



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**September 7, 2017**

**8:30 AM**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Vonk, Koorndyk, Bulkowski, Brieve, Yonker, Skaggs

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Morren

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Cal Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; John Van Tholen, Sales & Community Representative at Granger; Tom Mahoney, General Manager at Republic Services, Inc.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve August 3, 2017 minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Conference/Education Travels**

##### **i. Renewable Energy from Waste Conference – AR**

Director Baas reviewed the Renewable Energy from Waste Conference Action Request. Staff is requesting to attend the conference in Fort Myers, Florida on October 2 – October 4. Director Baas was invited to present on Kent County's vision for sustainable business park visioning and master plan process to support the DPW's effort to implement sustainable materials management strategies to reduce dependency on landfill disposal for discards.

##### **ii. WASTECON 2017 Conference – AR**

Director Baas reviewed the WASTECON 2017 Action Request. Staff is requesting to attend the conference in Baltimore, Maryland on September 24 – September 27. WASTECON 2017 covers environmental consulting, engineering services, computer hardware and software, collection equipment, hauling equipment, waste material processing, MRF, transfer station equipment, disposal equipment, landfill equipment and business services.

#### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to approve Conference and Education Travels.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Resource Recovery and Recycling Operations**

#### **A. Fire Suppression Water Main Upgrade – AR**

Director Baas reviewed the Fire Suppression Water Main Action Request. During an inspection and testing of the fire suppression at the Recycling & Education Center it was determined that the 6" water service main connection on Gunnison Avenue is inadequate to provide the water volume and pressure necessary to operate the fire suppression system. Moore & Bruggink was hired to evaluate and recommend a solution and determined a second, 8" water main is required. With only 6" water mains available in the area, with the City of Grand Rapids approval, M&B recommended and completed construction drawings to replace the older 6" line in Lane Avenue with a new 8" line to Butterworth Avenue and to connect this new service to the fire suppression system.

#### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to approve the Fire Suppression Water Main Upgrade Action Request.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **V. Environmental Compliance Management**

A. NKL Gas Collection System – AR

Director Baas reviewed the NKL Gas Collection System Action Request. To improve landfill gas collection at North Kent Landfill, it is necessary to make substantive improvements to and replace portions of the existing landfill gas system, installed in 1986. These improvements are essential to adequately capture landfill gas at the site in order to protect human health and the environment.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the NKL Gas Collection System Action Request.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. KWL Well Drilling – AR

Director Baas reviewed KWL Well Drilling Action Request. DPW received one bid in July 2017 for the installation of a methane gas collection and destruction system at the Kentwood Landfill to mitigate migrating underground methane gas. The contract was awarded for \$640,991 to Catskill Remedial Contracting Services, Inc. absent drilling at the DPW Board meeting on August 3, 2017. Due to the high cost of drilling the gas collection/monitoring wells, the project engineering consultant and DPW staff investigated alternate methods of drilling subsequent the award. Proposals and cost estimates were obtained from other drilling contractors for the alternative methods.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Skaggs and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the KWL Well Drilling Action Request.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Yonker and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the Monetary Outlays.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Director's Report**

A. Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) – Avoided Cost Rate Case Update

Director Baas discussed the Avoided Cost Rate Case. Currently, DPW is compensated at \$0.08 per kilowatt hour and it will be reduced to about \$0.06 per kilowatt hour which is a reduction of \$2.5 million dollars in revenue per year. The MPSC is not grasping the Federal Law requirements in regards to determining the value of electricity. A letter will be

drafted with signatures from Kent County Representatives and sent to the MPSC. The mayors of each city including Mayor Bliss has submitted a letter on behalf of Kent County to the MPSC as well.

**B. US House Energy and Commerce Committee Testimony**

Director Baas discussed Congressman Fred Upton inviting Kent County and the DPW Director to Washington to testify in front of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee. On September 6, 2017, Director Baas testified to the committee what Waste to Energy is doing and how it impacts municipal infrastructures regarding The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act.

**VIII. Public Comment/Miscellaneous**

Tom Mahoney, General Manager from Republic Services discussed the contract Republic Services has with DPW. The contract expires at the end of the year and he would like the Board to consider renewing it.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.