



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**February 6, 2014  
8:30 AM**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners, Shroll, Bulkowski, Groenleer, Byl, Morgan

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Vonk, VanderMolen

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division; Chris Robinson, WTE Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Resource Recovery & Recycling Manager; Francine Farrington, Fiscal Services; Linda Howell, Kent County Assistant Corporate Counsel

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Shroll 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 Groenleer to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2014 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Waste-to-Energy Facility Operations**

**A. WTE Insurance**

Review and authorize the Director to acquire insurance coverage for the WTE. Staff, through the Kent County Fiscal Services Department, solicited proposals from three insurance agencies for the WTE Property and liability insurance renewals. The effective date of the insurance policies is March 1, 2014.

Included in the packet was a recommendation from Ms. Francine Farrington, Fiscal

Services Deputy Director and Stephanie Lee, Kent County Risk Manager, and a summary of the bids received. The only bids solicited for the 2014 Coverage were from current carriers. The 2013 premium for property insurance through Arthur J. Gallagher, with ACE, was \$213,044. The 2014 premium will be \$203,705.50 - a decrease of \$9,338.50 or 4.4%. Although our property values increased 3%, we were able to obtain a reduction in premium, while maintaining the same coverage limits. For general liability insurance, through Berends, Hendricks & Stuit Insurance Agency, it is recommended to renew with Chubb along with excess liability from Chubb and Scottsdale Insurance. This premium for liability coverage shows an increase of \$6,273.83 (4%) and has gone from \$153,330 in 2013 to \$159,603.83 in 2014. This is a reflection of increased rates and increased power production. The combined 2014 property and liability premium cost of \$363,309.33 is \$61,690.67 less than the WTE budget of \$425,000. (Additional insurance such as auto is charged by the County to this line item also)

Staff, Insurance Broker and Francine Farrington were available to answer any questions.

Commissioner Shroll asked about the terrorism insurance coverage listed. She noted that at one point there was a deductible for the insurance and the new policy does not. Ms. Farrington responded that historically property owners included terrorism coverage in their policies. After 9/11 the federal government created Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TREA) in order assure that businesses are protected in the event of terrorist attacks. This Act is set to expire in February 2014. The carrier went in search for terrorism coverage and the carrier presented a policy which included terrorism coverage with a zero deductible. The coverage under the WTE policy covers foreign or domestic acts of terrorism.

Commissioner Morgan mentioned the option to opt out of the terrorism insurance coverage. Ms. Farrington responded that the option is available, but it is strongly suggested that the Department purchase the coverage because it is a government entity.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked if the property insurance covered floods. Ms. Farrington assured that the policy covers any potential flood damage.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to authorize the Director to acquire insurance coverage for the WTE through Arthur J. Gallagher for property at a premium of \$203,750.50 and through Berends Hendricks Stuit Insurance Agency for liability at a premium of \$159,603.83.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **B. WTE Vehicle Purchase**

The Department has an approved 2014 Capital Improvement Project for the purchase of a new pickup truck for the WTE battery collection program. Staff prepared bid specifications and the Purchasing Division issued bid proposals. Eight bids were received with one bid not meeting specifications. Staff is recommending the bid submitted by Tony Betten Ford with a bid of \$20,214.

Jorgensen Ford did not include a power lift gate in their bid, therefore their pricing will not be considered.

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Groenleer to award the purchase of a 2014 Ford F 150 pickup truck from Tony Betten Ford for \$20,214.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

## **MOTION**

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Shroll to approve the monetary outlays for the month of January 2014.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **VI. Director's Report**

#### **A. Ash Monofill/Mechanically Stabilized Wall**

Have a separate monofill for the WTE ash because the ash adds a lot of lime to the waste. Over time the lime leaches out and clogs the pipes. The landfill has a separate system for the ash to prevent this from happening. Ash is not combined with the municipal solid waste.

The ash monofill has about a five (5) year capacity. The Department will either have to site and build a new ashfill or build a mechanically stabilized earth wall (MSE). The idea is to build a wall around the ashfill in order to increase capacity. This is the direction the Department is heading and staff will keep the Board updated as the project progresses.

Commissioner Byl asked how much increased volume this wall will provide. Mr. Kmiecik responded that staff is still calculating this, but the goal is to be able to dispose ash within the MSE wall until the contract with Consumer's Energy expires.

Commissioner Bulkowski asked when planning for the construction of a new landfill will start. Mr. Wood stated that the staff is has been in contact with Allegan County in this regard. No specific timeframe has been set.

#### **B. Ash Monofill/Metal Recycling**

Ferrous metal is separated from the ash at the WTE. Even through this separation, ferrous and nonferrous metals remain in the ash. Staff has been meeting with Covanta and their subsidiary TarTech, discussing the possibility of mining the ash at South Kent Landfill in order to retrieve metals. They have taken samples from the ash and they believe that there is enough metals to build a plant on site. The company would pay the Department a percentage for each ton of ash recovered.

Staff is still in negotiations with the company and will report any progress.

Commissioner Bulkowski inquired about the potential dust and how it would affect are residents. Mr. Wood said he would bring this concern to the company.

Commissioner Byl wondered if the mining could be done before the ash went to the landfill. Mr. Wood responded that there would not be adequate space to do this at the WTE. Further, the company predicted that mining the ash would increase capacity by 15%.

Commissioner Groenleer asked if there was any alternative use for the ash. Mr. Wood stated that in other countries use the ash in certain construction materials, but this is not allowed in Michigan.

C. South Kent Landfill/ISO Audit

Ms. Sherwood stated that the annual recertification audit will be on March 26 -27.

D. March Meeting/2013 Budget Overview and 2014 Goals and Objectives

Staff will present a summary of the 2013 Budget. Staff will also do a presentation of the 2014 goals and objectives.

E. Car seat Exchange Program

Kristen Wieland updated the Board on our partnership with the Greater Grand Rapids Safekids organization through the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. This organization performs car seat inspections throughout the year at various locations around the county. At those locations they find that car seats are expired or unsafe and offer an exchange to the individual. They collect the seats at their location, strip them of all the fabric and metal clips and bring the plastic to the MRF. When the partnership first started, the program brought in about 500 car seats to the MRF. This past year the amount doubled.

F. Operations Report

Mr. Wood stated that staff will review the operation reports for 2013 at the March meeting.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

A. Waste Guide

Commissioner Shroll inquired about when the waste guide will be updated. Ms. Wieland stated that staff is in the process of updating it. It is normally printed in the spring before townships do their spring cleanup days.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.