



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**April 4, 2013
MINUTES**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Vonk, Shroll, Byl, Rolls, Bulkowski,

ABSENT: Commissioners Groenleer, Vander Molen

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, Environmental Compliance Manager; 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 7:30 a.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Review and Approval of Minutes (clarification of minutes by Director)

Director Wood made a clarification on the cost of cell liner installation contract awarded to Texas Environmental. The \$652,303.23 approved includes the cost of materials and labor. The Department will purchase the materials to save on sales tax.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Shroll to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Solid Waste Operations

A. South Kent Landfill

1. Elimination Construction/Demolition Rate

Staff recommended the elimination of the Construction/Demolition Rate at the South Kent Landfill and North Kent Transfer Station. Over the past 15 years the disposal system utilized a construction/demolition rate. Presently the rate is \$31.50 per ton as opposed to the general refuse rate of \$34.50 per ton. It has become increasingly difficult to monitor incoming loads and to differentiate the difference in the types of waste. Many of the haulers utilizing the rate have begun to blend in general refuse with construction/demolition waste. Staff is recommending the elimination of the construction/demolition rate and offering only the general refuse rate to customers. This would take effect June 1, 2013.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked if the Department is required to hold a public hearing when raising rates. Director Wood said that it is not required but the Department will send a letter to haulers using this rate notifying them of the change. The landfill accepts concrete and blacktop free of charge. Much of the material being brought in as construction material is being mixed in with general refuse.

Mr. Kmiecik added that the construction rate is intended for construction material that is non-biodegradable. Many times haulers would mix loads in order to receive the lower rate. The materials classified under the construction rate the Department now accepts at no charge, therefore there is no longer a need for the rate.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked if the change would have an adverse effect on revenue. Mr. Kmiecik does not believe that it will.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Shroll and seconded by Commissioner Byl to eliminate the construction/demolition rate from the solid waste disposal system.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Landfill Pick-up Truck

Staff recommended that the Board of Public Works approves the purchase of a Ford ¾ ton pickup truck from Tony Betten Ford in the amount of \$21,360.00 pursuant to RFQ 1189. The Department has an approved 2013 Capital Improvement Project budget for the purchase of a new pickup truck to replace the existing fuel truck at South Kent Landfill. The existing truck is used for fueling the heavy equipment within the landfill. The existing 2006 Chevy pickup is in poor condition due to the harsh conditions of the landfill.

A Request for Quotation was solicited on March 14, 2013 by the Purchasing Division. The RFQ Tabulation is attached. The quotes were evaluated by Department and Purchasing Division staff and a purchase order was prepared for Tony Betten Ford in the amount of \$21,360.00.

Chair Vonk asked the number of miles on this vehicle. Mr. Kmiecik replied that it had about 60 thousand miles. The Department has also been spending a significant amount of money on maintenance of the vehicle and found it best to purchase a new one.

Total 3/4 Ton Pickup	1 EA	Tony Betten & Sons Ford	\$ 20,624.00
Total Optional Accessories	1 EA	Tony Betten & Sons Ford	\$ 736.00
			\$ 21,360.00
Total 3/4 Ton Pickup	1 EA	Jorgensen Ford Sales	\$ 21,149.00
Total Optional Accessories	1 EA	Jorgensen Ford Sales	\$ 300.00
			\$ 21,449.00
Total 3/4 Ton Pickup	1 EA	Signature Ford Lincoln	\$ 21,099.00
Total Optional Accessories	1 EA	Signature Ford Lincoln	\$ 758.00
			\$ 21,857.00
Total 3/4 Ton Pickup	1 EA	Slingerland Chrysler Dodge Jeep	\$ 24,825.71
Total Optional Accessories	1 EA	Slingerland Chrysler Dodge Jeep	\$ 625.00
			\$ 25,450.71

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to approve the purchase of a Ford ¾ ton pickup truck from Tony Betten Ford in the amount of \$21,360.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Cell 35 Construction Quality Assurance

Director Wood requested approval of the contract for construction quality assurance (CQA) for cell 35. Staff prepared specifications and with the assistance of the Purchasing Division requested bids for providing engineering services for construction quality assurance for the installation of the liner system for cell 35. Work involves continuous third party observation/documentation of the liner system and providing the construction certification report for approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Five qualified bids were received. Staff is recommending awarding the unit price contract to Lambert Associates, low bidder. Lambert Associates has provided CQA for previous cell construction.

Commissioner Rolls inquired as to whether the Department has worked with this company in the past and to what extent and also the price difference between the companies on the bid tabulation. Mr. Landis responded that the Department has used Lambert Associates in the past and is not concerned with the price difference. Lambert is a local company who specializes in CQA has observed the construction of two cells at South Kent Landfill.

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lambert Associates	\$26,800
Field Technology Services	\$35,049
CTI and Associates, Inc	\$39,463
Golder Associates, Inc	\$46,801
Andrews Engineering, Inc	\$59,274.10

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Shroll and seconded by Commissioner Byl to award the unit price contract for CQA for Lining Cell 35 to Lambert Associates, LLC in the amount of \$26,800.

Motion carried unanimously

V. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Bulkowski to approve the monetary outlays for the month of April, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Director's Report

A. Solid Waste Compactor Bid

Director Wood updated the Board on the potential purchase of a new compactor for the landfill. Staff intended to present this item to the Board this month, but decided to do a more research on compactors. Mr. Kmiecik added that when staff received bids on the compactor Humdinger Equipment, LTD, a company that has not bid before, was the low bidder. As a result, staff has begun to do research on the company and the product. Mr. Kmiecik has been calling references and has received very favorable reviews. His major concern is maintenance and part availability for the product. Humdinger has stated that they will hire RPM, Inc., out of Hudsonville, Michigan, and train the technicians to service the compactor properly.

There is a three to six month wait on these compactors and staff would like approval to reserve one that is currently being built. The Department would have the compactor by the time the existing compactor is at its maximum hours and thus providing a smooth transition between machines.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and supported by Commissioner Shroll to grant staff approval to reserve the Tana E520 compactor from the low bidder Humdinger Equipment, LTD and the tentative approval for the purchase of the compactor and the final approval at the May Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Battery Recovery/Recycling Program

The Department has had the battery recovery program for over twenty years. The program recovers alkaline, lithium and button batteries, among a number of others primarily because alkaline batteries contained mercury. Alkaline batteries are no longer hazardous but the Department continues to collect them in order to keep them out of the WTE. The Department continues to sort the batteries and landfilling alkaline batteries. This has been an effective program and staff has not changed the system with hopes of maintaining consistency and avoiding any confusion.

Mr. Allen added that in past the WTE paid a company to take the batteries assuming that they would be processed and recycled. Department staff discovered that this company was landfilling these batteries instead of recycling them. Staff felt it would be more cost effective to do that ourselves. The WTE still pays to recycle batteries that are not alkaline. There are companies that claim to have developed a system to recycle alkaline batteries and as a result staff has received phone calls from concerned citizens. This system has not

been proven and staff is doing research to determine if such system is in place. If it is the case, Mr. Allen will bring it the WTE Advisory Committee so that they can decide whether it is a program they would like to participate in.

Director Wood stated that this matter was brought to the Board because it has the potential of becoming a public relations issue and felt Board members should be aware and prepared. Commissioner Shroll agreed about the public relations issues and suggested using containers to help sort the different types of batteries. Director Wood replied that rolling out a new education program about battery recovery would require an extensive amount time and could cause more confusion for residents. Presently staff that sorts the batteries to assure that only alkaline batteries are landfilled and the others disposed of correctly.

C. Department Re-organization

Director Wood has met with Commissioners Vonk, Shroll and Byl to update them on the plan for the Department's re-organization. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18 with the hope of reaching a consensus and then bringing it to the Board in May.

D. Board Standing Rules

Chair Vonk had questions about how appointments are made and also the standing rules for the BPW. Director Wood contacted Linda Howell, Assistant Corporate Counsel for assistance in this matter. Ms. Howell updated the Board on this process. She stated that the appointments for the BPW are handled by the Board of Commissioners (BOC). The BOC is in the process of updating its standing rules to make sure that the appointments for the Board of Public Works (BPW) are in compliance with receiving nominations from cities and townships. This will be confirmed through the BOC's update to their process. Ms. Howell also has a draft for the BPW standing rules and will have a draft for the BPW to consider.

E. Budget and Operations Reports

Director Wood reviewed the Department's operational reports for the month of March. The report for the MRF shows continued growth. The facility is processing at capacity and if this continues it is possible that an additional shift will need to be added.

South Kent landfill was under about 3,000 tons for the month of March. Staff believes this is seasonal and anticipates on the tonnage increasing in the next couple of months. South Kent landfill was also under budget approximately \$67,000.

Tonnage at the North Kent Transfer Station was under 877 tons under for the month of March and \$20,000 under budget on expenses for the month of March.

F. WTE Advisory Committee Meeting

The WTE Advisory Committee will be having its annual budget meeting. The goal is to have a budget recommendation for the Board's approval. The meeting is April 10 at 1:30 p.m. All Board members are welcome.

VII. Miscellaneous

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.