



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**October 5, 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, Skaggs

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Morren, Yonker

**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; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Shane Hale, Transfer Station Operator; John Van Tholen, Sales & Community Representative at Granger; Tom Mahoney, General Manager at Republic Services, Inc.; Russ Boersma, General Manager at Arrowwaste Inc.; Phil Vander Heide, from Bob's Disposal; James Hurt, Director of Public Services of City of Grand Rapids; Tim Bradshaw, City Engineer/Director of Inspections at City of Kentwood

**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 Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to approve September 7, 2017 minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Administration**

#### **A. Years of Service Awards**

##### **I. Cynthia Kaiserlian – 25 years**

Director Baas acknowledged Cynthia Kaiserlian, Scalehouse Attendant at North Kent Transfer Station for her 25 years of service.

##### **II. Shane Hale – 15 years**

Director Baas presented staff member Shane Hale, Transfer Station Operator at South Kent Landfill with a 15-year service pin from Kent County.

#### **B. Administrative Offices Lease – AR**

Kent County Public Works leases office space from the Kent County Road Commission and the current five-year lease expires on January 1, 2018. Public Works desires to continue leasing office space from the Road Commission and enter a two-year lease that includes custodial and utilities as provided in the agreement. The lease provides a one-year written notice of termination for both parties.

#### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to authorize the Director to sign a two-year rental agreement, commencing January 1, 2018, with the Kent County Road Commission for administrative office space.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Solid Waste Operations**

#### **A. 2018 SKL, NKTS & REC Disposal Rates – AR**

Staff recommends approval of the 2018 Waste Descriptions and Rate Schedule. Rates for South Kent Landfill, North Kent Transfer Station, and Recycling and Education Center have not changed from the 2017 Rates. The Environmental and Safety Fee, Michigan Surcharge and County Surcharge are included in load rates for the minimum charge customers.

#### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the 2018 Waste Description and Rates schedule for the North Kent Transfer Station, the South Kent Landfill and the Recycling and Education Center.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. 2018 WTE Disposal Rates – AR**

Staff recommends a one year General Refuse Rate of \$50.00 per ton for 2018 while fiscal policies are prepared and reviewed by the Board. The Special Waste disposal rate will remain unchanged.

The WTE General Refuse Disposal Rate has remained \$45.00 per ton since 2012. The \$45.00 rate set for 2013 – 2017 provided rate stability by prefunding a five-year Capital Improvement Plan for plant refurbishment and Rate Stabilization account. In 2018, the WTE facility will begin its 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation and like any electrical generation facility requires ongoing plant refurbishment to ensure reliability. The 2018 – 2022 refurbishment planning horizon includes \$15.4 million in refurbishment.

Staff presented the WTE advisory committee several rate recommendations including a three year, five year levelized and variable tip fee rate scenarios with rate increases to meet operations and refurbishment needs. The advisory committee requested the BPW establish a fiscal policy for fund balances to assist with future reviewing rates and recommended the rate remain at \$45.00

### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to approve a 2018 Waste to Energy General Refuse Disposal Rate of \$50.00 per ton and a minimum Special Waste Disposal Rate of \$90.00 per ton effective January 1, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously with 4 votes in favor and 1 against.

#### **C. Solid Waste Exchange Agreement – AR**

Since 2002, the Department of Public Works has used a solid waste exchange agreement with Republic Waste Services. The agreement provides an estimated \$110,000 (2017) savings annually in transportation costs for municipal solid waste received at the North Kent Transfer Station. The five-year contract extension expires December 31, 2017.

The solid waste exchange shortens the travel distance for transferring municipal solid waste for disposal. Given the increasing use of the North Kent Transfer Station, staff recommends a one-year extension of the agreement with Republic with a 60,000 ton maximum, during which time the DPW will evaluate transfer station upgrades, transportation, disposal and service needs for the facility.

### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve a one-year extension of the Solid Waste Exchange with Republic Services and authorize the Director to sign the contract amendment.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **V. Environmental Compliance Management**

#### **A. Sparta Landfill Restrictive Covenant – AR**

On January 14, 2008, Kent County and Sparta Township entered into a restrictive covenant for Sparta Landfill. Subsequent to entering into the restrictive covenant, the DPW acquired parcel 41-05-4-300-020 adjacent to the Sparta Landfill property.

During the U.S. EPW 5-year review in 2017, the Agency requested this parcel be added to the restrictive covenant.

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to authorize the Director to sign Amendment #1 to the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants and Environmental Protection Easement for the Sparta Landfill.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

- A. WTE Solid Waste Characterization Study 2017  
Director Baas reviewed the WTE Solid Waste Characterization Study 2017.

**VII. Accounting & Finance**

- A. Monthly Tonnage Reports

**Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve the Monthly Tonnage Reports.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. Approval of Monetary Outlays**

**Motion**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**IX. Director's Report**

- a. Experience Grand Rapids – NAWTEC Conference  
Director Baas discussed staff working closely with NAWTEC Conference to bring this conference to Grand Rapids.
- b. Art Prize  
Director Baas discussed the compost containers and recycled containers at 15 venues to promote public space recycling.
- c. SKL Permit Modification Approval  
Director Baas discussed the approved permit by DEQ and how it allows DPW to expand the landfill.

- d. KWL Gas Collection Update  
Director Baas discussed the installed 18 extraction wells and the five monitoring wells. Within a month, the flare system will start drawing gas.
- e. REC Educational Space Design  
Director Baas discussed the final draft of the REC Educational Space Design and would like to share that with the Board next month.
- f. REC Fire Suppression Water Main  
Director Baas discussed the REC Fire Suppression Water Main and the REC will now have an adequate sprinkling system at the facility.
- g. REC Scheduled Outage  
Director Baas discussed new equipment being installed by the end of the year and working with other companies to transfer waste to be processed elsewhere.

**X. Public Comment/Miscellaneous**

Russ Boersma, General Manager from Arrowaste, 1296 Chicago Drive, Jenison Michigan. Regarding agenda item IV. C Solid Waste Exchange Agreement, he believes Republic Services has an unfair advantage in the marketplace and would like the contract with Republic Services to end. All haulers should have an opportunity to bid on the contract going forward.

John Van Tholen, Sales & Community Representative from Granger, 215 Monique Drive NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Regarding agenda item IV. C Solid Waste Exchange Agreement, he also believes Republic Services has an unfair advantage in the marketplace and would like an opportunity to bid on the contract.

James Hurt, Director of Public Services from City of Grand Rapids, 201 Market Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Regarding agenda item IV. B 2018 WTE Disposal Rates, he strongly urges the Board to not approve this increase instead he encourages the Board to reduce the rate.

Tim Bradshaw, City Engineering/Director of Inspections from City of Kentwood, 4900 Breton Avenue SE, Kentwood Michigan. Regarding agenda item IV. B 2018 WTE Disposal Rates, he hopes the Board would approve the tipping rate at \$45.00 per ton instead of \$50.00 per ton.

Phil Vander Heide from Bob's Disposal, 7748 S. Division, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Regarding agenda item IV. C Solid Waste Exchange Agreement, he would like to see the DPW end the contract with Republic Services.

**XI. Adjournment**

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