

1. Chairman Phillips called to order the Rockland Green Board meeting for Thursday March 23, 2023, at 5:05 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Yeger

3. Roll call by clerk. There is a quorum.

Present

Chairman Phillips
Commissioner Hoehmann
Commissioner Hofstein
Commissioner Kenny
Commissioner Lynn via phone
Commissioner Monaghan

Present

Commissioner Powers
Commissioner Soskin
Commissioner Specht
Commissioner Yeger
Commissioner Wieder

Absent

Commissioner Hood
Commissioner Jobson
Commissioner Kohut
Commissioner Moroney
Commissioner Paul

Staff

Jerry Damiani, Jeremy Goldstein, Suzanne Haggerty, Ken Murphy

Others

Stephanie Kosmos, Teno West

4. Introduced by: Powers/Wieder

Unan.

March 23, 2023

RESOLUTION No. 28 OF 2023
ADOPTION OF MINUTES, MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

RESOLVED, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority are approved for the meeting February 23, 2023, as recorded by the Clerk and are hereby adopted.



5. Introduced by: Hoehmann/Specht

Unan.

March 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION No. 29 of 2023
ADOPTING RECOMMENDATION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE AND APPROVING 2022
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

WHEREAS, Section 2800(3) of the New York Public Authorities Law requires that the annual financial statements be approved by the Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, the attached Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority d/b/a Rockland Green's audited financial statements were prepared by BST & Co. CPAs, LLP for the period ended December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee met on March 8, 2023, reviewed the attached 2022 Financial Statements, and has recommended to the Board that it be approved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Rockland Green Board hereby adopts the recommendation of the Audit Committee and approves the attached audited financial statements prepared by BST & Co. CPAs, LLP, for the period ended December 31, 2022.

Phillips: Adopting recommendation of the Audit Committee and approving the 2022 Financial Statements. Executive Director, would you like Ann DeLucco to say a few words.

Damiani: Yes, please.

DeLucco: Hello everyone, I am Ann DeLucco partner from BST the independent audit firm for Rockland Green. You should have the final audited financial statements in front of you. We did the audit back in February and I am going to go through some of the highlights within the report. We spent about an hour with the Audit Committee a few weeks ago going through these numbers in detail. If there are any questions you have, feel free to interrupt me. In the letter to the conduct of the audit it went very smoothly. We get everything we need from management, they're very cooperative and we do appreciate that from management. Overall, there is an unmodified opinion in these financials and that is the highest level of assurance that auditors can give. Essentially it means it is a clean opinion and there are no material misstatements that we found during our audit. Looking at the numbers, it was another strong year for the Authority. Net income was \$9.6 million compared to last year, which was about \$7 million. The growth of the Authority is really attributed to an increase in tonnage that came through during the year and then also the increase in the tipping fee for construction and debris which increased about \$10 a ton from the year before. That resulted in a relatively strong financial position at the end of the year. Your unrestricted net position is about \$29 million. That is the liquid money that you can use for operations. It is not any fixed assets so that is the net position at the end of the year \$29 million. In terms of your bond payables, nothing new was issued during the year so it is just paid down outstanding bonds from the prior years and there is \$50 million outstanding. In terms of the Materials Recovery Facility,

you will see there are a lot of fixed assets and the end of December that was all still work in progress. As you know, the Materials Recover Facility is still waiting to be opened, but probably in a couple of weeks. There is about \$34 million spent through December on the Materials Recovery Facility within these Financial Statements. An unusual item in terms of your net pension liability. Right now, it is an asset. That is a function of a couple of assumptions that changed. The mortality table changed because life expectancy has decreased, so that decreased your obligation. Therefore, you have an asset sitting on your balance sheet which is unusual because it is a liability you had a couple of years ago. Overall, we appreciate working with Rockland Green. Any questions I will be happy to answer.

Phillips: Thank you Ann. Do any Commissioners have a question on the annual audit report.

6. Introduced by: **Kenny/Monaghan**

Unan.

March 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 30 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TO
CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 56 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the contract for Facility Improvements – General Construction at the Materials Recovery Facility (“MRF”) to Butler Construction Group, Inc. (the “Contractor”) dated as of October 13, 2021 (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2021, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 pursuant to Resolution No. 79 of 2021; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14 pursuant to Resolution No. 14 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 16 and 17 pursuant to Resolution No. 27 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 18 and 19 pursuant to Resolution No. 31 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 20 and 22 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 39 and 48 of 2022, respectively; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 31, 11 and 13 pursuant to Resolution No. 50 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 33 pursuant to Resolution No. 57 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 39 pursuant to Resolution No. 68 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 44, 45, 46, and 43 pursuant to Resolution No. 76 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 55 pursuant to Resolution No. 88 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 58, 60, 64 and 56 pursuant to Resolution No. 102 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 50, 61, 65, 67, 72, 74, and 59, and Change Orders 57, 62, and 68 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 105 and 116 of 2022, respectively; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 76 pursuant to Resolution No. 19 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 81 pursuant to Resolution No. 22 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, at the request of Rockland Green's Engineer, the Contractor has proposed a credit for the provision of the Bilco Roof Hatch and ladder installation, and the Contractor has agreed to such credit to Rockland Green in the amount of \$6,128.38, to be designated as Change Order 88; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Green requested a credit for support steel for sprinkler piping that had been approved to be installed in Areas 1 and 2, but which was subsequently determined to be unnecessary, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for a credit to Rockland Green in the amount of \$19,217.62, to be designated as Change Order 69 and

WHEREAS, an additional sidewalk was added to provide a walking path around the new outdoor switchgear located in Area 3, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for an increase in the Contract Price in the amount of \$6,904.84 to Rockland Green, to be designated as Change Order 78; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RFI 96, a ceiling is required in the elevator machine room to maintain the shaft's fire rating, and the Contractor has agreed to such modification to the work for an increase in the Contract Price in the amount of \$3,926.32 to Rockland Green, to be designated as Change Order 80; and

WHEREAS, repairs to the Observation Window are required due to damage caused by VDRS during the installation of the dual stream processing equipment, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an increase in the Contract Price in the amount of \$3,180.00 to Rockland Green, to be designated at Change Order 92; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Green’s Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed these change orders, copies of which are attached hereto, and agrees with the change orders for the modifications to the work for the values stated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 88 for a credit toward the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$6,128.38, Change Order 69 for a credit toward the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$19,217.62, Change Order 78 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$6,904.84, Change Order 80 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$3,926.32, and Change Order 92 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$3,180.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approval of Change Orders 88, 69, 78, 80 and 92 shall result in an overall reduction in the Contract Price by an amount equal to \$11,334.84 for a total amended Contract Price of \$8,200,351.19.

Phillips: Mr. Executive Director just give brief explanation of what we are doing here.

Damiani: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Contract #2 Butler I am presenting 5 change orders resulting in a reduction in contract amount of \$11,334.84. Change Order #88 roof hatch credit in the amount of \$6,128.38. Change Order #69 sprinkler support steel credit in the amount of \$19,217.62. Change Order #78 we increased the break area sidewalk to compensate for the exterior switch gear that is mounted on the existing facility sidewalk in the amount of \$6,904.84. Change Order #80 we had to reinstall a fire rated ceiling in the elevator machine room amount of \$3,926.32. Change Order #92 even though it is a change order to Butler we will be going back to our design build contractor VDRS on the equipment and back charge them for the change order amount of \$3,180.00 for damage they caused to the rear observation window. Total amended contract amount \$8,200,351.19.

7. Introduced by: Wieder/Hofstein

Unan.

March 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER TO
THE CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –
ELECTRICAL AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY
IN HILLBURN, NEW YORK**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 67 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the Contract for Facility Improvements – Electrical at the Materials Recovery Facility in Hillburn, New York between Rockland Green and Fanshawe, Inc. d/b/a Rockland Electric (the “Contractor”), dated as of October 18, 2021, (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-02 and EC-03 pursuant to Resolution No. 23 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a certain modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order 5R1 pursuant to Resolution No. 42 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-09 and EC-06 pursuant to Resolution No. 51 of 2022 and Change Order EC-10 pursuant to Resolution No. 55 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 11 and 7 pursuant to Resolution No. 60 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a certain modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order EC-04 pursuant to Resolution No. 70 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders EC-12 and EC-08 pursuant to Resolution No. 77 of 2022 and Change Order 14 pursuant to Resolution 82 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 16 and 17 pursuant to Resolution No. 102 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 18, 19 and 20 pursuant to Resolution No. 107 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Order 21 pursuant to Resolution No. 18 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders 22 and 23 pursuant to Resolution No. 23 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, power to the motorized door in Area 1 was not shown on the plans but is required for the project, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$964.01, to be designated as Change Order 24; and

WHEREAS, because the permanent heating system is not complete, continued temporary heat in Area 3 for an additional thirty (30) days is required, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$1,265.00, to be designated as Change Order 25; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Green's Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed these change orders, copies of which are attached hereto, and agrees with the Change Orders for the modifications to the work for the values stated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order 24 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$964.01, and Change Order 25 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$1,265.00; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approval of Change Orders 24 and 25 shall result in an overall increase of the Contract Price by \$2,229.01 for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,567,721.77.

Phillips: Executive Director can you give us a brief synopsis on this change order.

Damiani: On Contract #5 Rockland Electric presenting two change orders resulting in an increase to the contract amount of \$2,229.01. Change Order #24 power to an overhead door located in Area 1 increased the contract amount by \$964.01. Change Order #25 to continue to provide temporary heat. We do have gas that is run to the gas meter now and we are just waiting on a certification process through a third party. That change order amount is \$1,260.00 with a total amended contract price of \$1,567,721.77.

8. Introduced by: Soskin/Powers

Unan.

March 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS TO
THE CONTRACT FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS –
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM AT THE MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY
IN HILLBURN, NEW YORK**

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 68 of 2021, the Board of Rockland Green authorized award of the Contract for Facility Improvements – Fire Protection System at the Materials Recovery Facility in Hillburn, New York between Rockland Green and W&M Sprinkler NYC, LLC d/b/a W&M Fire Protection Services (the “Contractor”) dated as of October 18, 2021 (the “Contract”); and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FA-01 and FP-7 pursuant to Resolution No. 24 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, Rockland Green approved certain modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FP-1A, FP-1B, FP-1C, FP-5, FP-6, FP-8, 2 and FP-9 pursuant to Resolution No. 33 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order 10 pursuant to Resolution No. 43 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-11 pursuant to Resolution No. 52 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FA-02 pursuant to Resolution No. 61 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2022, Rockland Green approved modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FA-03 and FP-12 pursuant to Resolution Nos. 72 and 74 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-13 pursuant to Resolution No. 78 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2022, Rockland Green approved a modification to the Contract in the form of Change Order FP-14 pursuant to Resolution No. 89 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, Rockland Green approved modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FP-17, FP-18 and FP-19 pursuant to Resolution No. 108 of 2022; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2023, Rockland Green approved modifications to the Contract in the form of Change Orders FP-20, FP-21 and FP-22 pursuant to Resolution No. 24 of 2023; and

WHEREAS, two new sprinkler heads are required to provide proper fire protection in the tipping area of the existing building due to the relocation of the environmental wall, and the Contractor has agreed to perform such work for an amount equal to \$1,658.68, to be designated as Change Order FP-23; and

WHEREAS, Rockland Green's Engineer, RRT Engineering, LLC, has reviewed this Change Order, a copy of which is attached hereto, and agrees with the Change Order for the modification to the work for the pricing stated therein; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland Green hereby approves Change Order FP-23 for an increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$1,658.68; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approval of Change Order FP-23 shall result in an overall increase in the Contract Price in an amount equal to \$1,658.68, for a total amended Contract Price of \$1,121,353.86.

Phillips: Mr. Executive Director.

Damiani: Under Contract #6 W&M is presenting one change order increase to the contract amount by \$1,658.68. Change Order SP-23 as you are aware, we redesigned the environmental wall that required us to add two additional sprinkler heads to provide sufficient coverage as well as additional piping. Total amended contract price is \$1,121,353.86.

Phillips: Mr. Executive Director, do you have any updates for the Board?

Damiani: I would like to advise the Board of a few items. We received a disaster relief payment from the New York State Division of Homeland Security Environmental Emergency Services. They issued payment for expenses incurred by Rockland Green during the Covid pandemic in the amount of \$115,092.07.

Materials Recovery Facility updates. The following contractors have submitted letters of substantial completion and we are currently working through punch-list items with those contractors identified herein: Butler Contract #2, Joseph Lombardo Contract #5, Rockland Electric Contract #4. Our design build contractor VDRS received today components of the glass processing system through Andella. We

will begin immediately installing portions of the glass processing system. However, we are experiencing a delay on the 35-foot trommel that will screen out the various fractions of recovered glass. The trommel is not expected to be delivered until mid-April. That will push out the commissioning of the plant into May. Our new operator SMR is currently in the transition period submitting documents such as the certificate of insurance, O&M plans, policies and procedures for Rockland Green's review and approval, delivering contractors supplied equipment and hiring staff.

Animal Shelter update. Inventory for the month of February cats 94, dogs 50, guinea pigs 3, rabbits 17 and rats 1. Adoptions are up 36% compared to last month's total. In January Hi-Tor adopted out 36 animals and February Hi-Tor adopted out 49 animals. On-going improvements and repairs to the shelter. Rockland Green has repaired and resecured 5 latches as well as 8 posts within the dog kennels. We removed 1 dead ash tree and trimming of an additional tree. We provided additional power supply to the new fire alarm panel. Repaired 1 electrical outlet in the administration trailer. Installed 7 new fire extinguishers. This past Wednesday we completed the installation of the fire alarm panel with various strobes and pull stations and heat detectors and smoke detectors. It was tested and passed by the County of Rockland on Wednesday. We installed new fascia on top of the roof to direct water flow into the roof drains. We delivered the remaining 30 kennel dividers that are 67 inches by 72 inches to reduce the fence fighting and the stress levels of the animals. We provided a new 30-foot isolation/quarantine trailer for Hi-Tor's use for the care and treatment of the animals. We completed the installation of the new subflooring and linoleum flooring in the rear cat shed and installed 2 new window framings in the cat lobby and playroom.

Phillips: Executive Director, what is the cost for the improvements to the shelter this month and what do you think the cost is overall since January. I would like to complement Jeremy Goldstein on an excellent job on an excellent audit. Our Executive Director did a great job this year on managing our finances, but I think it is a combined effort of all of the employees. I think it comes from the top down when people see that they care and every single thing matters it really makes a tremendous difference. Back to the shelter, some of us received an email saying that the reduction in cats is down by 73 cats. Do we know where they went to?

Damiani: They went to shelters and rescues within New York State and maybe outside the state.

Phillips: Do we have documentation on that?

Damiani: No, I do not.

Phillips: Wouldn't we receive documentation as to where they went?

Damiani: This morning I asked for the documentation.

Phillips: Rick, do you have documentation of where the 73 cats went.

Tannenbaum: Do I have documentation; no I do not have documentation.

Phillips: Do you have it at the office?

Tannenbaum: Of course.

Phillips: Could you supply that to us?

Tannenbaum: If it is within the scope of what I am required to supply you, I am happy to do it.

Phillips: Well, aren't you required to forward that information to state agencies when you remove cats from the shelter to identify where those cats have gone.

Tannenbaum: Is that a question you are asking me?

Phillips: Yes, I am.

Tannenbaum: No.

Phillips: There is no requirement that you document where you transfer cats to?

Tannenbaum: To a state agency?

Phillips: Yes.

Tannenbaum: No.

Phillips: To a county agency acting as a state's facilitator?

Tannenbaum: I provide a report under the confine of our contract to Rockland Green. We don't report to the County anymore.

Phillips: Not even the County Health Department? You don't have to report that to the County Health Department?

Tannenbaum: No, not when you transfer animals you don't have to report that.

Phillips: Do you have documentation as to where you transferred them?

Tannenbaum: Of course.

Phillips: Could you supply that to us by the next meeting?

Tannenbaum: If I am required to supply that to you, I will be happy to do it.

Phillips: Why wouldn't you just provide it to us?

Tannenbaum: Because there is a lot of proprietary information. These relationships with the shelters and rescues are developed over a period of time. These shelters do not want to be contacted by anybody regarding anything when there is a back-and-forth relationship. When Mount Vernon closed, we offered to take their cats. When Monroe closed, we offered to take their animals. So, it is a kind of thing where you have a special link with somebody that you don't make public. If I am required to make it public, I will. If I am not, I prefer to keep it in house.

Phillips: How about you inform us in Executive Session?

Tannenbaum: What is it you need to know exactly.

Phillips: You have to understand we are all elected officials. We have to be accountable to the people of Rockland County. When a resident asks us where are these cats, we have to have transparency at least to be able to tell them that we know for sure that they have gone to a very legitimate facility.

Tannenbaum: I got a copy of the same email that you got from this particular resident asking me where these animals went. I answered, to state approved New York State licensed rescues and shelters. Everyone that those animals went to were all licensed and approved by Agriculture and Markets. Why this individual needs to know, I have no idea.

Phillips: I just find it very difficult to believe if the New York State Agriculture and Markets are involved and some report doesn't have to be generated and that would have to be a public document.

Tannenbaum: I don't think it has to be a public document.

Kenny: Mr. Chairman can I just make a recommendation. There is no sense doing this back and forth here. That is what lawyers are for and laws are for.

Phillips: I know staff has already asked you about documentation. Please get back to them and we can have a discussion at the next meeting with the Board members.

Yeger: I would like to, if possible, get a monthly report on how many animals in cumulative a year come through the shelter. Is that possible?

Tannenbaum: At the end of each month we provide an animal inquiry and intake and outcome report to Rockland Green to Mr. Damiani.

Yeger: Can we get a copy of that?

Phillips: Yes.

Yeger: At the end of the year we will be able to say 40,000 dogs and 40,000 cats or whatever the numbers is, came through the facility. Thank you.

Phillips: How many foster animals are out there right now that you send out? Do you have an idea of how many are being fostered right now?

Tannenbaum: I provided the information on the last report.

Phillips: Do we have that?

Damiani: I have January and February's reports.

Phillips: What is that amount?

Tannenbaum: The foster care system is complicated because there are different types of fosters. Be it medical fosters, socialization fosters, fosters also from past abuse. If we have 30 kennels and we have 34 dogs, we rely on fosters to not exceed our capacity. When you look at the total foster numbers, it shows the number in total it doesn't explain the purpose of foster or why they are there.

Phillips: What is the total number of animals that are being fostered?

Damiani: For the dogs for the month of January over 30.

Phillips: Over 30 dogs. When they are fostered do we have an estimated time that these dogs are in the care of these fosters.

Damiani: Yes, we do on the pet point length of stay. For example, Lucy a beagle mix 193 days.

Phillips: And ongoing?

Damiani: I can put it in a spreadsheet for the next meeting.

Phillips: That would be very helpful, so we have an idea.

Comment from Public

Phillips: Is there anyone in the public that would like to bring anything before the Board?

Charlene Palmer: I was here at the last meeting and I would like to go back, if I may, I think that Mr. Chairman you misspoke when you indicated that all of Rockland is a flood zone.

Phillips: All of Rockland is located in flood zones. So, if you go to the flood zone maps they may not indicate it on the map but even on top of Hi-Tor it would be least place that would be flooded. But everything has a flood zone indication on the flood zone maps.

Charlene Palmer: I looked at my personal property and I did not find.

Phillips: You have to remember they are not necessarily going to show you. Depending upon the elevation, is what the indication is or what category they put you in to. But if you speak to any engineer that deals with water, they will tell you that everything gets some type of designation.

Charlene Palmer: I also asked that if it was possible to have the budget of Hi-Tor posted and I was told yes. I looked for it on Rockland Green's site where might I find it?

Goldman: It was posted after the meeting on RocklandGreen.com and go to about us, financial reports, annual budget and there is a section Rockland Green budget and on the bottom there is a section animal management annual budget 2023. I can send you the link.

Charlene Palmer: Thank you so much. Is it true I heard that Rockland green has hired an architectural firm from New Mexico?

Damiani: Yes. BDA from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Charlene Palmer: My question is twofold. One was there an RFP that went out for these services and two are there no architectural firms in the tri-state area that could facilitate these services?

Damiani: Under professional services we are not required to issue an RFP. We did a shortlist of a number of architectural firms even the one that originally designed the County facility RFA. We just couldn't come to terms with them. BDA was the most aggressive they actually came to the site twice prior to us engaging them.

Phillips: And they have designed other shelters.

Damiani: Correct. They specifically design animal shelters and veterinarian facilities.

Charlene Palmer: Does that mean that if there is a meeting for them to come to the premises, the taxpayers will be paying for that on top of their services. Correct?

Damiani: Correct.

Phillips: As the Executive Director I think indicated the fee structure they gave us was probably a better bang for our buck than the one they had been talking to.

Charlene Palmer: You said they were aggressive so I'm not clear to what that means. We obviously won't know until this carries on if you've got the most bang for your buck or not. But, it seems odd to me that in this area that you had to go all the way to New Mexico. To me, it doesn't make sense.

Damiani: The civil engineers are the same engineers that we engage with our solid waste facilities and they are based out of Syracuse, New York. The MEP engineer has not been decided on and will most likely be local.

Charlene Palmer: Ok.

Maddalena Harper: I am here with Coupon of Haverstraw. A couple of residents came to me because they were very concerned about the location of the animal shelter at that warehouse. Are you still looking at the warehouse?

Phillips: That is the location.

Maddalena Harper: They are very concerned because if it very out of the way it is not easily accessible and also that area does flood.

Phillips: Some of the residents in Haverstraw said it was a flood zone?

Maddalena Harper: No, not only Haverstraw. There were other people in Rockland County that felt this way.

Phillips: Look at the County-wide surge you have to understand that when you are talking about a shelter you don't want to put it near residential areas because you have barking dogs constantly. We looked at a number of locations and this one came out to be the best one. With the condition of the fact that a building was there, and it is probably the most expeditious way in which we could construct the shelter.

Maddalena Harper: That was the only location that was looked at?

Phillips: No, that is not what I just said. We looked at a number of locations. Some of the other locations were either too congested of an area and the fact that this already had a building on it really accommodated our needs as I said in a very expeditious way in which we could have a new shelter built. Considering that the current shelter is in such poor condition, that there was a need to move on a shelter.

Maddalena Harper: I have been there. I have brought a number of items to that shelter. What other locations were being looked at?

Phillips: We went over this in previous meetings. We looked at the Grace Church in Nanuet, we talked to the Supervisor in Orangetown. We looked at a site out on Torne Valley and another site in Clarkstown. We came up with this site after looking at all of these. We spoke to all five Town Supervisors and everybody did go out and look including members on our Board here.

Maddalena Harper: The buildings on Letchworth where they looked at?

Phillips: They are not up for sale for a shelter.

Maddalena Harper: That would be a perfect spot.

Phillips: I appreciate your opinion.

Maddalena Harper: I am just relaying what people said to me. I know that the Town of Haverstraw and Stony Point are looking for investors to buy that area and I thought it was for sale.

Phillips: Each Town Board gets to pick and choose what they would like there. Perhaps the Town Board has other plans for it.

Commissioner Monaghan: We were in contract for a sale and we went out to the residents and the residents voted it down when we were actually in contract.

Maddalena Harper: Now there is no contract correct?

Commissioner Monaghan: There is a contract for the new shelter in Haverstraw.

Maddalena Harper: Has that been proposed an animal shelter there?

Phillips: The two boards didn't feel that it should go up for a vote for the shelter. They picked a site and they chose a site.

Yeger: Almost all of us are elected officials. I personally am and I am running again. The other elected officials here get elected so the residents have a say. If the residents are unhappy with the elected officials that are in Rockland County and I am mostly ok with that. You can't satisfy all the people all the time. These elected officials including myself determined this is the spot where it should go. If residents don't like it, I understand that and they can come and speak like you are and they can also run for office and when they win the office, they can vote to move the shelter somewhere else. A decision by probably many elected officials of diverse backgrounds as you can find almost anywhere in the United States. There are representatives from almost every municipality in every geographic area in this room right now and we voted on it. I am very comfortable with the decision.

Phillips: I think that is a very good point, Commissioner Yeger. If you look at Letchworth whether it is the Haverstraw side or the Stony Point side, you would have to take down buildings and those buildings have lead paint and asbestos in them would cost you millions of dollars to take them down. I think we found a site that is very appropriate and it is in a wonderful place. We will be expanding our abilities to serve the people of Rockland in the future I believe when it comes to the shelter.

Hoehmann: Mr. Chairman we looked at the Grace Church in Nanuet that is adjacent to our headquarters. It is in the heart of a residential area and members of the Clarkstown Town Board weighed in on it as well as professional staff and we thought it wouldn't be a good location. We also looked at Rockland Country Day School.

Maddalena Harper: That church is actually right down the road from my parents and it very high density there and a school there. That would definitely not be a good location. I really feel that you should listen to the public and I understand that you are elected officials and you should listen to what residents have to say.

Phillips: And I think we do. Thank you.

Wieder: I would like to thank, and I appreciate the fact that you have this engagement with the public. This is just public comments in other words in any forum the public has an opportunity to make statements to make comments and be heard. For the public a back-and-forth question and answer is far and above what is typically done. I would like to thank you that you have done this over the years and more importantly, the public needs to know that typically if you come to a public meeting, you can make your statement and comments by engaging in a conversation people can email or approach any of the Commissioners on the side. But for a response, that is far and above and I thank you.

Goldstein: Mr. Chairman, you asked for the total for the improvements at the shelter. It is looking over \$50,000.

Phillips: Over \$50,000 so far. That is pretty amazing. I think we have been doing a very good job. I also would like to compliment Jeremy Apotheker who is not here tonight, he became a dad. Congratulations Jeremy. I understand it is Teno's birthday so happy birthday.

Phillips: Since there are no other public comments do we have a motion to adjourn? Thank you everyone for being here.

Hoehmann: Moved

Specht: Seconded

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Haggerty