

Solid Waste Board Minutes

Park County, Montana

November 18, 2011

Attendance: Solid Waste Board (SWB) members Allan Carter, Bob Currie, Dennis Dodge and Sue Martin. Also present were Marty Malone and Randy Taylor, commissioners; Richard Wright, refuse; Barbara Woodbury, environmental health; Courtney Lawellin, Park County Concerned Citizens attorney; Barbara Fletcher, Upper Yellowstone Builder's Association; Mark Westenskow CTA Engineering; John Kaiser, citizen; and John Mueller, minutes clerk.

Call to Order: @1:08:24 p.m., Chair Sue Martin called a meeting to order in the Commission Chambers of the City/County Complex.

Chair Sue Martin said the county provided an agenda that she does not feel is complete because several items of unfinished business had been removed. She said the October meeting agenda called for a revote on doing away with the one free ton option at the landfill, which was done in a meeting without public notice, and that revote agenda item has been removed from the current agenda.

Allen Carter moved to wait until next month's agenda to decide on keeping or waiving the dumping of the free ton at the landfill. Dennis Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Review of Minutes: The board was to approve minutes from the September 16, October 6 and October 21 meetings. Allen Cartered move to approve the minutes as read for September 16 and October 6. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Reviewing October 21 meeting minutes, Sue Martin requested revisions, noting the correct spelling of John Kaiser of Fridley Construction. Martin said Park County Concerned Citizens attorney Courtney Lawellin questioned the dumping fee here being \$53 and \$18 in Billings. She said there was a discussion of monetary loss of the ton versus free dumping at the landfill and getting nothing for the extra money, which is a material fact not in the minutes. Martin said there was discussion about hiring someone to crawl around in green boxes but the county doesn't feel it is safe for drivers to crawl around in them, which needs to be in the minutes as a material fact. She said there was discussion about the hire not being full time so as not to pay benefits and possibly three part time people could split 40 hours. Martin said there was no date printed when corrections were to be to Woodbury, and that was discussed. Martin said Refuse Manager Richard Wright commented that it took as long as an hour to dump at the city and he did not think the city could handle the volume of county refuse in the summer time, which is a material fact she thinks should be in the minutes. Martin said Allen Carter stated the SWB is an advisory board, but the lawsuit settlement agreement states the SWB is an administrative board, which is a material fact she thinks should be in the minutes.

Martin said she is concerned about omitting relevant facts not available to the public, and she does not want to be withholding relevant information from the public and the written minutes online are very much edited. She said a lot of valid points were shared in detail in the meeting that are not being shared with the public, which is the purpose of open meeting laws.

Bob Currie made a motion to include what Martin mentioned and defer the approval for next month. Allen Carter seconded the motion. Currie said the board will review all outstanding minutes at the next meeting.

Old Business

A. Letters from Guests with Refuse Requests; Tack Action: Barbara Woodbury, environmental health, proposed an idea of sending out a citizen survey regarding county solid waste alternatives. She provided ideas for a rough draft of survey question and said she would be willing to assist in an effort to possibly mail with refuse tags.

The board said the subcommittee can meet on December 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Bob Currie made a motion the Solid Waste Board weekly work sessions continue on December 2 and more as necessary to include sending out a questionnaire with the refuse tag with a return envelope with stamp. Sue Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

B. Develop a Comprehensive Master Plan for Operations of Solid Waste in Short and Long Term: Commissioner Malone read into the record his proposed master plan: develop a compactor site in Gardiner with a building because of bear conditions, close the Corwin Springs green box site, put a compactor site between Wilsall and Clyde Park without a building similar to that in Absarokee, develop a site for a new transfer station and truck storage and install a compactor at the base of the landfill (dependant on incineration), install z walls at roll-off sites, address use of the current road shop, demolish the old transfer station building to railroad specifications, and install a compactor site at Chico without a transfer building.

Commissioner Taylor said residents in Clyde Park are conducive to having a structure at Clyde Park and leaving a small facility at Wilsall. Wright said some sort of service is necessary in Wilsall, because it gets a lot of refuse. He said a front loading truck would be the best truck for that site.

Malone said his opinion is the landfill is extraordinarily expensive to run at \$180 per ton. He said ending the public use of the landfill by capping the Class II landfill and leaving the Class IV portion open may be a resolution. He said a majority of refuse that typically would have gone to the landfill could go to the transfer station. He said some refuse could go into the landfill if need be.

There was discussion about composting dead animals.

Malone said he thinks the county should begin combining green box sites and improving operations at green box sites with employee monitors. Wright said MACo is considering open green box sites as a liability issue. Malone said he thinks everything in his proposal needs to be done regardless of whether an incinerator is constructed in Park County, thus his proposal does not reflect on any feelings he has about incineration, pro or con.

Taylor said the Commission will present results of the Bell and Associates county solid waste study report on January 10, 12, 17, 19, 24 and 26 in Wilsall, Clyde Park, Emigrant, Gardiner Livingston and Springdale. Taylor said refuse master plan data may be included in the presentations.

New Business

A. Correspondence: Martin read into the record a summary of a Montana DEQ landfill monitoring report that stated the county landfill is in compliance.

The board reviewed a written request from Randy Holland of RM Land Company to reduce a business assessment for a space rented to Knife River to one residential assessment. The State Assessor's Office has the building assessed as a commercial building/warehouse. *Sue Martin moved to deny the request. Dennis Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

The board reviewed a written request from Ed Hillman to remove refuse assessments from two log dwellings he said are no longer used. *Dennis Dodge moved to deny the request. Sue Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

The board reviewed a written request from Betty Williams to permanently remove refuse from a cabin that she said is used only one month a year and refund the current tax year's assessment. *Sue Martin moved to deny the request. Dennis Dodge seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

The board reviewed a written request from Jim Sage to reduce a business assessment to one residential assessment for an art gallery he rents out for 3 ½ months per year, as well as reimburse two refuse assessments. The property is assessed as residential/commercial by the State Assessor's Office. *Dennis Dodge moved to deny the request as long as the building is still used for commercial purposes. Sue Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

The board reviewed an inquiry as to whether the Gateway Hose Company/Gardiner Fire Department is to be assessed refuse as a governmental exempt entity. Richard Wright said Park County Rural Fire District #1 is assessed refuse. *The board said the hose company should be assessed refuse.*

The board reviewed a written request from Dwight J. Krohne to adjust prior year's refuse on properties he states are being assessed twice for refuse on two separate tax bills. The

State Assessor's Office assessed one property having two businesses and one residential dwelling as two residential assessments and one business. The second property is assessed by the State Assessor's Office as a business assessment, which is reflected on its tax bill. *Allen Carter moved to deny the request. Sue Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

B. Conference Call with EnviroCon and MRL to Discuss Taking Refuse to City of Livingston: Taylor said he did not receive a return phone call from EnviroCon or MRL and will call them again on Monday.

C. Proposed County Compactor Sites and Policies: See B under Old Business

D. Discuss USDA Solid Waste Management Grant Program: Taylor said the USDA is offering 40 grant awards in the amount of \$3.2 million, which possibly could pay for engineering services for compactor sites. Dodge took the correspondence to research it.

E. Discuss Bell and Associates Report: Carter said he thought Bell did an excellent job with its presentation and all questions posed by meeting attendees were answered. Martin said Clyde Park is an incorporated city and should be listed as such on the Bell report. Taylor said the incinerator specialist selected by Bell and Associates is a top incineration expert in the United States. Martin said she appreciated that specialist's explanation of facts associated with financial issues faced by Harrisburg, PA, which show that mismanagement and not the city's incinerator was the cause of the financial problems, contrary to what newspapers insinuated.

Wright said there are many added costs to incineration not mentioned in the Bell report, specifically requirement of three additional full-time employees to operate the 24-hour-a-day facility. Wright said regulations likely have changed since the closing of the county's old facility requiring a licensed operator to operate incinerator systems.

Adjourn: @3:25:34 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Sue Martin
Chair