



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**March 15, 2012
MINUTES**

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Board Chambers
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Vonk, Rolls, Byl, Groenleer, Shroll, VanderMolen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Koorndyk

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Linda Howell, Assistant Corporate Counsel; Elissa Soto, Office Administrator; Chad Stoub, Everkept, Inc.; Eric Shelhaas, Red Creek Disposal

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vonk at 4:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Solid Waste Operations

A. 451 Plan

Director Wood presented a request to authorize the extension of the Solid Waste Plan Amendment Public Comment Period.

The Solid Waste Plan Amendment comment period ends March 17. The public hearing was held March 7, 2012. Due to significant interest in the Solid Waste Plan Amendment staff recommends extending the public comment period an additional 90-days. The State law procedure for approval of a plan amendment requires that the plan be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for action within 30-days of the close of the public comment period. This constraint will not allow enough time for input from the Solid Waste Plan Committee and a subsequent recommendation from the Board of Public Works serving as the designated planning agency. It is staff opinion that extending the comment period 90-days will provide time to prepare revisions to the plan for review by the Solid Waste Plan Committee and the Board of Public Works.

Commissioner Vander Molen questioned whether a 90-day period will be enough. Director Wood replied that it was up to the Board to determine this but he believes it is sufficient time. Commissioner Rolls and Commissioner VanderMolen asked whether the Department will be able to re-extend after this period. Director Wood directed this answer to Linda Howell, Kent County Assistant Corporate Counsel. Ms. Howell replied that there is nothing in the statute that says that there cannot be yet another extension, the key is that the extension needs to be done before the then existing 30 day comment period. During this period the Amendment has to go to the Board of Commissioner for approval.

Commissioner Byl wondered if extending the comment period would increase the number of public comments received. Director Wood responded that he does not believe that significant comments would be received.

Commissioner Byl asked for clarification of the process after the comment period is over. Director Wood stated the Plan Committee will advise, consult and provide recommendations to the Board of Public Works on Amendment revisions. Then the BPW reviews their recommendations and determines whether changes are necessary. If the Board determines that no changes are necessary it goes back to the Plan Committee for approval and then to the Board of Commissioners for approval. If the BPW determines additional changes are necessary it goes to the Plan Committee for further review and then back to the BPW. Once the 90-day comment period is over, there are 30 days to make the changes and submit it to the County Board.

Commissioner Rolls stated that this is why the extended period is important. It gives everyone sufficient time to review all aspects of the Amendment and not seem like the process is being rushed.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to extend the public comment period on the Solid Waste Plan Amendment for 90-days and authorizes a public notice to be published declaring the extension.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Miscellaneous

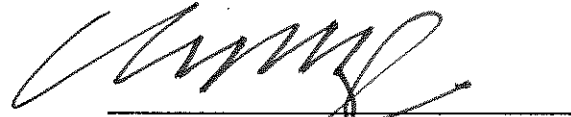
- A. Director Wood reminded Board members of the upcoming Solid Waste Plan Committee meeting date on March 22. At this meeting Director Wood will present the March 7, Public Hearing transcript and written comments received since that date. He will also propose that that they submit a recommendation to the BPW that changes are necessary to the Amendment as written. At the next BPW meeting, April 5, staff will also recommend that changes are necessary. This will allow that Solid Waste Plan Committee to move forward in their work.

Director Wood presented the option of the Board forming a Solid Waste Sub-Committee so that the Director can discuss ideas and update this group more often.

B. Chair Vonk urged Board members that any correspondence received in reference to the Solid Waste Plan Amendment be forwarded to Director Wood for response so that all information is gathered in one location and responded to as necessary.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.



William Byl, Board Secretary