

Solid Waste Board Minutes

Park County, Montana

September 25, 2014

Attendance: Solid Waste Board (SWB) members Allan Carter, Bob Currie, Mike Fanning, Dick Juhnke, John Kaiser, Ernie MacCracken (absent), Bert Otis, Parks Frady, public works; Clint Tinsley, Commissioner; Jim Durgan, Commissioner; Robert Church, Great West Engineering; Ray Sundling, citizen

Call to Order: 1:00 p.m.; City-County Complex East Room

Public Comment: Ray Sundling, Public citizen asked for the water quality testing reports from the last several months, he has a bad feeling about bad water quality leaching out but he has no reason to think that however but he would like to see them. Commissioner Tinsley stated that the tests have been below the limits however they were creeping up a little a year ago, because they found there was some scaling on the pipes and they were plugging up making the pump unable to function correctly, thus not allowing enough fresh water to be pumped in. The numbers at that time were never above the limits and Park County had this issue fixed since then the numbers have gone back down. Parks Frady, Public Works stated that they have updated their maintenance plan to eliminate these types of issues in the future. Parks Frady will get the requested reports to Ray Sundling.

Clint Tinsley, Commissioner; asked that the board members please speak their names before speaking in order to help Raea Morris, Administrative Assistant/Minutes who has taken over the overall duties in the commissioner's office since John Mueller has left the county.

Review of Minutes: July minutes were reviewed with the corrections as noted, Dick Juhnke made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Allan Carter Seconded the motion.

Review/Decide on Landowner Refuse Assessment Requests: Nothing

Department Reports

Public Works Director: Parks Frady, public works,

Commissioner Report: Commissioner Tinsley reported that the commissioners turned down the board's recommendation on an Assessment Fee Increase of \$15 for Collection site Improvements and the 1.5% Cost of Living increase. Commissioner Tinsley reported on the CIP Planning that the county is doing and how it works and why the county is doing it. There was some discussion in regards to the Chico site and Gardiner compactor sites and the issues behind them not being completed.

Old Business

All Old Business topics discussed during Public Works Director Report.

Discussion/Decision on Chico Collection Site

Discussion/Decision on Gardiner Collection Site Improvements

Discussion/Decision on Assessment Fee Increase for Collection site Improvements

Discussion/Decision on Recycling Contract

Discussion/Decision on Equipment Maintenance for each Collection Vehicle

New Business

Presentation/Discussion on Engineering Recommendation for Landfill Closure Options:

Bob Church, Great West Engineering; gave a presentation with Engineering

recommendations for Park Counties Landfill Closure options.

Bob Church stated since the county hired Great West six months ago to be the solid waste consultant there are a couple of tasks we were paid to do and one of the those tasks was to resurvey the landfill and compared the last survey to give an estimate on how long it would take to fill the hole being used for at class IV refuse and how long to build that bank. The next thing Great West did was look at the closure costs per Parks Frady recommendation in case it is decided to not go forward with operating the landfill it will give a good idea of what is required to go with the closure option, this would be following the design which was provided by Department of Environmental Quality back approximately in the 1990's. As far as the closure it would be an approximate 1.3 million dollar project to close the landfill under this design. If some fine grain materials like clay, silt or combination of both materials could be found we could close this landfill for a fraction of that price of what the current design is making it an approximate cost of \$650,000 plus or minus, and that is something to think about if someone has a clay pit within 20 miles to be used that would be an option that would be a lot less costly than the design that is currently approved.

The biggest question would be do you go forward with the current landfill and there are several points to be taken. If Park County was to continue to take the current tonnage taken now it doesn't make sense to continue to operate the landfill. The reason why is with the operation of a landfill you have several fixed costs such as a scale, the equipment, and operators/labor making the amount paid per ton so inflated just to cover the costs to keep it operating. Not making much sense financially.

Dick Juhnke, member stated he would like to know what percent of garbage is being hauled to Great Falls that could be dumped at the landfill. Clint Tinsley, Commissioner stated that Parks Frady has been doing the numbers and the amount of class IV comes out to be about 16%. The Unites States average is anywhere from 15-20% putting us in the middle.

Robert Church states that if the county were to ramp up the tonnage again the problem would be blowables and unfortunately when you are taking class IV or demo materials there is a certain percentage that is blowable and contractors are not going to sort through those materials. Would it be cost effective for the county to ignore the blowables and try to eliminate the trash blowing to keep using the landfill, I don't know.

There was more discussion of closure of the landfill and options such as, cost and how long the county would continue to do monitoring in order to walk away from it and what the long term saving would be to close the landfill. Currently it cost the county annually

\$132,000 for the post closure fees per year, and fiscal year 2015 currently budgeted is \$127,000. Last year \$132,000 was budgeted in for licenses and fees and such to keep the landfill open.

The Solid Waste board unanimously decided to schedule the next meeting for October 9th at 1:00pm, in which the board will decide and give their recommendation to the commissioners on whether or not to close the landfill.

Other discussion items: Parks Frady stated to the board that the refuse budget is posted on the website for anyone to view.

Public Comment:

Next Meeting Date: October 9th @ 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.