



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday, May 10, 2016

8:00 AM

Sam King Room, 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Bill Collins, Chairman and Rome City Commission
Commissioner Scotty Hancock, Vice Chairman and 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: Mr. Charles Love, North Rome Community Action Committee
Mr. Richard Chanan, 106 East Forest Street

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Commissioner Collins recognized Rome resident, Rick Chanan. Mr. Chanan briefly discussed the importance of recycling glass in Rome.

OLD BUSINESS

Recycling Center Relocation

Mr. Skeen presented a summary and cost comparison associated with the following scenarios for the Recycling Center: improve the current site, build a new facility at Walker Mountain Landfill, and two options offered by Paper Recovery for a public/private partnership. Discussions with three other vendors ranged from the Center providing equipment in a private building to the private company providing equipment in the Center's building. He noted the main difference between the two public/private partnership options is that Option 2 includes the Center keeping its cardboard routes, which he would recommend. Mr. McCord added that each scenario has differences but none of these could be fully explored without putting out an RFP. Mr. Skeen

added there are several issues to address with a partnership such as using inmates in a private building, or using public funds to improve a private building. In all cases, Mr. Skeen noted that he is assuming the current site will not be completely vacated due to our ongoing environmental obligations there. He recommended maintaining a manned drop-off site for collection of electronics or small appliances that could be stored inside the building and would not create a litter problem outside the facility. There would be an opportunity to create more services to the public if our material was processed elsewhere. He reviewed the presentation for improvements to the current site from the last meeting.

Mr. Milam presented an aerial photo of a possible location for a new Recycling Center site on the Landfill property that is already cleared. He noted there is also another location on a hilltop that is not cleared that could be considered as well. Mr. Skeen noted that he would recommend the public drop off at the current site rather than drive back into the Landfill to reach either of these locations. Mr. Milam noted that the hilltop site has direct access to Blacks Bluff Road that may be more suitable for public access, adding the current configuration of the scale house and equipment maintenance building limit the access options from the main entrance to the Landfill.

Commissioner Bagwell asked how much it would cost to keep a satellite operation at the current site. Mr. Skeen replied it would cost from \$75,000 - \$100,000 per year. Commissioner Collins noted the community primarily wants the site cleaned up, and asked what it would take to achieve that. Mr. Skeen replied that storing material inside rather than out on the yard could be achieved with the site upgrades detailed in the first option. Commissioner Bagwell said he would like to see the Center take in cardboard instead of electronics with a new facility constructed at the Landfill.

Mr. Rich reiterated that the only way to understand the full range of options would be to put out an RFP. Mr. McCord agreed, noting conversations between staff and potential partners so far have been informal and must be detailed in a written Proposal following issuance of an RFP.

Commissioner Collins asked Mr. Milam to explain the issues in using Solid Waste Commission funds to finance Recycling Center changes being discussed. Mr. Milam said the Agreement between the City and County to create the Solid Waste Commission established reserved accounts for particular purposes. All of these accounts were set up for landfill related functions and activities. There were no reserved funds established for the Recycling Center. Currently the Center is funded through landfill expense accounts, not through reserved funds. The majority of the fund balance of approximately \$9 million is set aside in reserve accounts to cover development of future expansions, capital equipment purchases, Landfill Closure, which is an obligation we will face in the future, and Post-Closure which is an ongoing obligation we will have for a period of 30 years after closing. These reserve account funds are to accumulate so there will not be a burden on the General Funds (or taxes) when it comes time to pay those expenses.

Mr. Milam added that the only non-reserved cash in the enterprise fund was at about \$1 million at the end of last year. The non-reserved cash account is used to cover cash flow when we experience a lag between the time of billing user fees and receiving payments. It will cover about eight or nine months of operation. He recommended we never let this fall below \$500,000. He noted the City and County Commissions would have to amend the Joint Agreement to alter the way these reserve accounts are used.

Commissioner Bagwell stated the City and County could borrow \$4 million dollars from the Landfill and repay it over 15 years which would be a better option than buying a bond. He

suggested we discuss this with both Commissions to review all the numbers. Mr. Rich added that a loan would require committing City General Fund dollars which would be an extra debt he would not recommend taking on. Commissioner Hancock shared Mr. Rich's reluctance to increase debt.

Commissioner Hancock asked Mr. Milam if taking \$500,000 out of the non-reserved account would be feasible. Mr. Milam said it would make cash flow tighter but could be done, adding that transfers that have been made from the Solid Waste Commission Fund to the Recycling Center have not been repaid in the past, so we would need to decide in advance if a loan from this Fund would be repaid or not.

Mr. Rich suggested a motion be made to authorize staff to send out an RFP to more fully explore the options. Commissioner Collins suggested the matter be brought before a joint session of both Commissions when staff could have some firm numbers to report. Mr. McCord stated an RFP would take 60 days. The next scheduled meeting of the Solid Waste Commission is July 26th, and since we must hold a joint Recreation meeting between the two Commissions during the year, we could hold a meeting to address both issues.

Mr. Charles Love stated that providing a service to the community is more important than financial concerns. He noted that the costs associated with building a new facility at the Landfill is a one-time cost that won't be repeated so that scenario would change after the building is constructed. The important thing is to help a community of tax payers. Commissioner Collins thanked him for his comments but wanted to be clear that the building at the current site can't be abandoned with the conditions placed on that land. Mr. Love asked if someone could come explain the options to the North Rome Community Action group once the options have been identified. Commissioner Collins said they would. Mr. McCord noted the sites identified at the Landfill belong to the City and are not jointly owned.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The reports were distributed for review.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary