

MINUTES
RILEY COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 5, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Riley County Office Building
2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Steve Galitzer, Leon Hobson, David Kreller, Charly Pottorf, Gary Rosewicz, Casey Smithson, Monty Wedel, Perry Piper, Ron Wells, Judy Willingham, and Greg Wilson

Others Present: None

Members Absent: Mike Boller, Betty Book, Josh Brewer, Dennis Peterson, Adrian Self, Dave Shover, William Spiegel, and Fran Zerby

Steve Galitzer, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Judy Willingham moved and Casey Smithson seconded to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2019 meeting as presented. The committee voted 11 yays, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Update on Solid Waste budget

Gary Rosewicz presented the attached “2020 Solid Waste Advisory Board Report”. He stated the current contract with Hamm Inc. expires on July 1, 2020. A Request for Proposals are due on March 20, 2020 and based on previous year’s he is anticipating an increase from \$43.63 per ton to \$46.29.

The current Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fee is \$50.00 per ton. There was a decrease of 1,679 tons of MSW and fuel surcharges were \$23,013.22 in 2019. It is anticipated at a minimum replacement of both sets of scales and the crane in the Transfer Building will be needed in the near future.

The last rate increase for Municipal Solid Waste was in 2015. He suggested a minimum increase of the MSW fee to \$54.00 per ton but recommended an increase to \$56.00 per ton to provide sufficient cash flow and no rate changes through 2025.

Casey Smithson questioned the fuel surcharge as fuel prices are the lowest right now than they have been in some time.

Gary Rosewicz stated if the price drops under \$2.50 then Hamm’s reimburses the County.

David Kreller and Greg Wilson suggested waiting for the new contract to be finalized before determining the increase to the MSW fee.

David Kreller asked what Pottawatomie County was charging for MSW.

Gary Rosewicz said he believed around \$44.00 per ton. He said their operation is on much smaller scale and believes it might be subsidized.

Steve Galitzer asked what the increase would be to the average homeowner.

David Kreller stated it appears an increase was warranted in 2018.

Monty Wedel asked what would be the possibility of other haulers diverting to another county due to the increase.

Gary Rosewicz stated Geary County is at \$53.00 per ton.

Dave Kreller moved to forward a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to increase the MSW disposal fee to \$56.00 per ton. Judy Willingham seconded. The committee voted 11 yays, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Greg Wilson asked when the increase would be effective.

Gary Rosewicz stated July 1, 2020.

Annual Review of the 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan

The Committee conducted their annual review of the plan. Monty Wedel asked if there were any issues or sections that needed to be addressed so they could be noted in the next 5-year update.

Greg Wilson stated that market for co-mingled recyclables has dropped significantly and it now costs \$100 per ton to process those materials. The markets will need to be monitored over the coming years to determine the continued feasibility of recycling, especially co-mingled recycling.

David Kreller moved to 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. Judy Willingham seconded. The committee voted 11 yays, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:44 pm.

Solid Waste Advisory Board Report

March 5, 2020

The Solid Waste Facility processed 44,578 tons of MSW in 2019. This was a decrease from 46,257 tons in 2018. Part of this decrease can be attributed to a commercial hauler who began utilizing the Pott County Transfer Station in July.

Residential Brush was up from 3243 tons to 3783 tons with Commercial Brush increasing from 1990 tons to 2653 tons.

Grass decreased from 1016 tons in 2018 to 1001 tons in 2019. We sold 370 tons of compost compared to 360 tons in the previous year. Additionally, at the direction of the County Commission, 32 tons were donated to the Community Gardens. Essentially, all of the compost we make is being sold or utilized elsewhere.

The current contract with Hamm, Inc. expires July 1, 2020. We currently have a Request for Proposals advertised with a tum-in date of Friday, March 20, 2020.

Under the contract with Hamm, the disposal cost went from \$43.63/ton to \$44.94/ton in July, 2019. This amount will increase to \$46.29 on July 1, 2020 assuming the contract renewal stays on course.

In 2019, we paid Hamm \$23,013.22 in fuel surcharges. In January of this year, the fuel surcharge was \$1724.33. I believe this will continue to trend upwards and negatively impact our annual revenues.

Budget wise, we began 2019 with a cash balance of in the amount of \$570,704.38 and ended with \$483,589.82, a loss of \$87,114.56. We had no major expenditures this year outside of the normal costs for maintenance and repair of our equipment and facilities. In the future, I anticipate at a minimum replacement of both sets of scales and the crane in the Transfer Building.

Our current charges at the gate are \$50.00/ton for MSW with a \$12.50 minimum, \$10.00/ton for commercial brush with a \$5.00 minimum, and \$20.00/ton for compost.

In the past, the commercial haulers have requested the Transfer Station to refrain from increasing the tipping fee on a yearly basis. They actually preferred a periodic larger raise which would suffice for several years. The MSW fee has not been increased since August 2015. Based on the information presented above, I am recommending a minimum increase of the MSW fee to \$54.00/ton. This increase should provide positive cash flow until 2022 when another increase would be necessary. Another option would be to increase the MSW fee to \$56.00/ton at this time. This increase should provide sufficient cash flow into 2025.

Gary Rosewicz, P.E.
Assistant County Engineer/
Assistant Director of Public Works