

MINUTES
RILEY COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 24, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Riley County Office Building
2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Steve Galitzer, Leon Hobson, Jeff Walters, Monty Wedel, Howard Wilson, Kelly Briggs, William Clark, Dennis Peterson, John Woods and Judy Willingham

Others Present: Greg Wilson, Gary Rosewicz, Lisa Daily, Joe & Janet Mallon, Greg Traver, Dawn Wilson and David Hughes

Members Absent: Dave Bollman, Betty Book, Steve DeHart, Karen McCulloh, Charly Pottorff, Paul Werle, and Fran Zerby

Steve Galitzer, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Sign-in, Introduction The sign-in sheet was completed.

Approve the minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting, May 5, 2011, were presented.

Howard Wilson moved to approve the minutes. Dennis Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

Update on Solid Waste budget shortfall and review possible funding options

Gary Rosewicz presented background information. The Solid Waste Fund ended 2011 with an approximate loss of \$60,000. The beginning balance for 2012 was approximately \$122,000. In 2011, the SWF paid Hamm a fuel surcharge of \$71,178.18. To date in 2012, the fuel surcharge has cost more than for the same period in 2011. Effective July 1, 2012, the rate per ton paid to Hamm will increase \$1.06.

Assuming no more increases in fuel, a minimum \$3 per ton increase in the tipping fee would be necessary. This would raise tipping fee from \$45.00/ton to \$48.00/ton.

The following operational changes were suggested as possible ways to help offset the increases.

- Charge more for commercial brush disposal
- Charge public and governmental entities for brush disposal
- Charge for the disposal of compost materials
- Raise the price for compost
- Support HHW operations with tax dollars
- Fund subsidy to Howie's with tax dollars
- Subsidize Solid Waste fund with tax dollars

Chairman Steve Galitzer began the discussion and stated he is very supportive of the Household Hazard Waste (HHW) program and did not want to see that program negatively affected. He asked Dennis Peterson to outline how the HHW program works.

Dennis Peterson explained the Solid Waste Fund (SWF) paid \$29,390.00 in 2011 for the annual assessment to the Big Lakes Regional Household Hazard Waste program. He stated income received from the sale of oil, filters and e-waste are applied to the SWF but revenue received as reimbursement from the members Big Lakes Regional Hazard Waste program go to the general fund.

Jeff Walters asked why does Solid Waste fund the program but the revenue goes to the general fund.

Dennis Peterson said revenue is applied to the general fund because employees are paid from that fund.

Gary Rosewicz stated that SWF paid \$53,886.06 for HHW expenses which included the annual assessment to the Big Lakes Regional Hazard Waste program, minus revenue of \$19,010.00 resulting in a net loss of \$34,876.26 and the Solid Waste Division has no control over the program.

Dennis Peterson stated the decrease in tonnage received at the transfer station, due to recycling, has resulted in loss of revenue from tipping fees.

Leon Hobson suggested a possible solution is flow control.

Monty Wedel stated there have been recent court cases which have supported flow control methods.

Greg Traver, representing Waste Management, stated it has been suggested that his company is taking solid waste to other counties which is not true. He said the company relocated from Manhattan to Junction City in late 2007, early 2008. Mr. Traver explained that with the move the service lines were redrawn and that trash that was

previously coming to Riley County from other counties started staying with those counties. Waste Management is still bringing solid waste to the Riley County Transfer Station and collections in surrounding counties are going to most of those counties, but believed that Riley County was still receiving all, if not more, than was generated in Riley County. He stated his company has been losing volume since 2007-2008, which is a national trend, and that this may be more of a reason why tonnages are dropping. Mr. Traver speculated that some reasons for the national trend are that commercial and residential recycling is more readily available and packaging is much less. Everyone is more aware and produces less waste. Mr. Traver stated the amount his company has taken to the transfer station has not fluctuated much in the last three years and does not believe flow control would accomplish much.

Steve Galitzer, Chairman stated obviously reducing solid waste by recycling is working and now the committee needs to work on how to pay for municipal solid waste. He stated the real issue is the fuel surcharge and each meeting raising the tipping fees is discussed.

Gary Rosewicz stated we are in competition with other counties with lower disposal fees. He said tipping fees for Pottawatomie are \$36, Marshall \$37 and Geary at \$44.50 while Riley County is currently at \$45.

The idea of funding HHW from the general fund was then discussed. After some discussion of the merits of this proposal, Kelly Briggs moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the funding for the Household Hazard Waste program be moved from the Solid Waste Fund to the General Fund. Howard Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Dennis Peterson stated that recycling and HHW have nothing to do with solid waste because those program divert materials before they become solid waste and therefore should be funded by taxes, not fees.

Dennis Peterson moved to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that the subsidy of \$15,000 to Howie's for recycling be moved from the Solid Waste Fund to the General Fund. Jeff Walters seconded. Howard Wilson abstained. Motion carried.

Leon Hobson stated if the Commissioners approve moving HHW and the subsidy to Howie's to the General Fund, it will not become effective until January 2013 and the Solid Waste Fund needs assistance in 2012. He suggested other alternatives are to implement fees for the free services that are being provided in which the fund is incurring \$184,000 in expenses.

Mr. Hobson stated only commercial brush disposal is assessed a fee while the public and government entities are exempt.

Howard Wilson felt everyone who uses the facility should be charged.

Chairman Steve Galitzer said he was concerned that if the public is assessed a fee then they will stop recycling and put it on the haulers expense or dispose of it improperly.

Monty Wedel said it would be going against the Solid Waste Management Plan to allow brush and yard waste in the landfill.

Judy Willingham moved to increase Commercial Brush Disposal from \$3.00/ton with a minimum \$3.00 charge to \$10.00/ton with a \$5.00 minimum. William Clark seconded. Motioned carried.

Howard Wilson moved to increase price for Compost from \$10.00/ton with a \$2.00 minimum to \$20.00/ton with a \$10.00 minimum. Kelly Briggs seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Galitzer, Chairman asked if raising the tipping fee would result in loss of business and has the Solid Waste Division researched other counties.

Gary Rosewicz stated Geary County's volume has increased 6,000 tons since 2007.

Dawn Wilson representing A-1 Trash said the increase in the tipping fee would require them to increase their charges and result in upset customers.

Judy Willingham moved to increase the tipping fee from \$45.00 to \$48.00 per ton, or as an alternative, recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to subsidize \$138,000 from the General Fund to the Solid Waste Fund. John Wood seconded. Motioned carried.

Dennis Peterson said that he has been working with Howie's for about a year on e-waste recycling. He said HHW is currently back-logged on e-waste and other counties have been taking advantage of the free program. Howie's is now ready to start taking e-waste upon completion of an e-waste processing license. Dennis said it would be in the best interest of the county to move e-waste completely over to Howie's as a government entity should not be in competition with a private business.

Kelly Briggs moved that Dennis Peterson recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to move e-waste recycling from Household Hazard Waste to Howie's. Judy Willingham seconded. Howard Wilson abstained. Motion carried.

Monty Wedel said the Committee and Hauler's will be notified of when the recommendation and changes to the Solid Waste Division and Fund will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. He said a follow up meeting will need to be held to determine if any changes will need to be made to the 2009 Solid Waste Management Plan. Therefore, the agenda item to conduct the annual review of the plan will be postponed until that time.

Meeting was adjourned.