



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**October 3, 2013
8:00 AM**

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Second Floor Conference Room
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Vonk, Shroll, Bulkowski, Groenleer, VanderMolen, Byl

ABSENT: Commissioners Rolls

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Ron Landis, Director of Engineering; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Chris Robinson, WTE Operations Manager; Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division; Linda Howell, Assistant Corporate Counsel;

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Comment

None

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and supported by Commissioner Byl to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2013 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Administration

A. Flu Shots

Staff requested and approval for the Department to cover flu shot fees. Staff recommends authorization that the payment of any fees for flu shot or mist be paid by the Department. Staff believes offering the no fee opportunity for flu shots/mist to DPW employees' assists in reduction of absences due to illness and, in the long term, results in a cost savings. This has been done the past several years. There is no cost to employees for the flu shot. If employees opt to use the mist instead of the shot, the cost is \$5. The vaccine will be offered at the DPW Scribner Office on October 14, 2013

from 8:30-9:00 a.m.

In the past flu shots were administered through the Road Commission, but they will not be hosting it this year. The only option for staff this year is through the County's KEEPS program. Department staff will look into possibly hosting its own flu shots through the Health Department next year in order to offer more convenient locations for employees

MOTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Solid Waste Operations

A. 2014 Disposal Rates

Approval was requested approval of the 2014 Waste Description and Rates schedule for the North Kent Transfer Station and the South Kent Landfill. The rate schedule proposes a \$1.60 per ton increase to the general commercial refuse disposal fees for 2014. No other rate increases are proposed for any of the waste descriptions. Board members received a copy of the proposed Waste Description and Rates schedule and the refuse disposal rate history.

Commissioner Shroll wondered why there was an increase this year. Staff stated that the rates have not increased in the last four years. Mr. Kmiecik added that the increase in the maintenance and fuel costs requires that prices be increased in order to cover expenses.

Commissioner Bulkowski wondered if the increase would affect the tonnage at the landfill. Staff responded that the increase affects the commercial end of the business and doubts that it will make any difference.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner VanderMolen and seconded by Commissioner Byl to approve the 2014 "Waste Description and Rates" schedule for the North Kent Transfer Station and the South Kent Landfill.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. South Kent Landfill

1. Bouwman Land Purchase

Staff requested the review and approval of the purchase of 1384 108th Street SW, Dorr Michigan Property for future landfill expansion. Staff was contacted by the homeowner interested in selling their home on the south side of 108th Street in Dorr Township, Allegan County. The property would be in the north end of the anticipated area of the landfill expansion.

Staff requested an appraisal by Jakems Appraisal Company that has indicated the fair market value is \$193,600. The owners have accepted the appraised value for the property consisting of 5 acres, a home, and a pole building. The owners are in the process of locating a replacement home. Closing will be arranged this year and possession of the home will be no later than July 1, 2014. The sellers will occupy the residence rent free for a period (closing date to

December 31, 2013). Beginning January 1, 2014 the sellers will pay rent of \$750 per month until the property is vacated.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to approve the purchase of property located at 1384 108th Street SW, Dorr, Michigan 49323 (PP# 03-05-001-016-10) for \$193,600; authorize the Director to execute the Real Estate Purchase Agreement; and authorize the Director to negotiate a closing date based on the sellers' success in obtaining a replacement property. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Material Recycling Facility

1. Goodwill of GR Contract Amendment.

Staff requested approval to amend the existing Goodwill contract to include coverage for additional night shift work. Due to the increase in recyclables received at the Kent County Recycling & Education Center staff has added four additional night shifts. An extra shift will be added Monday through Thursday from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm utilizing the Goodwill Transitional Work Employer (TWE) program. Goodwill will staff approximately 30 sorters utilizing personnel from the Kent County Sheriff Re-entry Program.

Commissioner Byl asked whether there are still court assigned workers at the MRF. Mr. Kmiecik stated that the courts make referrals to the MRF, but the number of individuals that show up fluctuates from day to day.

Mr. Kmiecik stated that he has tested the evening shift for about a month and it has worked very well. The temporary Saturday shift has been eliminated. It is possible that a part-time maintenance position will need to be added. Commissioner Groenleer stated that having adequate staff at the facility is very important.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to amend the existing Goodwill Contract to include coverage for an additional night shift. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Waste-to-Energy

A. 2014 Disposal Rates

Approval of the Waste-to-Energy Facility 2014 General Refuse and Special Waste Disposal was requested. The 2014 WTE Rate Study was approved by the Advisory Committee at their April 10, 2013 meeting and by this Board at its June 6, 2013 meeting. The Rate Study included a General Refuse disposal fee of \$45.00 per ton that is unchanged from the 2013 Rate. No adjustments are necessary and staff is requesting that the Board approve a 2014 WTE General Refuse Disposal Rate of \$45.00 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.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Shroll to approve a 2014 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, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to approve the monetary outlays for the month of October 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Director's Report

A. MRF Updates

The MRF has been performing well. Staff would like to add an evening shift in order to keep up with the materials received at the facility. Additional Transitional Work Employees will be filling these evening shifts. Staff has tested this shift for about a month and it has worked well.

B. Landfill Cell Construction Update

Ron Landis gave a presentation on the progress of the line for Cell 35. She showed Board members a PowerPoint presentation with photos of various steps of its progress. Board members were impressed by the presentation and the liner's progress. Commissioner VanderMolen suggested that in the future liner project be recorded for educational purposes.

C. Tana Compactor Report

Mr. Landis gave Board members an update on the Tana Compactor that was purchased. He reported that landfill staff is very pleased with the machine and how well it performs. He also reported that staff is concerned with the service provided by RPM, the company currently assigned to provide service with maintenance issues. Staff, with the assistance of Humdinger, will be looking to possibly changing service providers.

D. Rockford Construction/EcorUSA

Director Wood met with directors at Rockford construction to discuss ideas concerning cellulosic waste products, like paper or wood, and using those to create a product that can be use to make furniture. Staff is discussing a possible partnership with Rockford Construction. Staff will keep the Board updated on the progress.

Commissioner Bulkowski wondered if Rockford would be purchasing the material from the MRF. Mr. Wood stated that this is a possibility, but this is still being discussed.

E. PA 185 Amendment

This amendment ties in renewable energy and biomass into the Act. It allows the Department to take part in projects involve renewable energy. The concept of having it introduced in the House was discussed with State Rep. Rob VerHeulen.

F. MDEQ Recycling Initiative

Director Wood has been invited to participate on a committee established by Governor Snyder to develop a Recycling Initiative in West Michigan. The initiative seeks to increase recycling throughout West Michigan. Director Wood will keep the Board updated on the progress of this committee.

G. Kentwood Landfill Update

Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager reported that she is working with the EPA and the MDEQ to cease the operations of the pre-treatment plant at the Kentwood landfill. Ground water is currently extracted and pumped out of the site and into a pre-treatment plant to reduce the amount of contamination before it is sent to Wyoming's clean water plant. Through regular testing of that water, staff has found that the water coming out of the landfill meets the discharge permit requirements for the City of Wyoming. The treatment at the pre-treatment plant is not necessary and the water can be discharged directly. The City of Wyoming has agreed to accept the water without further treatment. Contingencies have to be put into place in order to do this and staff is in the process of setting these up. Staff hopes to be able to shut down the plan by the end of the year.

Commissioner VanderMolen asked about the estimated savings of shutting down the plant. Ms. Sherwood stated that most of the savings will come the reduction of electricity used and estimated them to be about thirty thousand dollars.

H. Solid Waste Plan

The Advisory Committee has resumed meeting. The Amendment was approved in June 2013, but staff was not notified. The Committee is now reviewing a draft of the solid waste ordinance.

I. November Board Meeting

The Board of Commissioners' meeting conflicts with the BPW meeting. It was decided to meet on November 5, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., after the Finance Committee meeting.

IX. Miscellaneous

- A. Kristen Wieland, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager gave birth to twin boys.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.