Mas Energy are participating remotely. Mas Energy purchased Suffolk Energy Partners and Suffolk Transmission Partners who are the operators of the landfill gas system at the Regional Landfill.

Mr. Crowther presented the slides below, going over Mas Energy as a company, their proposed plans for converting landfill gas to renewable natural gas, and next steps moving forward.







What has Transpired to Date?



Energy



- Commercial Specialism Mile 2018



- April 1<sup>st</sup> MAS Energy Purchased a Portfolio of Assets from Biogas Energy Solutions (BES)
  - This includes 100% Interest in both Suffalk Energy Partners, LLC & Suffalk Transmission Partners, LLC operating at the SPSA landfill
  - All existing agreements & obligations remain unchanged
- Short-Term Plan
  - Continue to sell gas to Solenis & Power to Dominion @ existing royalty rates
  - Work to improve off-take agreements (both price & volume)
  - Optimize power generation equipment to increase output & reliability
  - Work w/ landfill personnel to improve gas collection performance
- Development of Long-Term Plan
  - Invest \*\$20 million of capital to convert operation to RNG production
  - Timeline: 18 to 24 months
  - Operate existing assets as long as possible during construction





**Our Move Forward Plan -> RNG** 



Energy



## What is Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)?

#### Sources

- Landfills (LFG Largest & Least Espensive ANG Source by For)
- Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment (WWT Biogos)
- Organic Waste Digesters (Agricultural or Food Wastx Biogra)



#### Processing

- Sources produce gos with 40%-70% of the BTU content of natural gas > Raw Gas
- Medium-8TU gas is created through basic moisture/particulate removal & can be used directly in ballers/generators but requires close-proximity -> LFG or Blogas
- Pipeline Quality gas is created through further processing that removes additional non-methane constituents to yield a natural gas equivalent -> RNG

#### Delivery

RNG can be purchased and delivered just like natural gas



Energy

# **Current Market for RNG**

#### US Federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program for Vehicles

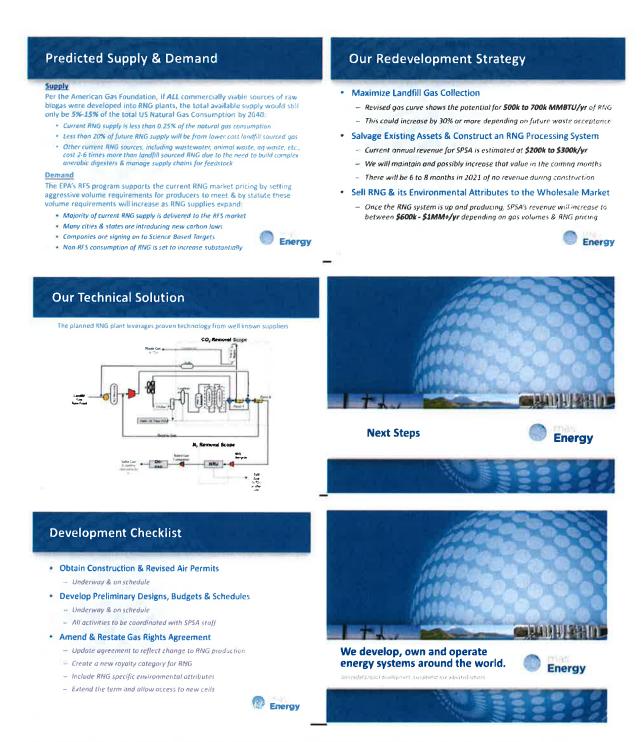
- The EPA requires all refiners and importers of gasoline & diesel fuel to blend into their volumes a minimum amount of renewable content -> Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS)
- The renewable requirement must be met using a variety of fuel types, with RNG satisfying one of the stipulated categories
- When RNG is dispensed into a fuel tank in the form of compressed natural yas (CNG), a tradable Renewable Identification Number (RIN) is produced that can be used to demonstrate compliance with the RFS (similar in functionality to RECs for electricity)

#### RFS Market Economics

- The RFS volume requirements support a lucrative market for RNG, yielding a total revenue potential of \$20 to 25+/MMBtu
- The long-term wholesale price for the sole of RNG production to the CHG retailers is anticipated to be \$12 to \$16/MMBtu with some future upside (this price applies to soles from the RNG plant)







Mr. Crowther allowed time for questions. Chairman Keifer asked Ms. DeVary if the changes being proposed by Mas Energy will lead to a change in contract. Ms. DeVary said yes and, seeing that there were no questions at the moment, commented that the landfill gas agreement went into place in January of 2011. Ms. DeVary went on to say that since that time SPSA has been told that new projects were on the horizon to maximize the use of landfill gas, but that none of those projects ever came to fruition. SPSA staff is very pleased and excited about Mas Energy's new leadership and their plans for better use and increased sales. Ms. DeVary reminded the Board that since receiving the new contract proposal from Mas Energy, SPSA has been doing their due diligence, including consultation with special counsel, and will

continue discussions about the contract with the Executive Committee at their August meeting with the intention of bringing an additional update to the Board. Mr. Crowther added that Mas Energy intends to build a system to take advantage of predicted flow for the next 20 years. Chairman Keifer asked Ms. DeVary for clarification on the terms of the current contract and she responded that the initial term is 20 years beginning in 2011, but there are two additional five-year options that are at the sole discretion of Suffolk Energy Partners and Suffolk Transmission Partners. Mas Energy is requesting a longer agreement because of the capital investment changes they will be making, so SPSA will be discussing those terms.

Mr. Chairman asked if there were other questions or comments. Seeing that there were none from those participating in person or electronically, he thanked Mr. Crowther for his informative presentation, noting that SPSA is looking forward to working further with Mas Energy on this project.

## 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Ms. DeVary informed the Board that the Wheelabrator contract amendment has been signed and completed. Regarding the proposed Norfolk Naval Shipyard Power Plant, the Navy has suggested an extension of their contract with Wheelabrator for an additional year with two additional 6-month options. If Wheelabrator agrees, this would mean that their contract with the Navy will expire in January of 2024, rather than January 2023, with a possible 6 months to another year extension. Wheelabrator has informed Ms. DeVary that they are speaking with the Navy and also preparing for discussions with SPSA staff on future mutually beneficial strategies for waste disposal.

As a follow-up to last month's discussion on the VDOT proposed flyover, Chairman Keifer, Ms. DeVary, and her staff participated in a conference call with Mr. Roberts and his staff to discuss alternatives, including revisiting the idea of a back entrance. Chairman Keifer mentioned that in addition to economic factors, obligations to the host community, and operational preferences are all part of the discussions taking place. SPSA staff and consultants will continue to be in contact with staff from the City of Suffolk, along with continuing discussions with VDOT. Ms. DeVary will bring an update to the Board at the August meeting.

Ms. DeVary updated the Board on the Cells VIII and IX permitting process, stating that the Corp and VHB are still working on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A large component of the EIS is the public scoping comment period. As she mentioned last month, because of the pandemic, the Corp has elected to have the public scoping take place virtually via website for 45 days to allow ample time for comments. The website is scheduled to be active beginning July 31, 2020. The Corp is finalizing the details of the public notice and as soon as Ms. DeVary receives it, she will send it to the Board, along with a link to the website.

Mr. Bagley delivered the operations report stating that material coming into the landfill this month has increased and a total of 39,066 tons were delivered in June. 1,232,064 gallons of leachate were sent to HRSD in the reporting period. 86% of the ash received from Wheelabrator qualified for use as alternate daily cover. Mr. Bagley commented Wheelabrator for the quality of the ash being received, commenting that it is considerably easier to work with and that staff is pleased.

Mr. Bagley reminded the Board that SPSA received a warning letter from DEQ regarding methane exceedance at a landfill gas well and that the remediation plan is going well. He is

pleased to say that staff is confident they have remedied the problem and that there have been no significant methane readings since the issue was resolved. Staff will continue testing per DEQ regulations.

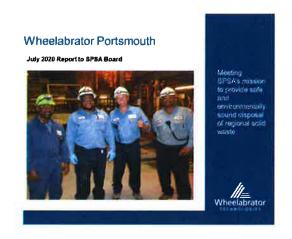
The update on the landfill fire included that all equipment is now purchased and in place to replace what was destroyed and all of the items that were damaged have been repaired. Mr. Bagley noted that the remaining work consists of building construction and a total loss calculation from the insurance carriers. He will hopefully have definitive information to present at the August Board Meeting.

Mr. Roberts asked Ms. DeVary and Mr. Bagley if the 1.2 million gallons of leachate sent to HRSD in the reporting period is from both the force main and hauling combined. Mr. Bagley confirmed that was correct. Mr. Roberts followed up by asking about SPSA's ability to meet the current allowable threshold for delivery to HRSD. Mr. Bagley replied that SPSA is limited as to how much leachate can be pumped at a time, but SPSA is continuously pumping leachate, meeting the limit imposed by the capacity of the Nansemond Treatment Plant, confirming Mr. Roberts comment that SPSA is attempting to maximize the use of current infrastructure in the ground. Mr. Roberts asked a follow-up question regarding what, if any, updates staff can relay regarding the status of the timeline for the new force main. Mr. Bagley replied that SPSA has made multiple attempts to get an update from HRSD but have received no response. However, SPSA's engineering consultant HDR is working on the project and they have delivered some unofficial updates. SPSA has received 30% design drawings, which have been reviewed by staff. Comments on those designs have been returned to HRSD, but SPSA has yet to receive an official update. Staff will continue to reach out to HRSD and hopefully have an update at the August meeting.

Chairman Keifer asked if there were any further questions or comments from the Board, but there were none.

## 9. WHEELABRATOR PORTSMOUTH MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Clint Stratton presented the report from Wheelabrator electronically.





Mr. Stratton opened the floor for any questions. Chairman Keifer noted that there were no questions or comments on the Wheelabrator Report.

## 10. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. DeVary reported that based on preliminary analysis as of June 30, 2020, total revenues exceeded total expenses for the fiscal year by approximately \$3.6 million as compared to \$6.1 million in the previous fiscal year. This equates to a \$3.6 million surplus, which was originally anticipated as \$2.6 million in the budget presentation. Additional funds are coming directly from revenues created by an increase of nearly 25,000 tons of municipal waste, likely due to the pandemic stay at home orders. Tipping fees reflect a decrease of -1.1% or approximately \$467,415 as compared to June of 2019. The municipal waste tons are up approximately 5.5% or 24,782 tons from last fiscal year. The reduction in the tip fee revenue is due to the decrease in the municipal tip fee from in FY 2019.

Ms. DeVary reported that preliminary analysis shows total expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 were approximately \$43.21 million, compared to \$43.26 million from the prior fiscal year. Cash balances are at approximately \$41.6 million; currently designated as \$4.9 million in operating, \$5.9 million, the equivalent of 2 months' operating expenses, in undesignated fund balance (Ms. DeVary anticipates requesting a slight increase in this number to match the FY 2021 operating budget), \$435,954 in FY 2020 rolled purchase orders, \$388,697 for unencumbered capital budget, \$2.5 million for the proposed HRSD Force Main, \$535,182 for landfill expansion purchase orders, and \$26.9 million in the landfill expansion and closure fund.

In light of increased municipal tonnages likely being due to COVID-19, Mr. Keaton asked the Ex-Officio Board Members if any of their communities have been using CARES funds to offset increased waste disposal costs. Mr. Roberts stated that CARES funds have been used by the City of Suffolk for overtime costs including for sanitation workers and Mr. Ashby mentioned that the City of Portsmouth is considering using CARES funds to assist citizens falling short on sanitation service payments and other city charges. However, none of the communities reported CARES funds being used to directly offset municipal waste costs.

Chairman Keifer asked if there were further questions or comments and, seeing that there were none, requested a motion to approve the financial reports.

Ms. Lowe moved, seconded by Ms. Raulston to approve the SPSA financial report as presented. Electronic participants were polled individually. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

### 11. CONTRACTS

The first contract for consideration is for a tractor with a side boom to cut the banks at the Regional Landfill. The contract is based on a Sourcewell Cooperative Contract with Quality Equipment, LLC. The current capital budget allotted is \$160,000 and the bid price is \$123,820.80.

Mr. Maxwell moved, seconded by Mr. McCoy to award the contract for tractor and side boom mower to Quality Equipment, LLC as presented. Electronic participants were polled individually. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The second contract for consideration is for a D-6 bulldozer replacement at the landfill and was also procured under a Sourcewell Cooperative Contract from Carter Machinery. The budget for this replacement was \$545,000 and the bid price is \$528,884.

Mr. Keaton moved, seconded by Ms. Lowe to award the contract for a Caterpillar D-6 20A bulldozer to Carter Machinery as presented. Mr. McCoy abstained from voting due to a conflict. Electronic participants were polled individually. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

## 12. ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Lies R. DeVary
Executive Director

Submitted by: Tressa Preston, Secretary, SPSA Board of Directors