



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**May 3, 2012
MINUTES**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Vonk, Koorndyk Byl, VanderMolen, Shroli, Groenleer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Rolls

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; Jon Denhof, KC Purchasing Division; Steve Achram, Civil Engineer; Jon Denhof, Kent County Purchasing Division

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Public Comment

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner VanderMolen to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Administration

A. Capital Improvement Plan

Director Wood presented a request to approve the 2013 Capital Improvement Program Budget. Each year staff prepares a five year plan for upcoming Capital Improvement needs of the Department. These include items ranging from replacement vehicles to pieces of equipment that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. This year's estimate is approving 2013 expenditures with 2014 – 2017 shown in anticipation of future needs. Also included is a similar budget for landfill cell construction.

Board members received requests for the upcoming years, some include explanation summaries for certain areas. Rates per ton on the funding of the reserves are estimates

and will be set at the operating budget approval stage of the budget process.

Director Wood added that there are no requests under the Administrative fund for year 2013; there is a request in 2015 for a vehicle.

The MRF plans to replace a fork lift in 2013. Mr. Kmiecik added that the replacement is the one that has been planned for years. Staff will examine the machine to determine the amount of maintenance needed, this way they can determine when and whether it needs to be replaced. The current machine is 12 years old and staff plans to utilize the machine until it is no longer functioning.

The North Kent Transfer Station plans for a transfer trailer replacement. This is coordinated with the Waste-to-Energy facility.

Commissioner VanderMolen mentioned the radiation detector in the plan. He asked whether a person walks around monitoring loads for radiation. Director Wood stated that all of the facilities have radiation detectors. They are placed on posts where they are directed at vehicles that come into the facilities and if there is a load with radiation the alarm will sound. Mr. Allen added that it is a very sensitive monitor.

Commissioner Byl asked if there are sanctions for people who deliver loads with radiation. Mr. Allen replied that radiation doesn't become a regulatory concern until it reaches a reading of 2,000 milirems or more. Most of the loads received are below that level. If it does reach higher levels staff calls the State and they determine what the exact levels are and if any enforcement is required they take over at that point.

The South Kent Landfill expects to replace a dozer in 2013. Once dozers reach a certain number of hours used, the Department will perform a rebuild which saves the Department thousands of dollars. There are also road construction projects for the landfill and for the ash landfill. The total budget for all of the Solid Waste Fund is \$737,000

Commissioner Groenleer mentioned a GPS Compacter priced at \$150,000 which is not listed in the CIP Summary. Mr. Kmiecik stated that it's been in the summary for the last five years and the Department doesn't plan to purchase it until the price reduces so at this time it was removed from the budget.

The Waste-to-Energy transfer trailer replacement was coordinated with the NKTS; it was bid out as one package to save money. The WTE is replacing the battery pick up vehicle. It is a vehicle that has very high mileage and needs to be replaced. As part of the contract with Covanta for operating the facility, they give the WTE a five year capital improvement plan for the facility and they projected \$729,650 in improvements for 2013. Mr. Allen added that he was given a list of items for equipment systems one time replacements on items that are out of date or have worn out completely. Some of the projects scheduled for replacement in 2013 include the replacement of the economizer sections in both boilers, replacing the stack roof, a high pressure steam piping x-ray survey, and a pipe hanger inspection.

Commissioner Vonk stated that in a previous meeting staff mentioned the possibility of recycling at the WTE and wondered the status. Director Wood stated that staff is still working on this. He added that staff at the WTE knows exactly what comes in each load and have found that many items are indeed recyclable. The challenge is making space to fit such a facility. On one side of the WTE is a junk yard and the other is a railroad. There have been discussions with the railroad about acquiring some of the property. Staff has done a good job of examining the potential and believes that about 30-40 thousand tons

of recyclables can be retrieved. Commissioner Vonk asked if there was an estimated dollar amount to the potential recyclables recovered. Director Wood replied this is something staff can calculate.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to approve the 2013 Capital Improvement Program Budget for the Department of Public Works and submit to the County Administrator.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Solid Waste Operations

A. South Kent Landfill

1. Nevins Property Lease

Director Wood requested approval of Property Maintenance Agreement with Paul Nevins authorizing him to execute the Agreement.

Approval is being requested to enter into an agreement with Paul Nevins of 1275 104th Street, SW, Byron Center, Michigan 49315 to permit him to lease properties for farming at \$200.00 per year. This has been done in the past with Mr. Nevins. Attached is the standard agreement prepared by Legal Counsel with the properties listed in Exhibit A of the Contract.

Commissioner VanderMolen asked how many other contracts like this the Department has. Staff replied that they have three. Mr. Kmiecik added that the good thing with these contracts is that the land is put to good use and it prevents it from turning into wetlands or weeds.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to approve the Agreement with Paul Nevins for property leased listed in the Exhibit A of the lease agreement and have the Director execute the Agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Material Recycling Facility

1. Glass Contract

Approval was requested authorizing Director to execute a Service Agreement with Strategic Materials, Inc. for the processing of mixed glass generated at the Kent County Recycle and Education Center.

Since July 2011, the recycling facility has been sending their glass to Strategic Materials, Inc in Chicago. The current agreement is that Strategic pays for the shipping and no charge for the glass. This has worked extremely well for the past 10 months. The recycling facility saves approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year on equipment wear and transportation.

Strategic Materials, Inc. has expressed a willingness to enter into a 3 year agreement for the glass. According to other recycling facilities this is a great deal for our facility. Staff has been working for the past 15 years on finding a use for the glass.

Commissioner Shroll asked what the company does with the glass. Mr. Kmiecik replied

that they are a company that processes mixed glass. They sort it by color and then sell it to companies who recycle and reuse it. In the past the Department would crush the glass to sand like form thinking it would be a useable product. Staff tried to get MDOT to use it for construction but this has been unsuccessful because there is not spec that allows it to be used in Michigan. This company doesn't want it crushed so it bypasses the system which saves the Department about \$20,000 in equipment costs. Most places would charge to receive the product; Strategic Materials, Inc. does not.

Mr. Koorndyk asked that if the Department finds an opportunity to make money from the glass it will be able to pursue that. Mr. Kmiecik replied that it can, the contract is for 3 years and can be canceled with a 30-day notice.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Groenleer and seconded by Commissioner Byl to authorize the Director to execute the Agreement with Strategic Materials, Inc. for a term of 3 years for the recycled glass collected at the Kent County Recycle and Education Facility.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Kentwood Landfill

1. Kentwood Recycling Drop-off Agreement

Director Wood presented a request to approval to execute an extension to the agreement with the City of Kentwood for operating the recycle drop-off center located at 4900 Breton, Ave. SW

Since 2007, the DPW and the City of Kentwood have had an agreement to operate the recycle drop-off center located at 4900 Breton, Ave. SW. The City of Kentwood would like to extend the agreement for another five year term.

Staff is recommending entering into another five year agreement with the City of Kentwood to operate the recycle drop-off center. Mr. Wood added that this service has been very well received by the residents of the City of Kentwood.

There was no further discussion on this item.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Byl to authorize the Director to execute the Agreement with the City of Kentwood for a term of 5 years to operate the drop-off center located at 4900 Breton, SW.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Waste-to-Energy Facility

A. Radiation Detector

Director Wood presented request for the approval of the purchase and installation of a radiation detector system at the WTE Facility scalehouse. The existing radiation detection system at the Waste-To-Energy scalehouse is a Bicon gate monitor. It is a 1980's model, functionally obsolete and spare parts are no longer available. Staff has researched several new radiation detectors including RadComm, Ludlum, Accoma and Thermo-Fisher. Staff has determined that the Thermo-Fisher unit is the most cost effective system. Thermo-Fisher bought the old Bicon brand and has improved upon the design. The mounting system used for the existing Bicon units can be reused with the new Thermo-Fisher units to save costs. Staff received written and verbal quotes for

the above mentioned units. A quote from Feyen Zylstra (included with the mailing) for the Thermo-Fisher system was \$13,477. A quote from RM Wester for the Accoma system was \$14,214. The RadComm and Ludlum units ranged from \$25,000 to \$30,000 installed. Staff is recommending approval of the quotation from Feyen Zylstra for the Thermo-Fisher system at a cost of \$13,477. This item is funded in the 2012 WTE Capital Budget.

There was no further discussion on this item.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Groenleer and seconded by Commissioner Byl to approval the purchase of a radiation detector system from Feyen Zylstra LLC at a cost of \$13,477.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner VanderMolen to approve the Monetary Outlays for May 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Director's Report

A. Solid Waste Plan Amendment Update

Director Wood reported that he and staff have been meeting with a small workgroup and also as a full Solid Waste Plan Committee and have made some progress on revisions to the Goals and Objectives. The next meeting is today, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. The next item to be discussed is Flow Control and the surcharge proposed in the Plan amendment. Meanwhile Director Wood and staff have been going to surrounding Townships and cities presenting and explaining the proposed Solid Waste Plan Amendment.

Director Wood discussed a report recovered from the archives from 1966 initiated by the Kent County Board of Supervisors. At that time the County had 29 dumps. The County was instrumental in closing 27 of those dump sites. The history of the process is important because it shows how the County helped solve a major problem. At that time the County set funds aside for the maintenance of the landfill and also avoided charging Potential Responsible Parties (PRP). Director Wood stated that the Department is responsible for communicating to the Board that the funds that have been set aside will not be enough to maintain the contaminated landfills. Currently \$5.7 million dollars has been set aside; another \$3 million dollars was added that comes out of the landfill expense. This is not sustainable and only the customers that use the current landfill are paying for this expense when in fact everyone is responsible. The plan is to develop a plan where there is equity in the cost of maintaining these closed landfills. Commissioners agree that this is a good planning.

Director Wood stated that there are two options. One includes flow control which solves two problems. Flow control guarantees revenue for closed landfills. It also provides the opportunity to have one disposal fee throughout the County. Historically the six cities have paid more because they chose to build the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Director Wood added that the surcharge proposed would bring in enough revenue for the closed landfills but it does not solve the problem of the differential with the six cities. Staff will be meeting with the work group to discuss this concept.

staff in the Department. Because of the upcoming transfer of Utility Services Division to the NKSA and the decreasing number of staff in this Division, a layoff notice was given to Utility Services staff. Following Union guidelines, this staff person was able to bump the current Clerk Typist II, Steve Marshall out of his position. Steve Marshall's last day with the Department is May 4, 2012. Director Wood added the Mr. Marshall has been an excellent employee who was proactive in learning skills that would benefit the Department. He has made great contributions and has been great asset to the Department.

Commissioner Vonk asked whether there were any other positions within the Department to assign Mr. Marshall. Director Wood stated that there are no current positions within the Department but it is likely there will be in the future.

F. Board Standing Rules

Director Wood stated that as of yet there are no Board Standing Rules. He will meet with Linda Howell to develop them and bring it to the Board for approval.

G. Plastics

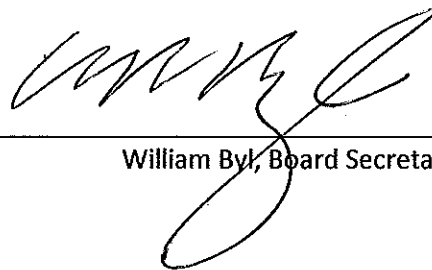
Mr. Kmiecik reported that he and the Purchasing Department developed a plan to bid out the plastic received at the Recycling Facility. This upset Beta Plastics, the business that has purchased the plastics from the Department for the past 7 years. The Department feels that it is in its best interest to receive competitive pricing. Mr. Kmiecik stated that commissioners may receive calls about this new process. Jon Denhof, Kent County Purchasing asked that the Board forward such calls to him.

IX. Miscellaneous

Jim Warner, President of SWANA

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.



William Byl, Board Secretary