

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
May 11, 2021

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Harrison County Utility Authority Board Room, at 10271 Express Drive in Gulfport, Mississippi. In attendance were:

BOARD AND STAFF:

Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport, Director  
Mayor Chipper McDermott, City of Pass Christian, Director  
Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director  
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director  
Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville  
Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director  
Supervisor Connie Rockco, Harrison County (2), Director  
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA  
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Coordinator, HCUA  
Ms. Sheila Marsh, Office Manager, HCUA

ABSENT:

None

AUDIENCE:

Michael Yarbrough, Waste Management  
Charles Roberts, Pelican Waste  
Roddie Matherne, Pelican Waste  
Tommy Thibodeaux, Pelican Waste  
Michael Schonewitz, Harrison County Road Department  
Randall Pelous, Harrison County Road Department  
Timothy Smith, Harrison County Road Department  
Edmond Pujol, Harrison County Road Department  
Raymond Cuevas, Harrison County Road Department  
Ms. Lisa Verhovshek, Attorneys and Esquire

Letters of Designations are attached hereto as exhibit "A".

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor Billy Hewes, representing City of Gulfport, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done.

.....

## **A. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

.....

## **B. Public Comments**

Mayor Billy Hewes opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

.....

## **C. Action Items**

### **Solid Waste – Collection Discussion**

Supervisor Marlin Ladner expressed his concerns regarding the performance of Pelican Waste and the removal and amounts of debris in piles still located on the Harrison County roadsides for residential citizens. Supervisor Ladner noted that members of the Harrison County Road Department are present at this Special Meeting. Supervisor Ladner added that the county department phone lines have been busy like a dispatch center receiving complaints about the debris that continue to be piled at residents' properties. Supervisor Ladner is requesting a solution to be presented to resolve the issue of piles of debris still located on properties.

Supervisor Connie Rockco addressed issues involving Pelican Waste, scattered debris left after crews have removed debris piles.

Mr. Timothy Smith, Harrison County Road Department Manager explained his concerns for scattered debris left after the removal of debris piles by Pelican Waste. Mr. Smith noted that scattered debris left could be blown during the maintenance of grass cutting and blown debris could result in a window breaking in bypassing vehicles. Piles of debris not removed creates issues with reptiles and/or drainage. Currently there are over 600 piles of debris to be removed.

Mr. John Wilson agreed, Pelican Waste performance could be improved. Mr. Wilson noted that based on Pelican Waste contract, removal of debris is limited to debris placed by the resident in front of the resident's property, not contractor debris piles and not debris piles in front of vacant lots. Mr. Wilson explained that Alan Lane is implementing a procedure that involves Pelican Waste drivers to maintain a log of addresses that have debris piles that do not appear to meet the guidelines of Pelican Wastes' contract. The information on the piles would be distributed as and aid when assisting customers with information regarding their debris piles and complaints.

Mr. Wilson added that Pelican Waste makes more than one sweep to individual large piles in efforts to maintain service for all properties on the routes. A large debris pile may require a minimum amount of debris removal at any given visit, but more visits are required to complete the debris pile.

Mr. Wilson noted that since 2017 contract, there have been 3,800 more homes added to the house count and homeowners continue to place debris piles on curbside. Also noted, the minimum count of equipment required in contract does not include stipulations regarding adding equipment with growth and payment is based on the house count every year.

Mr. Wilson explained that debris removal trucks have video cameras, and the video serves as a record. An incident on Maple Road involved three debris piles missed because the driver, made the decision, not to drive down Maple Road. The driver looked down the street and made a judgement call and missed three piles of debris. A log maintained by the drivers would assist in explaining why a debris pile was left.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner stated that his secretary continues to receive calls from citizens regarding complaints about debris piles and confirmation is made that the debris piles are not contractor debris piles, or piles in front of vacant lots. Mr. Ladner said his office is aware that Pelican Waste is not responsible for contract debris piles and the county should resolve contractor debris piles and/or debris piles in front of vacant lots. Mr. Ladner noted that Maple Road resident debris piles have been in piles for (4) four weeks.

Supervisor Connie Rockco questioned if there was a marketing group reaching out to the public on guidelines of debris piles and removal.

Mr. Wilson responded by stating that a series of ads have already been placed, by The Focus Group, on the HCUA web page and Face Book page educating the public concerning debris removal.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner noted, he does not believe the issue involves the customer piling debris, but the timeframe the debris piles are left. Supervisor Ladner added, he believes that Pelican Waste has been performing relatively well up until after Hurricane Zeta.

Mr. Al Gombos noted in Paragraph 603 of the contract, list of equipment, "(5) five boom trucks, (3) three rear loader trucks, (1) one front loader truck and (1) one roll off truck", and noted from contract, "replacement trucks will be provided when needed within (2) two hours of breakdown." Mr. Gombos also noted, Article #7 notes "Initial staffing no less than (20) twenty employees". Mr. Gombos asked if there has been 100% compliance with the list of equipment by Pelican Waste, if Pelican Wastes provides the minimum amount of equipment required as listed in contract, and if there is staffing of at least (20) twenty employees with Pelican Waste.

Mr. Alan Lane stated that (1) one boom truck was down for (1) one week due to an accident and the spare truck's boom was broken. An extra rear loaded truck was put in service as replacement. Mr. Lane noted that Pelican Wastes' equipment lists meets the minimum requirements listed in the contract. Mr. Lane did not know the total count of employees staffed by Pelican Waste, but stated Pelican Waste meets staffing to operate equipment.

Mr. John Wilson added that he and Mr. Lane have discussed growth and that there is a need to add equipment and staff with growth.

Mr. Alan Lane added that the contract specifies equipment and personnel based on providing services as there is growth.

Mr. Gombos suggested the verbiage of "Initial staffing" be reviewed.

Roddie Matherne, CO, Pelican Waste, expressed his commitment to HCUA and the commitment of Pelican Waste to perform to the standards set forth in the contract. Pelican Waste will add additional equipment beginning this weekend and Mr. Matherne advised he will prepare a plan of action and submit the plan to Alan Lane for review. Mr. Matherne agreed that raking and clean up should take place after debris is loaded in truck and that drivers should travel down every street.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner added, some areas of debris piles are being damaged by equipment during the process of debris removal and damage results in erosion and road damage.

Supervisor Connie Rockco wanted to address the time frames given to customers by Pelican Waste when the customer calls in for service of debris removal. Customer complaints advise customers are given a day and time by Pelican Waste, but the service is not provided for the day and time the customer was advised. Supervisor Rockco expressed the importance of following thru with the dates and times promised to the customer for service of debris removal.

Mayor George Bass noted that the City of Long Beach posted updates on the Long Beach Face Book page continuously during periods of storm debris removal, in order, to educate the citizens of the guidelines in debris removal. Mayor Bass added that educating the citizens aids in a positive direction of process of debris removal.

Mr. Al Gombos addressed issues involving Waste Management and solid waste pick up. Mr. Gombos explained that the City of D'Iberville has a truck in shop for repair due to Public Works operating truck servicing missed solid waste on routes. Mr. Gombos noted, "Contractor" proposed services and agreed to the terms.

Mr. Gombos discussed the distribution plan that was never set in place, that involved Waste Management and RFID chips, a system referencing serial numbers on solid waste cans associated with specific addresses. Mr. Gombos explained solid waste cans have been delivered to houses that never existed and he referenced from the solid waste contract wording, "contract units, well defined, and recycling service, administration, custom service, distribution and pick up of carts" and "the record keeping". Mr. Gombos was unsure of process regarding whether assets are required to be returned in whole at end of contract.

Supervisor Connie Rockco addressed concerns on the house counts. Supervisor Rockco noted the house counts are not accurate or in line with the numbers the safety officer, hired by the county, is confirming. The safety officer travels with Waste Management on the house count.

Mayor "Fof" Gilich requested a reconciliation spreadsheet from Alan Lane that lists all information regarding Biloxi's routes and addresses.

Mayor Billy Hewes noted that it has been noticed, there is more litter on the streets than in the past, and all debris piles are not contractor debris piles, but educating contractors about the

process for contractor debris removal should aid and be beneficial in the future for the debris removal process.

Mayor Hewes explained that Waste Management and Pelican Waste should prepare an action plan with specifics of plans for staff, even considering hiring other vendors, in order, to resolve the back log of services to the citizens. Mayor Hewes directed John Wilson and Alan Lane, after receiving action plans from Pelican Waste and Waste Management, to develop an action plan with specifics and present plan to the board. Also, directed to John Wilson, develop a new direction, from The Focus Group, on educating public and contractors regarding debris piles and removal guidelines.

Mr. Al Gombos added that the public should be educated on the guidelines that involved debris piles in front of vacant lots.

.....

**D. Adjourn** – At this time Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor George Bass. A roll call vote resulted in the following votes:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion to adjourn passed.

.....

  
Harrison County Utility Authority

  
Harrison County Utility Authority