

# MINUTES of the September 12, 2012 Meeting of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management Committee

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Las, Dan Olson, James Rasmussen, Christopher King and Mike Lueth

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Gail Frie-Monroe County Solid Waste Manager, Sue Van Geertruy-Solid Waste Clerical Assistant, Erik Lietz-Ayres Associates, Jerry Martell-Modern Disposal, Larry McTaggart and Richard Yarrington -Former Solid Waste Committee Members, Fred Wegner, Gregory Wegner, Barbara Wegner, Aron Wegner and Matthew Wegner-all interested parties

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 8:35 a.m. by Committee Chair Las at the Solid Waste Administration Building, 20448 Junco Road, Town of Ridgeville.

## 1. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments at this time.

## 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**Motion by Dan Olson to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012 meeting, seconded by Christopher King. All ayes, motion carried. 5-0**

## 3. CURRENT BILLS, INTER DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS & VOUCHERS

Current bills are summarized as follows:

2012 Site II Cell 3	\$
2012 Ridge II Operations	\$ 28,099.57
2012 Recycling	\$ 2,667.35
2012 Ridge I Closure / LTC	\$ 11,975.63
2012 HHW Clean Sweep	\$ 1,612.62
2012 Sand Creek	\$
2012 Credit Card Charges	\$ 21.98
2012 Interdepartmental Transfers	\$

**Motion by Dan Olson to approve the expenses as presented totaling \$44,377.15, seconded by James Rasmussen. All ayes, motion carried. 5-0**

## 4. DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

a) Financial & Waste Volume Reports- Our cash balance is 471K. There is 468K in our Facilities Reserve Fund. Gail reiterated that the reserve fund is just that and the 471K is our check book balance. Volumes have been good for the month of August. Asbestos is down. We are keeping expenses well under control and have been hauling some leachate. We couldn't recirculate while reworking the waste.

b) Discussion & Action, Information Packet for County Board Member Supporting the Long Term Landfill Operation beyond the Current Landfill- Gail wants to have an information packet go to the County Board Members to include a three page Options & Opportunities update. One page would be a comparison of prices. Another would show the cost of land purchase is 25¢ per ton. Gail would also include the 9/13/2011 letter from Ayres about the purchase and a cover letter. There would also be a long range financial plan showing no debt for the next site and Carol asked that a map of the landfill also be included. Richard asked if we had received letters of support from Tomah and Sparta and that they should also be included with the packet. Discussion on whether we should send out the packet or if it should come from the county direct to the Supervisors ipads.

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- c) Discussion & Action, Rework Waste to Raise Landfill Compaction to an Acceptable Level- Our last study was a disaster. Compaction was 1047cy. Gail shared the spreadsheet from Ayres and went over the projections etc. We were at 1700cy. If this were to continue we could see a loss of 1.8M. When Gail met with Gerke he limited the deduction to 20% from the 40% it could have actually been. This is only if it was fixed. At the next six month study we will also look back on the previous 12 month period. Last Friday Gerke was on site with an off road and a bulldozer. About 3-4 months of waste was moved, recompacted and covered. They worked all day Friday and 7-2 on Saturday. They felt they did all they could but Gail feels they could have done better. If they keep at it the next test may show 1500 to 1600cy. Carol asked about the next test and looking at the last 12 months. Gail explained that done this way there would be no bonus but they lose the penalty. Discussion on compaction in general especially along the slopes and that the compactor should be running all day. Carol asked about bids for the operator and there was discussion about how this is handled and the advantages of bidding it ourselves for a county run program. Equipment and competition was also discussed. Gail said any bid done by us has to cover the costs. Discussion continued with suggestions about equipment rental and using Highway Department equipment. The question of what happens if the next test comes back bad what do we do. Gail said they would be hit with the full 40% reduction.
- d) Discussion & Action, Stewardship Grant & Interest Free Loan for Land Purchase- Gail left this item on as he has been working with Chad Ziegler. Chad is concerned about the grant as it is very involved politically and there is lots of paperwork. They work in blocks. This is not in one of these blocks. The interest free loan is all but guaranteed and is a good deal. Carol asked if all the acreage would qualify and Gail answered yes but not for the grant. We are now talking about 61 acres as some has already been sold.
- e) Discussion & Action, Respond to Rule 21 Petition- Gail explained that Richard brought this forward and Richard stated that the basis behind it is that we are at a standstill and that there has been no forward movement. He said that dragging of feet was at the administrative level not here. Rule 21 is a way of forcing the issue and to get action off of dead center. Gail said we are just asking for the ability to negotiate price and that the final decision will be made at the County Board in October or November. There was lengthy discussion and explanation of why and how this rule 21 works. Carol would like the committee to vote on the rule 21 but others felt it is not needed, that we only need to vote on the resolution. The committee chose to move on to item 4f and return to this after the vote.
- f) Discussion & Action, Resolution to Negotiate Land Purchase- The resolution was explained. **Motion by Christopher King to approve, seconded by Dan Olson. All ayes, motion carried. 5-0** The committee returned to 4e and Carol asked for the motion. Dan said he doesn't feel that we need it and Gail thinks were ok.
- g) Discussion & Action, Monroe County's WPL Advanced Renewable Tariff (PGS-ART) - Gail received a copy of a letter sent to the County Board Chair and Administrator. It said if there isn't any agreement by 9/22/2012 the ART Tariff would no longer be valid. Gail explained the tariff and said he hasn't figured out a way to stop it. Carol said it was too bad but it has been three years and Mike feels we won't be moving in that direction.
- h) Discussion & Action, Review & Suggest Updates to Committee Composition & Committee Duties- Copies of the code were passed out and many are included in state statutes. Carol asked for

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suggestions and Gail had none but stated that , Highway, Rolling Hills and Solid Waste are excluded from Property & Purchasing oversight and they all have a broad range of authority.

- i) Discussion & Action, Out of County Waste- Compared to last year our volume is down but Gail attributes that to there not being all the asbestos from Fort McCoy that there was last year. Jerry has been working in Black River Falls and Jackson County. He came to the committee then for permission but since then business has expanded and permission wasn't clearly defined earlier. Dan questioned about the land purchase and now bringing in more garbage. Gail said it sounds conflicting but it doesn't matter if we bring in 33 tons or 23 our costs are fixed. Dan asked if the leachate would go down with less and Gail said no it would go up. Dan asked if we could use a smaller space and Gail said we would not be able to get competitive bids if we were any smaller. Dan questioned, instead of using four acres why not one and Gail responded that it's very hard to compact in the smaller area. Erik explained that back in 2007 the County looked at getting out of the landfill business. The Foth study looked at the long term viability but included out of county waste as a supplement. Gail stated that the Options Study is the basis for our comparisons. Dan said he has no problem going forward with anything done here but doesn't like the structure for handling garbage. He would prefer a volume based fee system.

## 5. LANDFILL OPERATIONS

- a) General Activities / Leachate Report- There has been some leachate but not much.
- b) Discussion & Action, Placing Intermediate Clay Cover on North Slope of Ridge II- After compaction we'll put a foot of clay on. We only pay for work not included in our contract. The back side is covered with shingles. The shingles are under the contract duties we only pay for the clay. Erik said that under the contract hourly use charges have to be listed. Gail kept excellent records of the time. Discussion on the clay being put on how it is done, that it is done gradually to maintain the cover in 20 foot sections. Mike asked if it would need to be seeded but Gail responded no.
- c) Discuss Possibilities of Implementing Shingle Recycling & Bringing Back Wood Recycling- Gail would like to start this. We get paid to receive the shingles then we could grind them and ship them back out. Our costs would be covered and it would keep the shingles from going in the landfill. We did this with the wood and it worked well until we lost the bulldozer. Jerry said he is selling his grinder and Gail would like to co-op it with other counties. He thinks LaCrosse should own it and lease it to us. He doesn't feel counties should own equipment together. When we lease it shingles could be ground and shipped out. No state tax would have to be paid on it.

## 6. RECYCLING PROGRAM

- a) Transfer Facility Operation- Running smoothly. The trailer is gone and we are working on retro fitting it for the 40 yard box. No recycling is coming in right now. We need to order gravel but we have the blocks on site.
- b) Review Recycling Subsidy Program- Gail explained how this program works. Hauling rates are increasing and Jerry needs to get \$30 to \$35 per ton to break even. In good times when prices are up we receive the excess but like now when prices are substantially lower we help with the costs. This system is working well. Jerry now accepts recyclables at both Sparta and Tomah. Our expenses are covered by the recycling grant. Discussion on recycling in general, amounts and prices and the varying market, the quality of our recyclables and where all of it goes.

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## **7. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Gail mentioned that we will be posting for the land rental. Probably advertise starting late October into November. Bids will be opened at our December meeting. Mike believes the bids will be higher as land rentals are up.

## **8. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Larry McTaggart suggested to the committee to read the Foth report and that there have been many bad decisions made about the landfill but also some good ones. Discussion on some of the options mentioned in the report and related costs. Fred Wegner said he has had some inquiries on the property, both wanting the house and well and wondered if he should go to the Administrator or let sleeping dogs lay. Gail said let it lay, and without the well we would have no interest in the land. Fred would like to get this settles asap. Members of the Wegner family all spoke in favor of the County purchasing the land as the best option.

## **SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Committee will be Monday, October 8, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. This will be a special meeting. The regular meeting will be Monday, October 22, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at the Solid Waste Administration Building, 20448 Junco Road, Town of Ridgeville, Monroe County Wisconsin.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Motion by Dan Olson seconded by James Rasmussen to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. All ayes, motion carried. 5-0**