



**COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**March 7, 2013  
MINUTES**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Vonk, Shroll, Vander Molen, Byl, Rolls, Bulkowski,

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Groenleer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Bill Allen, WTE Division Director; Ron Landis, Director of Engineering; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Steve Achram, Civil Engineer; Molly Sherwood, Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division, Joni Laming, Purchasing Division; Linda Howell, Assistant Corporate Counsel;

**I. Call to Order**

Chair 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 Shroll to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2013 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Solid Waste Operations**

**A. South Kent Landfill**

**1. Cell Liner 35 System**

Director Wood requested approval of the contract for the installation of the liner system for municipal solid waste (MSW) cell 35 at South Kent Landfill.

Staff prepared specifications and with the assistance of the Purchasing Division requested bids for the installation of a 60 mil high density polyethylene (HDPE) liner system and drainage system for the new MSW cell 35. The liner system for the 6 acre cell includes two layers of 60 mil HDPE, one layer of HDPE geodrainage material, and one layer of Geosynthetic clay liner.

Four qualified bids were received. Of these staff is recommending awarding the contract to Texas Environmental Plastic (TEP) in the amount of \$652,303.23 (\$521,415 material, plus \$130,888 labor). This company has performed installation of liner systems for Kent County in the past. Please note the low bidder American Environmental Group (AEG) requested to increase their unit price bid for materials after the bid opening. For this reason they were required to withdraw their bid.

Commissioner Shroll asked whether the company was based in Texas and if there were any that were local. Mr. Landis confirmed that the TEP was a based in Texas and that there were no local companies who could provide the product.

Director Wood asked Mr. Landis to briefly explain the change in design of Cell 35. Mr. Landis stated that because most of the landfill had a good quality of clay the use of a one liner system was approved. Starting with Cell 35 the quality goes down and a double liner system is required. As a result the amount of material required has tripled in order to comply with regulation.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked if there was any warranty on the material and work. Mr. Landis stated that the warranty on the materials is 20 years and the warranty on the workmanship is one year. Director Wood added that in order to assure quality of work, a third party is contracted to observe the work and test the workmanship to ensure that it is done correctly. Mr. Landis stated that the Department chooses not to do this work to avoid any conflicts of interest. There currently a bid package through the Purchasing division to contract a Professional Engineer is to do this work.

Commissioner Vonk asked how the density of the material being used at South Kent landfill compares to the one that was used at North Kent. Mr. Landis believes that the material used at North Kent was PVC and was 40 mil thick; what is being used at South Kent is HDPE which is 60 mil thick and considerably stronger and more durable.

Commissioners asked Mr. Landis if it were possible to see a sample of the product.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Vander Molen and seconded by Commissioner Byl to award the South Kent Landfill Cell 35 Liner Installation Contract to Texas Environmental Plastics in the amount of \$652,303.23, further authorize the Director to execute the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **2. South Kent Landfill Expansion**

Director Wood presented a request for approval of the purchase of the E. C. Moore Development, LLC property at 1327 146th Street, Dorr Township for landfill purposes.

This property has been referred to as the "tree farm" in various attempts to purchase

it. It was appraised in August of 2008 for \$237,600, or \$8,000 per acre. The owner at that time used the land for nursery stock and wanted more money to reflect the value of the trees, his estimate, over \$1,000,000. We declined.

A year later, a realtor approached us with an offer to sell, on that owners behalf, the land and trees for around \$750,000. (Owner later told us he did not recall hiring the realtor) We declined.

In April 2011 we had the land appraised and the value had dropped to \$127,700 or \$4,300 per acre. The owner thought it was again too low. We offered to give him time to sell or transplant the trees.

Later that year, the owner filed bankruptcy and we contacted the bank that held the lien. They thought they would get control of the property soon, but did not. In the summer of 2011 the bank said they would sell to us when it cleared the courts. It took over one year.

Unfortunately, the bank received additional pieces of property and packaged them all as one and sold them to E. C. Moore Development, LLC. We contacted him and he said he would be interested in selling. He took title in December 2012 and thought the appraisal was too old. He had the property reappraised in February of 2013 by the same appraiser we used, Jakems Appraisal Company.

The latest appraisal is for \$149,100 or \$5,100 an acre. We have a signed purchase offer for this amount pending approval by the Board to enter into a Real Estate Purchase Agreement. This land will be used for landfill expansion.

Commissioner Byl asked if the trees have any value. Director Wood believes so. He has contacted the Parks Department to see if they are interested in the trees. If the trees are native rather than ornamental, Parks may be interested in them. Director Wood will have a forester examine the trees.

Commissioners had questions about the properties the Department owns and those they may want to acquire in the future. Staff feels it necessary to purchase land while it is economical. The land can serve grounds for possible new technology in the future. Commissioner Vonk commended staff for being able to acquire the land at a fair price. Director Wood added that he was most proud of the fact that the Department can acquire the land through negotiations with land owners.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Vander Molen and seconded by Commissioner Byl to authorize the Director to purchase the property at 1327 146<sup>th</sup> Avenue for \$149,100 plus closing costs and set closing and possession date.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Waste-to-Energy Facility**

#### **A. Replacement of Truck Scales at WTE**

Authorization was requested to demolish and replace three (3) platform truck scales with

two (2) pit scales. The truck weigh scales at the WTE Facility are 24 years old and have reached the end of their useful life. Because of their elevated platform design, they have historically been more expensive to maintain than the pit type scales utilized at other Department facilities. Matters came to a head last November when the outbound scale broke down and was taken out of service. The Facility is currently relying on the other two scales, both of which are 60 feet long instead of the current 80 foot long standard design.

Staff has received a quotation of \$240,086 (included in the mailing) for two (2) new 80 foot long Fairbanks Tundra XLT (pit type) Truck Scales from Grand Rapids Scale Company. Experience has shown that two scales are more than adequate for the daily truck traffic (130/day). These are the same brand scales in use at South Kent Landfill and North Kent Transfer Station. This quotation includes the cost of demolishing the three existing scales. Additional work for scalehouse sewer and water utility relocation, soil testing, electrical work and grading the site will be done as part of the Contact Water Storage Project. Staff is also including a \$15,000 contingency in case both incoming scales have to be demolished at the same time and a temporary scale has to be utilized. The WTE Capital Plan includes a line item of \$225,000 for this work. The work was originally scheduled to be completed in 2015 but the Capital Plan is set up to allow for moving individual projects up or back as conditions warrant. There are more than sufficient funds to cover the costs listed above. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize this work at an estimated cost of \$255,086.

Director Wood added that this is a sole source because the Department wants to have the same brand of scales at all of the facilities for maintenance reasons. Mr. Allen added that the other scale company is in Plainwell and the WTE has tried to utilize their service in the past and had difficulties getting proper service because of the additional travel time. Grand Rapids Scales has been a good company with good service and is able to provide maintenance promptly when it is needed.

Commissioner Bulkowski wondered if the scales were bid when scales were originally installed at the WTE facility. Staff replied that they were bid along with scales at the landfill when they were built.

Commissioner Vonk wondered about the option to rent or lease the scales. Mr. Allen answered that if it is necessary to demolish the scales at the same time because of the way they were installed, the WTE will have to rent scales to continue operations.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Shroll and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to authorize the demolition of the existing three (3) platform truck weigh scales and their replacement with two (2) new Fairbanks Tundra XLT (pit type) truck scales from Grand Rapids Scale Company at an estimated cost, including contingencies, of \$255,086.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VI. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

### **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Bulkowski to approve the Monetary Outlays for March 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VII. Director's Report**

### **A. Operations and Budget Data**

Director Wood plans to give the Board a monthly report on operations and budget data. The first report presented is an annual report required by the State detailing where the solid waste received by County comes from. Director Wood noted that in 2006/2007 the tons disposed in Kent County was over one million; currently 708,206 tons of waste is distributed in area facilities. Recycling, the economy and other efforts have reduced the amount of solid waste disposed in Kent County.

The Board will also receive a monthly report for the WTE operations. Board members were presented a January summary of the WTE facility. The disposal fee is \$45. Although the actual cost per ton is less, it is the Department's desire is to maintain a set rate for multiple years. The monthly cost per ton can vary and staff believes that the rate can be held at \$45 for a few years.

The Board will also receive a report with revenue for South Kent Landfill and the North Kent Transfer Station by month and year to date. The report will show budgeted tons versus that actual tons processed.

Finally the Board will receive reports detailing the tonnage and revenue at the MRF. The MRF is growing faster as than planned initially so staff is paying close attention to the operations at the MRF. The facility is running at capacity and will likely add additional shifts to keep up with the flow.

### **B. Department Re-organization**

Director Wood has begun a re-organization plan for the Department and would like to discuss it with the Board. In conversations with the Board Chair, they found it best to discuss it in a committee environment first. The other element is a discussion of succession planning since a number of management staff at the Department are eligible for retirement. Chair Vonk along with Commissioners Shroll and Byl will serve on this committee.

### **C. April 4, 2013 Meeting**

The April 4 meeting will be at 7:30 instead of 8 a.m.

### **D. Solid Waste Video**

Board members received a copy of the new Solid Waste video that was viewed at last month's meeting.

**VIII. Miscellaneous**

A. MIOSHA Citation

Commissioner Shroll inquired on the status of the MIOSHA citations received at the MRF. Ms. Howell reported that the MIOSHA citations have been completely withdrawn.

B. Customer call

Mr. Kmiecik reported of a call from a customer who was appreciative of the landfill staff. She had mistakenly disposed of her dental work. After finding out who her hauler was, staff was able to locate the dental work. Things of this nature happen on occasion and staff does their best to assist the resident.

C. WTE Advisory

The next meeting is the WTE Advisory Committee meetings is Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. The committee is made up of representatives from the six cities. Board members were invited to attend if they were available.

D. Facility Tours

Chair Vonk would like to schedule facility tours for Commissioner Bulkowski and anyone else interested.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.