



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

December 7, 2017

9:30 AM

**Kent County Administration Building
Board Room, 3rd Floor
300 Monroe Avenue
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

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; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Kristen Weiland, Communications & Marketing Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Lisa LaPlante, Community Liason & Communications Director; John Van Tholen, Sales & Community Representative at Granger; Tim Bradshaw, City Engineer/Director of Inspection at City of Kentwood; Clarence Baker from TSC Foundation

I. Call to Order

Chairman Vonk called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to approve November 2, 2017 minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Clarence Baker from TSC Foundation, 15400 East 7 Mile Road, Detroit is interested in the South Kent Expansion. He was excited to hear about Kent County Department of Public Works expansion project and would like a tour of our facilities.

IV. Resource Recovery and Recycling Operations

a) Process line Leader Position – AR

The DPW contracted with Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids – Transitional Work Experience (TWE) workers to staff the Recycling and Education Center process line that require 26 workers. In October 2017, Goodwill provided 30-day notice that they were ending their TWE program in November. The DPW transitioned to a temporary staffing agency that utilizes Kent County work release and temporary employees. With automated processing equipment installed in December, the DPW anticipates the process line will require 16-18 workers starting in 2018. The three Process Line Leads will oversee line workers in the performance of process line recycling sort and monitor process line workers to uphold quality and workflow standards in the three sorting areas. Staff is asking to approve and recommend to the Board of Commissioners the addition of three Process Line Lead positions for the Recycling and Education Center.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Skaggs to approve and recommend to the Board of Commissioners the addition of three Process Line Lead Positions for the Recycling and Education Center.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Waste to Energy Facility Operations

a) 2018 Rate Increase – Public Hearing

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to enter a Public Hearing.

Tim Bradshaw from the City of Kentwood, 4900 Brenton Ave. SE, Kentwood thanked the staff from the Department of Public Works and members from the Board of Public Works for providing additional information on the Waste to Energy rates.

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to end the Public Hearing.

b) 2018 WTE Disposal Rate – AR

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 a Rate Stabilization account. In 2018,

the WTE facility will begin its 28th 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. 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.

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.

VI. Approval of Monetary Outlays

Motion

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. MPSC Ruling – Avoided Cost Case U-18090

Director Baas discussed the MPSC ruling and there are three options being reviewed:

1. Appealing to the Michigan Courts of Appeals
2. Appealing to the Federal Courts
3. Change Legislation

b. Kentwood Landfill – Landfill Gas Collection

Director Baas discussed the installation of 18 extraction wells, five monitoring wells and the flare. This will address the migrating methane at the Kentwood Landfill.

c. North Kent Landfill

Director Baas discussed the waste received from Wolverine World Wide and the MLive article from December 6, 2017. Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager received a phone call from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ has requested to test the wells around the North Kent Landfill because of a newly identified area found north of 10 Mile Road. They will be testing wells around the Sparta Landfill as well.

VI. Miscellaneous

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.