

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 150, BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405

www.branford-ct.gov solidwaste@branford-ct.gov

(203) 315-0622

PAUL MUNIZ

DANIEL McGOWAN

CHAIRMAN

SOLID WASTE SUPERVISOR

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018 - 7:45 PM CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER NOT APPROVED

Present: Chairman Muniz, R. Lasky, M. Ricozzi, J. Rollo, A. St Thomas and Solid Waste Supervisor D. McGowan

Absent: M. Barbour

Chairman Muniz called the special meeting of the Solid Waste Management Commission to order at 7:51 p.m. Chairman Muniz stated as the minutes of the Solid Waste Management Commission Meeting for May 9th, 2018 were not available, the item be tabled for the next regularly scheduled meeting. M. Ricozzi made a motion to table the meeting minutes until the next SWMC meeting. A. St Thomas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Waste Zero Program

- Chairman Muniz stated the SWMC initiated the discussion of *Waste Zero* at the last SWMC meeting in terms of the output from *Waste Zero* with respect to the specific application of the program to the town of Branford. He stated he had received a copy of the Branford analysis dated February 28, 2018, and that the commission hadn't had a chance to discuss the analysis due to other considerations specifically budget matters. Chairman Muniz continued, stating that the special meeting was to look at the specific recommendations with respect to the town of Branford provided by the D.E.E.P. and *Waste Zero*. Chairman Muniz continued that the commissioners were to then review the slides, ask questions and discuss possible next steps. Chairman Muniz stated that currently the town disposes of 12, 385,000 tons of waste annually, broken up into three different categories including single family and multiple family homes, and municipal buildings. The definitions in this consideration he stated make the distinction of condo residences to be multiple family homes. Chairman Muniz stated *Waste Zero* intends that a municipality achieve a 60% diversion performance relative to disposal. He continued that since the cost of disposal is rising, the program could have a significant impact. Chairman Muniz reviewed various statistics, of all municipalities surveyed, noting in particular an average reduction in solid waste of 44% using the "pay as you throw" concept of *Waste Zero*. There is also a 20% reduction of waste overall, he stated, arrived through higher recycling and donations of waste with the "pay as you throw" model.
- Supervisor McGowan said monies totaling about 30 – 40K would be available through potential grants. Supervisor McGowan stated there are two different grants including a 20K initial grant, for "waste reduction" and another grant available would be for a "unit based pricing" program. R. Lasky stated that through public hearing meetings concerns could be identified. Supervisor McGowan stated that legitimate concerns would in fact be "fleshed out" during public meetings and R. Lasky asked what should the concerns be before moving into "Phase 2" of the "pay as you throw" model. M. Ricozzi stated there hasn't been enough in depth recycling enforcement or education overall, and he stated there should be a focus targeting the condominiums to increase recycling from these residences specifically. M. Ricozzi also mentioned the educating residents about the purchase of products whose packaging is recyclable or reusable is an important step in increasing recycling awareness. Supervisor McGowan stated a big punch is needed, perhaps in terms of the roll out of the "pay as you throw" model would be the catalyst to up recycling efforts as opposed to just another letter to town residents. The commissioners discussed various concerns, and A. St Thomas voiced his for enforcement of the program in terms of the many condominiums. Chairman Muniz asked for a "straw" vote as to going to Phase 2 of the *Waste Zero* program. A. St Thomas stated he could see going ahead to Phase 2 in an effort to have more information and in turn be better educated, even by residents opposed to this type of program, on a "pay as you throw" model. M. Ricozzi stated he could not vote to go forward with Phase 2, stating that paying for a service that has always been part of the tax based services of the Town of Branford is not something he could support. Chairman Muniz asked for a formal vote. R. Lasky made a motion to pursue Phase 2 services and pursue a grant application to the D.E.E.P for a Phase 2, with the capacity to secure funds for Phase 3 cost support of the "pay as you throw" program. J. Rollo seconded. The motion carried. M. Ricozzi abstained.

J. Rollo made a motion to adjourn. A. St Thomas seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Capezzone, Secretary,