



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday, February 24, 2015
9:30 AM
Sam King Room, 601 Broad Street

PRESENT:

Commissioner Bill Collins, City of Rome Commission, Chairman
Commissioner Irwin Bagwell, Floyd County Commission, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Rhonda Wallace, Floyd County Commission
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager
Mr. Gary Burkhalter, Floyd County Finance Director & Comptroller
Mr. Kirk Milam, Rome Public Services Manager
Mr. Steven Foy, Rome Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Rome Finance Director
Mr. Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director
Mr. Mike Gattis, Rome Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wallace.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2015

Chairman Wallace called for the election of committee Chair and Vice-Chair for 2015.

Commissioner Bagwell moved that Commissioner Collins be the 2015 Chairman. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Collins nominated Commissioner Bagwell for Vice-Chair. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Collins asked for corrections to the November minutes. Hearing none the minutes were approved by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Leachate Pump Station Design Update

Mr. Foy reported that we have received a design and development report for the new pump station. Staff has met with the consultants to review it and discuss the best option. After meeting with the consultants to review the report and discuss the options, the decision was made that the best option is to retain the wet well at the existing station for future use, as well as building a new pump station which will increase the capacity by 250 gallons per minute to nearly six times the current capacity. Mr. Milam added that this is a capital improvement for the landfill that has been planned for a number of years. The original pump station was designed to handle the initial phases of the landfill so this new station has been budgeted over the years to handle the anticipated increase in leachate.

Recycling Center Fire Debris Disposal

Mr. Milam reported that we have been carrying debt for disposal from the fires at the Recycling Center in 2003 and 2013. The debt totals a little over \$12,000. He recommended that we forgive the debt so the Finance Department can 'write it off' and bring a conclusion to its disposition from an audit perspective. We will go back and identify any accrued interest to determine the final amount.

Commissioner Wallace asked if we actually owe ourselves this debt. Mr. Milam stated that since the Recycling Center and Landfill are two different operations, this is showing as a debt to the landfill on the books, but they are both related to the Solid Waste Commission so it could be viewed that way. He added that it was agreed that the most recent fire in 2014 will not be written off because there was an insurance claim by Floyd County on that event for some of the material lost. Mr. Skeen added there was some loss of business income during that time as well.

During the first two fires, Mr. Skeen noted there wasn't any insurance claim or payment so the loss of income and the cost of handling and disposal of material were not recompensed. Commissioner Bagwell asked if all fires could be included in the debt forgiveness. Mr. Milam noted that the disposal costs for the 2014 event was under \$1000, which is a much smaller amount than the previous

events, making it the staff recommendation to pay it. Mr. McCord added that the full amount of the fire insurance claim payment has not been received yet.

Commissioner Bagwell moved to approve writing off the debt for the 2003 and 2013 fires at the Recycling Center. Commissioner Wallace seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Bagwell asked if this needs to be forwarded to each Commission for approval as well. Mr. Milam said it is an administrative action and action by this Commission is sufficient.

2014 Recycling Center Fire Damage

Mr. Skeen explained that the total claim on the most recent fire in 2014 at the Recycling Center was \$100,836.69. The breakdown on this was \$70,000 for damage to building. Damage to equipment was \$15,000 and the loss of business income due to the sort line being down was a little over \$16,000 since material had to be sent out co-mingled at a lower price. Because there is a \$25,000 deductible on the insurance policy it was practical to go ahead and file a claim on this one. There is a Proof of Loss statement to be filed, but insurance has already paid most of the claim with \$15,000 still owed.

Curbside Recycling Education Initiative

Regarding the drop in curbside recycling that the Recycling Center has documented, Mr. Skeen reported that he is working with Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful and the Rome Solid Waste Collections Department on a re-education campaign to make residents aware of the correct items to be placed in their curbside recycling bin. Called the 'No Bag' campaign, the focus will be on eliminating plastic bags from those materials placed in the recycling bin. The bags require that more time and effort be spent on the sort line to remove them (they have no market). Plastic bags are the number one piece of trash that is received in co-mingled material. In addition, up to 4,000 bags containing other materials are received each day and have to be torn open for the contents to be checked for contaminants. Mary Hardin Thornton will begin with a door-to-door campaign advising residents directly and there will be stickers added to the recycling bin lids. The campaign will begin in March. Commissioner Collins asked how involved the Center is with the school systems. Mr. Skeen added that there are 10 to 15 events each year along with Center tours.

NEW BUSINESS

2015-2016 Groundwater Monitoring Contracts

Mr. Foy presented the proposed 2015–2016 groundwater monitoring contracts for both the Berryhill and Walker Mountain Landfills from Golder Associates. They proposed a \$3,000 cost reduction for Walker Mountain and a \$1,000 cost reduction for Berryhill for the same services they provided in the previous contract. Mr. Milam added we have a good working relationship with Golder Associates and we have found over the years that we are better off staying with them because there is consistency from one reporting period to the next and we are less likely to have a bad report or problems dealing with the state’s Environmental Protection Division. They are giving us a little better price this year because they know what they are doing and what to expect so they are trying to give us the benefit of some savings. This is a two-year contract. Commissioner Collins asked how long we have been working with them. Mr. Milam said that it has been at least ten years.

Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the Golder Associates proposed contracts for both landfills. Commissioner Bagwell seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Milam added these contracts will both be forwarded to the two Commissions for approval.

Meeting Schedule for 2015

Mr. Milam stated that the beginning of the year is a good time to revisit the meeting schedule. He noted that the Commission scheduled meetings on odd months in 2014.

Commissioner Collins stated he would like to come back next month with a plan for the Recycling Center. He noted that there are SPLOST funds for improvement and he would like to see a plan for the funds. Commissioner Wallace noted that the County has been having discussions about this but she didn’t think a plan could be devised by March. Mr. McCord added that because we are waiting for a final review by EPD of the hazardous site Corrective Action Plan that has been submitted, it would be prudent to delay plans for any major improvements until

we know EPD's review findings. Commissioner Wallace added that an overall clean-up has been considered but we hesitate to even do that before we have some feedback from the State. Mr. McCord added that the obligations associated with its hazardous site designation will be the City and County's responsibility whether it is used as a Recycling Center or not.

Commissioner Bagwell suggested meeting in March and keeping the odd month schedule. The Commissioners agreed. Mr. Milam asked what time of day. The Commissioners agreed on meeting the fourth Tuesday at 9:00 am on the odd months during 2015.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recycling Center

Operations Report

Mr. Skeen presented the Recycling Center Operations Report. He noted there are three months of reports from November through January. All the numbers are pretty consistent with no big changes to report. He noted the markets are down for both cardboard and mixed paper.

Financial Report

Mr. Burkhalter presented the November 2014 Financial Report. He noted on the Material sales were down by \$260,000 from this time last year. Expenses over all were down from last year and under budget. Overall expenses were 78% of the budget versus 92% last year. The change in net position was budgeted at \$292,000. We started at \$1.068 million at the beginning of the year and we are at \$821,964 through November 2014. On the Cash Report, he noted that the year started with \$621,258 and as of November 30th we were down to \$533,949.

Walker Mountain Landfill

Operations Report

Mr. Gattis presented the Operations Report. He noted that the income and tonnage on the December 2014 report is almost the same as 2013. The commercial

tonnage for the year was up by 4400 tons. The increase in commercial garbage is an indicator that the economy is improving. C&D was down.

On the January report commercial tonnage and total tonnage was up. C&D was up because a trailer park was torn down and all that material was brought in to the landfill.

Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the December Financial Report. Under Revenues she noted that *Commercial and Industrial* tonnage was way up and C&D was down. Most all of the other revenue sources are very much in line with 2013. She added that GEMA has notified her that they are closing out the last tornado event and will soon be releasing the 10% of the funding they routinely hold until project close.

On the expenses side, she noted that Personal Services are up. Supplies and Repairs & Maintenance are down. Depreciation and Capital outlay are a little less than last year. There was a large payment to the Recycling Center which was to catch up the last quarter. This payment was under-budgeted last year causing net income to be down. Overall, we are slightly under projections, but we will have some new projections soon. The January and February numbers will be available at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary