



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**October 4, 2012
MINUTES**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Koorndyk, Byl, Shroll, Groenleer, Vonk, Vander Molen

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Commissioner Rolls

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Bill Allen, WTE Division Director; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Steve Achram, Civil Engineer; Linda Howell, Assistant Corporate Counsel

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2012 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Administration

A. Flu Shots

Staff requested authorization for payment of any fees for flu shots for Department staff. Staff believes that offering the no fee opportunity for flu shots to DPW employees assists in the reduction of absences due to illness and, in the long term, results in a cost savings. This has been done for the past several years. This is in cooperation with the Kent County Road Commission, at a cost to be \$27 per dose or employees will have the option to go to other Kent County scheduled times and places as well, one being scheduled at the DPW on October 15 for a cost of \$5 for mist or free for the shot.

Location of flu shots with the Kent County Road Commission:

North KCRC Complex	Oct 9	3-4 p.m.
Central KCRC Complex	Oct 8	6:45 – 8:15 a.m.
South KCRC Complex	Oct 10	3-4 p.m.
DPW Scribner Office	Oct 15	8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Groenleer and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to authorize the Department to cover the cost of any fee for each Department employee that has the flu shot.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Solid Waste Operations

A. 2013 Disposal Rates

Staff requested approval of the 2013 “Waste Description and Rates” schedule for the North Kent Transfer Station and the South Kent Landfill. Board members received a proposed 2013 “Waste Descriptions and Rates” schedule. The rate schedule proposes no increase to the general commercial refuse disposal fees for 2013. A \$1.00 increase to the minimum charge customers is proposed. Staff is also recommending increases to the following waste descriptions:

- Dead Animals--\$55.00/Ton (increase \$3.00/Ton)
- Mobile Homes--\$55.00/Ton (increase \$3.00/Ton)
- Construction and/or Demolition--\$31.50/Ton (increase \$.50/Ton)
- Sludges--\$18.00/Ton (increase \$1.00/Ton)

Commissioner Byl asked about the process for disposing mobile homes. Staff stated that customers will bring a mobile home and remove the appliances and strip it of any valuable metal. There is a special rate because there is extra work involved for staff.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to approve the 2013 “Waste Description and Rates” schedule for the North Kent Transfer Station and the South Kent Landfill.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Solid Waste Plan Amendment Resolution

Director Wood requested approval of the Kent County Solid Waste Plan Amendment Resolution and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

The Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, at their September 20, 2012 meeting, passed a motion approving the draft Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment. The next step in the process is to review the plan amendment, as the designated planning agency, and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Board members received a copy of the draft amendment with a summary of key points and a copy of the resolution recommending approval to the County Board.

Director Wood pointed out that the suggested motion on the action request will not be proposed, in its place there is a resolution for the Board to pass. The reason it is being

done this way is because there is a 30-day time frame between when the amendment is approved by the committee and when it is submitted to the county board for approval. There is not a specific time frame for county board approval, Director Wood referred to Linda Howell, Kent County Assistant Corporate Counsel, for additional information. Ms. Howell added that regulation says that once the SWPC has closed the comment period and approve the proposed amendment, it must be submitted for formal action to the county board for its consideration and approval. By referencing the exact terminology in the proposed resolution it should remove questions.

Chair Vonk asked Commissioner Koorndyk (Commissioner Koorndyk serves as the county representative) his opinion of the amendment process and approval. Commissioner Koorndyk reported that during the approval process, the only objection came from the City of Grand Rapids. This was due to their objection to the proposed surcharge. They feel that city residents have paid sufficiently with the construction and use of the WTE.

Commissioner Byl ask if the resolution allows the board the latitude to perform a per household assessment before assessing a surcharge. Director Wood replied that once the amendment is submitted to the BOC it then goes to the various municipalities where a 67 percent approval is required. Once this is achieved it is sent to the State for review and approval. The Department anticipates a response from the State early next year. Once this process is over the Department will began preparing for the proposed ordinance mentioned in the amendment for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Wood further stated that the plan committee and Board of Public Works would be involved in this process.

Chair Vonk thanked Commissioner Koorndyk for his participation in the Solid Waste Plan Committee. Director Wood also thanked members of the Solid Waste Plan Committee for their commitment to this amendment process.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll adopting a resolution recommending that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment and issue it to Kent County governmental units for review and approval.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Koorndyk, Byl, Shroll, Groenleer, Vander Molen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Rolls

VI. Waste-to-Energy Facility

A. 2013 Disposal Rates

Director Wood presented a request for the approval of the Waste-to-Energy Facility 2013 General Refuse and Special Waste Disposal Rates.

The 2013 WTE Rate Study was approved by the Advisory Committee at their April 11, 2012 Meeting and by this Board at its June 7, 2012 Meeting. The Rate Study included an estimated General Refuse disposal fee of \$45 per ton that is unchanged from the 2012 Rate. Final approval of the 2013 disposal rate was delayed in the

event budget adjustments needed to be made. No adjustments are necessary and staff is requesting that the Board approve a 2013 WTE General Refuse Disposal Rate of \$45 per ton. Staff is also requesting approval of a Special Waste Rate consisting of a minimum fee of \$67.50 for up to the first 2,000 pounds of material and prorated at \$67.50 per ton for any additional material. The Special Waste Rate recovers the additional handling cost for records and special loads disposed of off the tipping floor and/or medical records, evidence, controlled substances, stamps, pharmaceuticals and related materials taken up the elevator and disposed of directly in a unit feed chute.

Commissioner Shroll asked whether the special waste rate was increasing. Mr. Allen answered that neither the general refuse nor the special waste rate would be increasing.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Vander Molen and seconded by Commissioner Byl to approve a 2013 Waste-to-Energy General Refuse Disposal Rate of \$45.00 per ton and a minimum Special Waste Disposal Rate of \$67.50 per ton effective January 1, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Conference and Travels

A. SWANA's Senior Executive Seminar

Director Wood requested approval to attend SWANA's 17th Annual Senior Executive Seminar in Tucson, AZ from January 16 – 18, 2013.

SWANA's Senior Executive Seminar (by invitation) brings together executive-level directors and managers of major public sector solid waste agencies throughout North America along with their counterparts from the private sector. The seminar features presentations and panel discussions dealing with today's most important issues, breakout sessions where participants come together to brainstorm practical solutions to the most pressing questions regarding solid waste management and informal networking opportunities.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Vander Molen and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to approve the travel request for Director Douglas G. Wood and any commissioner to attend SWANA's 17th Annual Senior Executive Seminar in Tucson, AZ, January 16-18, 2013 at an estimated cost of \$1829.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to approve the Monetary Outlays for October 2012.

IX. Director's Report

A. Solid Waste Plan Committee Applications/BPW Member

Citizen Board applications are due the end of September. The Solid Waste Plan

Committee has received applications for nearly every current member. The committee is still in need of a county board representative. In the past the representative has been selected from the Board of Public Works.

B. Sharps Recovery Program

The Department has been working with the Health Department to develop a program to begin the collection of needle sharps at their locations. The Department is interested in this program because used sharps have been found in containers at the Recycling Center. There are paid mail-in programs offered at various pharmacies, but the Department felt the need to take the initiative to develop a free program for residents in efforts of getting needle sharps out of the recycle stream. The Department has purchased a drop off box that will be stationed at the Health Department's Fuller Street location.

C. Goodwill Industries Certificate of Appreciation

The county uses Goodwill services at the Recycling Facility. They held a recognition ceremony for their various partners. The County was recognized as a partner and received a certificate of appreciation.

D. Utility Services Division Dissolution and Transfer

As of the end of September, all of the Utility Services efforts have ended. The transition went well. The Superintendent of the Utility Services Division is now working with the North Kent Sewer Authority along with another previous staff member. NKSA purchased the assets they desired. Additionally the Department transferred various records and historical data to NKSA. The Director is pleased with how smoothly the transition went. He added that the County should be very proud of the service that was provided to the townships in the past.

E. News Article

Board members received a news article found in Department archives that dated back to 1976. Commissioner Byl said that these articles are good for historical purposes and shows how the county was compelled to step in because there were no other options for solid waste management.

X. Miscellaneous

A. Solid Waste Plan Committee

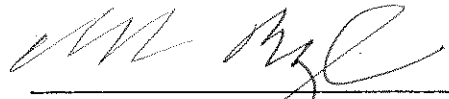
Chair Vonk thanked Commissioner Koorndyk for serving in his stead while he was recovering from an accident. He extended the seat to any commissioner with a desire to serve on the committee.

B. Bike Trail Ribbon Cutting

Chair Vonk reported on the ribbon cutting of the rural bike trail in Plainfield Township that was held the previous weekend. There were approximately 125 bicyclists in attendance to view the grand opening of the trail.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 a.m.



William Byl, Board Secretary