



**COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**January 9, 2013  
MINUTES**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Vonk, Shroll, Vander Molen, Rolls, Bulkowski  
**ABSENT WITH NOTICE:** Commissioners Byl,  
**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; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division,

**I. Call to Order**

Director Wood called the meeting to order and lead the Board in the election of a Chairman.

**II. Election of Officers**

**A. Election of Chairman (Resolution 1-13)**

Commissioner VanderMolen moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Groenleer.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Vonk is elected Chairperson of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2013.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Bulkowski, Groenleer, Shroll, Vander Molen  
**ABSENT:** Commissioners Byl, Rolls  
**NAYS:** None

Commissioner Vonk chaired the remainder of the meeting.

B. Election of Vice Chairman (Resolution 2-13)

Commissioner VanderMolen moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Bulkowski.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Shroll is elected Vice Chairperson of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2013.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Vonk, Bulkowski, Groenleer, Shroll, Vander Molen

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Byl, Rolls

**NAYS:** None

C. Election of Secretary (Resolution 3-13)

Commissioner VanderMolen moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Groenleer.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Byl is elected Secretary of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2013.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Vonk, Bulkowski, Groenleer, Shroll, Vander Molen

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Byl, Rolls

**NAYS:** None

D. Election of Deputy Secretary (Resolution 4-13)

Commissioner VanderMolen moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Groenleer.

BE IT RESOLVED that Douglas G. Wood is elected Deputy Secretary of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2013.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Vonk, Bulkowski, Groenleer, Shroll, Vander Molen

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Byl, Rolls

**NAYS:** None

**Commissioner Rolls arrived at 8:08 a.m.**

**III. Public Comment**

None

#### **IV. Review and Approval of Minutes**

##### **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Solid Waste Operations**

##### **A. Sparta Landfill**

##### **1. Schwab Property Acquisition**

Director Wood requested approval for the purchase of the Schwab/Lettinga property at 10246 Alpine Avenue, Sparta for ongoing protection of residential health and safety around the closed landfill.

The property at 10246 Alpine Avenue is immediately adjacent to the Sparta Landfill, and is in the direct path of contaminated groundwater and landfill gas. A portion of the landfill extends onto the property. Protection of this property and its residents has been a major factor in the ongoing management of the Sparta Landfill Superfund Site. The Schwab family has owned and lived at this property since 1950. The estate is currently managed by Howard and Joan Lettinga, and they are also co-owners of this parcel.

Because of the contamination present and to protect public health, purchase of this parcel has been pursued for many years. After Mrs. Schwab's confinement to a nursing home in 2012, and the County's purchase of the Lettinga's home next door at 10214 Alpine Avenue, the homeowners decided it was time to sell.

In 2012, at the County request, the Lettingas ordered an appraisal of the property at the same time they appraised their home next door. The appraised value was \$55,000. This price was offered to the Lettingas in early 2012. After some negotiations and discussion, they have decided to accept an offer of \$55,000 plus closing costs and reimbursement of \$325 for the appraisal.

Commissioner VanderMolen inquired on the type of water these residents used. Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager responded that the residents currently use well water. The Department had to install deeper well for the residents to avoid contamination. The County has provided water to area residents by means of deeper wells, but these two properties are unique because of the landfill gas issue and have documented groundwater contamination on these properties. The Department has been pursuing a restricted covenant for the Schwab property because part of it crosses with the South Kent Landfill. The homeowners were reluctant to sign a restricted covenant and the purchase of the property will absolve of the necessity for it.

Commissioner Bulkowski wondered if the contamination is contained or if it continues to migrate. Ms. Sherwood stated that she believes that it is contained and has defined the perimeter of the contamination. The site is monitored quarterly per EPA guidelines. Commissioner Bulkowski asked if he could have a conversation with staff

about that larger plan for the superfund sites.

Director Wood briefly explained how superfund sites are financially maintained and the fact that these funds are quickly being absorbed by the sites. The Department is currently in process of securing funds through an amendment to the Solid Waste Plan in order to provide for the future maintenance of these sites.

Commissioner Groenleer noted the reluctance by the Lettingas' attorney for the purchase of the property. Ms. Sherwood answered that the reluctance was because the Lettingas wanted the property purchased above the appraised value; the Department would only purchase the property at the appraised value plus closing costs.

Commissioner Vonk wondered how the Lettingas are involved in the Schwab property acquisition. Staff responded that the Lettingas and Schwabs are related and are all listed on the title of the property.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Shroll and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to authorize the Director to purchase the property at 10246 Alpine Avenue, Sparta for \$55,325 plus closing costs.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Conference/Education Travels**

### **A. Residential Recycling Conference**

Review and approval for up to two staff and any interested Board member to attend the Residential Recycling Conference (RRC) in Chicago, IL, from March 19-21, 2013. The RRC is a world-class business conference that gathers municipal recycling managers and executives from privately owned recycling companies concerned with the management and business of residential recycling. The RRC consists of two days of presentations by the leading recycling experts in North America. Recycling officials from Coca-Cola, Sims Municipal Recycling, Curbside Value Partnership, and city leaders as diverse as Los Angeles and San Antonio illustrate a small sample of the high-quality speakers the RRC attracts each year.

Pre-conference activities include a tour of a local recycling business as well as continuing education classes administered by Penn State University. Another highlight of the RRC is the awarding of the annual Green City Awards, which recognize municipalities that effectively communicate how their residents should participate in their respective recycling programs.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked for a list of conferences that Department feels would be beneficial for him to attend as a new Board member.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to approve the travel request for up to two staff and any interested Board member to attend the Residential Recycling Conference in Chicago, IL, from March 19-21, 2013 at an estimated cost of \$1,110.00

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VII. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Vander Molen and supported by Commissioner Groenleer to approve the Monetary Outlays for January, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VIII. Director's Report**

### **A. Proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule**

Board members received the tentative meeting schedule for 2013. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month except the July meeting which falls on a holiday this year.

### **B. Letter of Appreciation**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service occasionally use the WTE facility to incinerate illegal drugs. They have sent an email of thanks and appreciation recognizing to the WTE staff for being pleasant nature and professionalism.

### **C. Solid Waste Plan Amendment Process**

The amendment is still in the approval process. To date the Department has received approval from 19 municipalities; 24 or a 67% approval is needed to pass the amendment.

### **D. 2013 Goals and Objectives**

Department staff would like to present its 2013 Goals and Objectives to the Board at the March meeting.

## **IX. Miscellaneous**

### **A. Facility Tour**

Chair Vonk welcomed Commissioner Bulkowski to the DPW Board and added that he would like to take Commissioner Bulkowski on a tour of the Department facilities so that he is able to familiarize himself with the operations.

### **B. Christmas Lights Program**

Commissioner Shroll inquired about the success of the Holiday Lights Collection program that the Department did. Mr. Kmiecik stated that Padnos approached the Department about collecting the lights because they have equipment that is able to salvage recyclable parts of them. The Department was able to recover three Gaylord boxes of lights. The Department encouraged this program because it is a way to keep the lights out of the recycling stream and out of the equipment at the MRF. So far the program was well received and the Department will likely begin the collection of lights earlier in November and extend the dates further in January.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 a.m.