

Solid Waste Board Minutes

Park County, Montana

September 7, 2012

Attendance: Solid Waste Board (SWB) members Allen Carter, Robert Currie, Dennis Dodge, Dick Juhnke, John Kaiser, Ernie MacCracken and Bert Otis. Also present were Commissioners Durgan, Malone and Taylor; Barbara Woodbury, environmental health; Warren Newhouse, refuse; Jim Hunt and Bruce Martin, citizens; and John Mueller, minutes clerk

Call to Order: @ 1:03:01 p.m., Chairman Dennis Dodge called a meeting to order in the Commission Chambers of the City/County Complex.

Review of Minutes: The board reviewed minutes from the August 24, 2012, meeting. *Ernie MacCracken moved to accept the minutes. Allen Carter seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

Comments from Citizens/Guests: None

Business

Discussion/Decision of Gardiner Green Box Site: Dennis Dodge said the Airport Board met on Wednesday, September 5 during which the Commission applied for a variance from the Gardiner Airport Airport Affected Area in order to erect a compactor waste facility at the current Gardiner green box site location. He said the board postponed a decision until its regularly-scheduled meeting the last week of September at Mission Field.

Discussion/Decision on Landfill Closure: Commissioner Taylor said Ed Janney of DOWL HKM was present on September 6 to provide options at the landfill and perimeters of previously capped landfill areas. Taylor said Janney gave a landfill employee guidance on where and how to smooth various surfaces at the landfill to prepare them for closure.

Discussion/Decision on Envirocon Update: Taylor said Greg Frame of Envirocon is supposed to have an offer to the county the following Monday or Tuesday.

Discussion/Decision on Master Plan: Barbara Woodbury, environmental health, said she met with Warren Newhouse and John Kaiser to make revisions to the master plan with permission from the Commission. Woodbury provided board members with the latest plan draft.

Allen Carter moved to incorporate the changes made to the draft, accept the changes and pass the plan onto the Commission. Bert Otis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussion/Decision on Signage: Woodbury said she got no input from board members about signage example for green box sites as presented at the last meeting. Bob Currie said the board needs to decide on the types of refuse the county will accept at green box sites. Kaiser said all refuse can be accepted as long as appropriate receptacles are provided. A committee of Newhouse, Kaiser, Woodbury and Currie will work on signage.

Refuse Manager Report: Newhouse, interim refuse manager, said fences were re-erected at the Chico green box site, and no more bears have since been reported there. He said the Forest Service green box site is having a bear problem, however, with bags of garbage strewn around parking lot three days in a row.

Newhouse said there have been issues at the city transfer station with county roll off drivers having to wait 20 minutes and 45 minutes on two different occasions for a city attendant to arrive. He said he will talk to the city director of public works about the issue.

Newhouse invited board members and commissioners to visit refuse facilities and ride along with refuse drivers to see how county refuse operations work.

Newhouse said Full Circle Recycling asked to be on the next meeting agenda to present. He said the more refuse that can be compacted in Park County the better given the long distances drive times.

Discussion/Decision on Commissioner Malone's Landfill Costs and Suggested Fees:

Commissioner Malone said he used Bell and Associate's Report figures of \$190 per ton at the landfill to determine the county could lower that cost if citizens pay as they dump at the landfill. He said he proposes having the landfill open three days a week and man the site as necessary so citizens can dump those days. Malone said the board's bylaws state the county cannot charge less than its cost to operate the landfill and proposes to reduce annual citizen refuse landfill fees from \$42 to \$12 and charge citizens \$75 per ton to dump at the landfill. The "one free ton" option would go away.

Dick Juhnke asked how the county accumulated the surplus that it has if it has been losing money all the time as the Bell Study shows. Kaiser said charges to citizens likely should have been adjusted each year to avoid generating such a surplus. Juhnke said the county has a million-dollar surplus from one operation and a \$500,000-surplus from the second operation (transfer station and landfill). He said former refuse manager Richard Wright said the refuse budget would be depleted if the county cut the \$55 per ton charge.

Kaiser said the county must be sure to have enough funds to cover itself if it reduces the annual landfill assessment by \$30. Kaiser said it might be wise to base budgets on the previous year and adjust them accordingly. Dodge asked Malone to look into the alleged \$1.5-million surplus.

Robert Currie moved to accept the plan as outlined by the Commission on 9/7/12 to change the fee schedule and operating hours at county landfill to establish restricted hours and access and reduction of operating costs to only use equipment at the landfill suited for limited use and type of material. He said such should be done consistently with the Solid Waste Board and Commission countywide plan for refuse collections and disposal. Bert Otis seconded the motion. In discussion, MacCracken said he would like to leave the \$30 in landfill assessment there so as not to adjust the budget at the present time and ensure all expenses will be covered. Juhnke said it is proven fact the county's current refuse operations have and do work and asked therefore why the county would change them. Motion passed. Juhnke and MacCracken voted in opposition to the motion.

Discussion/Decision on County Solid Waste Contract with City: The board said nothing can be done with a city/county refuse contract until Envirocon provides a refuse services bid. Currie said he talked to Clint Tinsley with the city regarding clarification to align a contract to reflect services the county wants for citizens at the city transfer station. Kaiser said Tinsley said the city will do whatever it takes to make the contract work. Currie said city said it will take all refuse types a citizen brings. Juhnke said that is not true, as the city's sewer plant sludge is currently sitting at the county landfill.

The board established a working group to work with the city on a contract to include Newhouse, Kaiser, Juhnke and Currie. Newhouse asked why the county is not looking for savings within the current refuse system and processes already in use, as that system has worked and is working. He said no one has taken him up on the offer to visit refuse facilities, talk with employees or ride along with drivers to learn about operations. Otis said surely Wright would have made suggested or made changes to the system to realize savings after the city pulled its refuse from the county stream years ago.

Taking All Roll Off Boxes to City: Currie said some county roll-offs are still going to the county dump, so there is a chance they could contain blowables and he does not think that is a risk the county should take in light of the (Sundling) lawsuit. Otis said he just assume keep the current roll off schedule until the county make operations changes and cuts landfill hours. Newhouse said he agrees with Otis, as there are already risks of blowables getting to the landfill. He said some loads taken to the landfill containing blowables have been turned away, thus the process his department has established at present is working. Newhouse asked if he could converse with Ray Sundling about the issue.

Robert Currie moved that all county roll offs go to the city of Livingston. Allen Carter seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Hang Tag Fees and Landfill Fees/Pay-As-You-Go System: *Robert Currie moved to continue into 2013 with the same tax assessment for refuse tags, except the landfill, with the intention to move toward fee structure and collection as outlined in the Solid Waste Board and Commission master plan. Bert Otis seconded the motion. In discussion,*

Kaiser said the total hang tag cost would be \$143 plus \$12 for the landfill for a total of \$155. *Motion passed.* Juhnke voted in opposition to the motion.

There was discussion about buying pup trailers to pull behind refuse trucks. Allen Carter said he priced used pups at \$60,000 to \$70,000. Newhouse said he will look at the three trucks the county currently has and see which one could best be fitted to pull a pup.

Robert Currie moved the county commission proceed to authorize purchase of a truck and pup to service roll off collections, especially at new sites containing z walls, such as Chico. John Kaiser seconded the motion. In discussion, Juhnke asked where the money would come from to pay for the proposed equipment. He said the county accumulated the refuse budget reserve money it has with the refuse operations it has used for years. He said spending \$43,000 for the proposed Chico site, lots of money for new roll off boxes and now a buying a truck and pup would not be possible if not for the current and past operations. Kaiser said the county is not running a business and was overcharging for a service. MacCracken said budget reserves need to be maintained in order to ensure a business/operation can sustain. Dodge said the board is not blowing money as Juhnke asserted, but is doing something to move forward with its decision to change operations. He said the issue with changing operations arose when Wright said the county's front loading compacting refuse trucks were wearing out and would need to be replaced. He said the money the SWB is proposing to spend is a lot less than spending \$500,000 for two new front-loading compactor trucks. Newhouse said everyone in the industry uses overhead dump trucks. *Motion passed.* Juhnke voted in opposition to the motion.

Other Discussion Items: Taylor said the county is considering creating a special green box deposit site for residents cleaning up properties damaged by the Pine Creek Fire.

MacCracken asked where the Clyde Park green box site can be expanded to collect brush, tires and metal to offset costs.

Next Meeting Date: The board will meet again on September 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Jim Hunt said the board does not know what the county budgeting is and it is dangerous to use reserves if the county is not in an emergency. He said the county could possibly get in trouble if it purchases too much with reserve money. Hunt said publishing the names of habitual litter offenders at green box sites in the newspaper will stop illegal dumping.

Adjourn: @4:11:39 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Dennis Dodge
Chair