

MINUTES  
RILEY COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

Riley County Office Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Kelly Briggs, Steve Galitzer, Leon Hobson, Dennis Peterson, Charly Pottorff, Jeff Walters, Judy Willingham, Howard Wilson, John Wood, Fran Zerby, and Monty Wedel.

Others Present: Harry Bellman, Gary Rosewicz, Greg Wilson, David Kreller and Nick Sheffield.

Members Absent: Betty Book, William Clark, Steve DeHart, Dave Shover, William Spiegel and Ron Wells.

Steve Galitzer, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**Sign-in, Introductions** The sign-in sheet was completed and introductions made.

**Approve the minutes of the previous meeting** Dennis Peterson moved and Howard Wilson seconded to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion approved.

**Update on Solid Waste budget**

Gary Rosewicz presented the attached "2015 Solid Waste Advisory Board Report". He said expenses for commercial brush were \$28,618 and receipts were \$27,304 and was the first time almost breaking even.

The last rate increase for Municipal Solid Waste was in 2012. The contract with Hamm's increases yearly by 3% and will expire in 2020. Anticipating overlaying the roadways, new compost pad, replacement of the crane, and reroofing of the Transfer building, Mr. Rosewicz recommended increasing the charge for Municipal Solid Waste from \$48.00/ton with a \$12.00 minimum to \$50.00/ton with a \$12.50 minimum effective August 1, 2015.

Judy Willingham asked why there is not a yearly MSW increase of 3% to match the Hamm's contract.

Gary stated he doesn't like to make increases yearly and the suggested \$2.00 increase would be sufficient for several years.

Charly Pottorff stated that the City of Wamego doesn't charge for commercial brush.

Kelly Briggs asked for details on brush other than commercial.

Gary said only commercial brush has been tracked.

John Wood said KSU takes at least a load a day to the Transfer Station.

Monty Wedel asked if the \$50.00 increase in MSW would cover yard waste and brush expenses.

Gary replied yes.

Monty asked if any of the upcoming major expenses such as overlaying, compost pad, crane replacement and new roof could be bonded.

Leon Hobson said asphalt could not be bonded, possibly the roof and not sure on the crane.

Monty Wedel moved to increase the tipping fee from \$48.00 to \$50.00 per ton and the minimum charge from \$12.00 to \$12.50. Judy Willingham seconded. Motioned carried.

Greg Wilson stated that a 45-day notice of rate increase is not much time to notify customers of a rate increase in waste services as most companies bill in 3 month intervals. He suggested the increase be effective January 1, 2016.

Gary said the Hamm increase is effective July 1 and that is why he suggested August.

Greg said they had little notice of the increase in 2012 and didn't extend the increase to Howie customers. However, this increase will affect the customers.

Steve Galitzer asked what would the financial impact to the County if increase is delayed to October 1.

Gary replied around \$28,000.

Judy Willingham moved to change the tipping fee increase from August 1, 2015 to October 1, 2015. Monty Wedel seconded. Motioned carried with Charly Pottorff voting no.

### **Proposal rate changes – Riley County Transfer Station**

Harry Bellman explained the Riley County Transfer Station is a self-supporting entity than relies on "user fees" and doesn't receive any tax dollars. Except for Municipal Solid Waste, most expenses are created from yard waste (grass, leaves and brush).

Harry stated only commercial haulers pay to dispose of brush. He said the gate has issues with some commercial vehicles removing signs and those that don't have signage say they are not commercial. The gate person is not allowed to question or charge in these situations. Attached is the written proposal.

John Wood asked Harry to explain the cost of composting.

Harry said they mix the grass and the leaves together and have to sift out any foreign material. As the mixture dries, water has to be added and mixed again. This can be time consuming.

Charly Pottorff suggested charging more for the compost, everyone pay for brush disposal at a lower fee and that everything should be chipped.

Harry replied the lower fee would cause issues later when an increase would be needed and would eliminate numerous smaller loads which result in wear on the scales.

Monty Wedel provided a background history on the landfill and the contamination that was created. To create a landfill now is very expensive and liners are required. The Committee decided years ago that the tipping fee would cover the cost of programs to eliminate brush occupying space in expensive landfills.

Judy Willingham asked if composting was stopped, what equipment other than the turner would be eliminated.

Gary Rosewicz said the tractor.

Judy suggested charging larger pickups and dump trucks to dispose of brush as those would most likely be commercial.

David Kreller said he has been involved in recycling for years and understands the more we recycle the less revenue we receive. If free brush disposal is eliminated, it will end up in storm drains which will cause flooding issues, in trash bins which will end up in the landfill.

Harry asked why the smaller cities such as Riley, Leonardville, Randolph and Ogden provide citizens a place to dispose of brush but the City of Manhattan which has a majority of the citizens, relies on the County for brush disposal.

Steve Galitzer suggested forming a committee to look into recycling education and possible brush solutions.

David Kreller volunteered to be on the brush solutions subcommittee along with Kelly Briggs, Judy Willingham, Greg Wilson and Nick Sheffield.

The education subcommittee will be Charly Pottorff and Gary Rosewicz will assist with chipping solutions.

The Committee agreed to meet again the first of November to review suggestions from these two subcommittees.

### **Annual Review of 2014 Solid Waste Management Plan**

The Committee conducted their annual review of the plan. There were no changes noted to the solid waste system since last year. Monty Wedel will move forward to the Board of County Commissioners that the annual review of the plan was completed and that no changes are recommended at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.