



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday, April 26, 2016

8:00 AM

Sam King Room, 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Bill Collins, Rome City Commission
Commissioner Scotty Hancock, Floyd County Commission
Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Rome City Commission
Commissioner Irwin Bagwell, Floyd County Commission
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Rome Public Works Director
Mr. Steven Foy, Rome Assistant Public Works Director
Mr. Gary Burkhalter, Assistant County Manager
Ms. Sheree Shore, Rome Finance Director
Mr. Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director
Mr. Mike Gattis, Rome Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Director

GUEST: Charles Love, North Rome Community Action Committee
Winston Sirmans, North Rome Community Action Committee

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Collins asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes of the March meeting. Hearing none the minutes were approved by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Walker Mountain Landfill Fuel Storage Tank Installation

Mr. Foy updated the Commission on the fuel storage tank installation at Walker Mountain Landfill. He reported that installation is complete and we have been approved by the Fire Marshal. Golder Associates has prepared the required *Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures* plan (SPCC). Next year we will remove the in ground tank so we will not be required to continue monitoring it.

Recycling Center Relocation

Commissioner Collins asked Mr. McCord to give some background on Recycling Center discussions. Mr. McCord stated that in 2012, a SPLOST project was conceived to improve the current site. Improvement cost options were proposed at \$8.2 million and then scaled back to \$1.4 million and further. About five years ago when the Center began processing co-mingled material, the material intake doubled increasing the operations considerably outgrowing the facility. Currently there is not much we can do at that location without building a larger facility or relocation. There are environmental concerns at the site which limits our options for expansion on the existing site. Mr. Skeen will present three options that we are looking at now.

Mr. Skeen stated that a new center would cost between \$5 million and \$6 million. Since the last meeting, Mr. Skeen presented improvements that could be made to the existing site. These included demolishing the existing warehouse to construct a new one, and adding metal covers over the bays. The baler would be placed in the new building which would allow us to put all cardboard and paper inside it. Co-mingled material could be stored inside the existing space keeping it off the yard, cutting off litter around the building and contamination to the material. Plastic and aluminum could be stored in trailers on the existing dock. These improvements would cost upwards \$1.58 million which does not include the cost of the new baler. The whole renovation plus a new baler would be over \$2 million. He presented a layout of the proposed changes indicating the flow of traffic. These improvements would clean up the site considerably.

Mr. McCord noted that we have always discussed relocation but due to the high cost, we have continued to look at ways to improve the existing site. In recent weeks, Mr. McCord reported that public/private partnerships have been considered. Allied has a transfer station on HWY 53 that could be used if they would sell it to us, but they are only interested in leasing. It is not feasible to put public funds in a private building and the building would have to be expanded. Paper Recovery recently approached us about their ability to take in our co-mingled material which we have not had an opportunity to fully discuss yet. He cautioned there would still be considerable costs associated with a partnership. Mr. Skeen added that currently the Solid Waste Commission fund is paying the Center \$75,000 to \$80,000 per year for the Center process co-mingled material. Mr. McCord added that we have looked at other facilities in the community but we would still need to purchase \$1.5 million in equipment. Because of the

environmental concerns on the property we will always have a presence in North Rome. Mr. Skeen noted that it would have to be a manned site that could possibly take in electronics on a regular basis or create an educational center on the site. He would recommend demolishing the warehouse in any case.

Commissioner Collins asked if we could consider a bond sale to fund a new facility at the landfill. Mr. McCord replied we could, but it would have to be repaid and it would be difficult to break even without subsidy. Commissioner Bagwell suggested we could borrow \$2.5 million over 15 years from the Solid Waste Commission fund and the City and County could repay at about \$100,000 per year. He added this is a small price to pay to make the North Rome citizens happy. Mr. McCord replied that is an option, noting that a private company partnered with Columbus in creating a regional Center at their landfill.

Mr. Rich added that immediate steps need to be taken to improve the appearance while we are considering other options since the facility will always be there in some form or other. We also need to hear Paper Recovery's proposal before making a decision.

Commissioner Bagwell asked staff to come back with a proposal for either a public/private partnership or a new facility. Commissioner Collins asked what would change at the Center if Paper Recovery took the co-mingled material. Mr. Skeen said we would have to hear the full proposal but we could make the Center a collection site or educational center. Mr. McCord added that we could also mothball the site.

Commissioner Hancock stated that we shouldn't put a band aid fix on the current site with SPLOST funds because it would be a waste if we were able to relocate later. We need to entertain Mr. Levy's proposal before making a decision.

Mr. Love, of the North Rome Community Action Committee stated the Committee's position is for the Center to be relocated entirely. He said this would improve the area by attracting business and new homeowners.

Mr. Jenkins asked if anyone has considered how the Oakdene residents would be affected by increased activity at Paper Recovery. Mr. McCord noted that it something that we should consider although our material shouldn't increase their volume significantly.

Commissioner Collins stated that we are taking an approach to make a smart decision. He added we should meet again on May 10th at 8:15AM.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The reports were distributed for review.

Mr. Gattis noted that garbage is up over this time last year and C&D is down.

OTHER

Commissioner Hancock asked if staff would consider extending the hours on the landfill to 5:00 on Saturday.

Commissioner Collins asked if we had considered part of the GE property for the Center. Mr. Skeen recommended we not acquire that building because we would be faced with the same environmental issues, however leasing is more affordable than purchase and we may want to consider that as an option.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary