



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday March 23, 2021 8:30 AM
601 Broad Street/Zoom Meeting

PRESENT: Commissioner Allison Watters, Rome City Commissioner
Commissioner Mark Cochran, Rome City Commission
Commissioner Larry Maxey, Floyd County Commission
Commissioner Bonny Askew, Rome City Commission
Mr. Sammy Rich, Rome City Manager
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager
Mr. Gary Burkhalter, Floyd County Assistant Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Rome Public Works Director
Mr. Justin Messer, Rome Assistant Public Works Director
Mr. Lee Stone, Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Director
Mr. Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director
Ms. Toni Rhinehart, Rome Finance Director

GUEST: Abby Goldsmith,

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Watters asked asked for changes to the minutes. Hearing none they were approved by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Solid Waste Rate Study

Ms. Goldsmith presented the results of the Solid Waste Rate Study. The purpose of this study was to calculate the revenue required to provide for each solid waste service/facility and to calculate the fees needed from each service to cover total revenue requirements. The study included assumptions on anticipated future costs such as capital costs covering the next 10-year period. The revenue stream was broken down by customer type for each service and facility to better determine which customer type uses the service most. She noted that with this model, we can change assumptions to see the effect on the rates we charge.

Commissioner Watters asked for a copy of the presentation to be given to the Commissioners. Mr. Rich asked Ms. Goldsmith how the rate we charge BFI compares to other communities. She replied the current rate is \$21.69 which is very low compared to other communities. She

added that the larger issue to her is that since BFI makes up 46% of the material coming into the landfill, raising their rate could result in a reduction in the waste brought in, reducing overall revenues. Mr. McCord noted that we have not raised their rate in some time, yet they continually ask for a lower rate. Mr. Stone noted that BFI's tonnage has been dropping anyway as their competition increases. Mr. McCord noted that as a government owned facility we have the power to enforce flow control requiring all waste generated in the County disposed of in our landfill.

Mr. Rich noted that he has been concerned about the low rate for BFI, adding that we need to incrementally raise their rate. Ms. Waters agreed. Ms. Goldberg agreed noting the next step will be reviewing the four scenarios. Mr. McCord stated he and Mr. Rich will broach an increase with their BFI contacts. Staff will review the scenarios with Ms. Goldberg and make a recommendation. Ms. Goldberg added that the Solid Waste Management Plan will be updated next.

Landfill Disposal Fee Adjustments

Mr. Stone presented a resolution to amend the landfill fees. He noted the proposed fees round the current rates to more manageable even numbers, which will speed up transactions and making change. Other changes included simplifying eliminating the preferred rate, C&D rate, and the "stump" category. Mr. Jenkins noted the new fees will be implemented as of June 1, 2021, which would give us time give our customers advance notice of the changes.

Commissioner Cochran moved to approve the fee resolution as presented. Commissioner Askew seconded. The motion carried.

Landfill Litter

Mr. Jenkins reported that each litter has been a problem inside and outside the landfill. We have regular EPD inspections that note the litter issues. Years ago, an inmate crew was stationed at the landfill to pick up litter daily, until issues with inmates getting into trouble became a big problem. Then City Street Department personnel was sent twice a week to help pick up litter, and the labor was charged back to the Solid Waste Commission fund. Recently we lost two of our four inmate guards to promotions, so we can only send a crew to the landfill once a week. Having only two guards to supervise crews performing right of way maintenance has put a strain on the Street Department whose crews need to be working on right of way all over the City. He noted that the best place for us to hire guards is to acquire trained guards from the prison but since that negatively impacts the prison staff, we are trying to hire our own guards and send them to Basic Corrections Officer Training (BCOT) ourselves. Mr. Jenkins stated he has discussed contracting to have inmate detail inside and outside of the landfill to deal with trash blown off trucks. Mr. McCord said the County is open to doing more litter pick up out there. Mr. Stone noted that BFI has contributed to the litter problem as they leave the landfill without reaffixing the tarp causing trash left in their trucks flying out. Mr. McCord added that the County will be adding an additional detail for selective

enforcement of proper tarping over the next few weeks. He added that the inmate population is dwindling which has added to our difficulties.

Mr. Jenkins noted we need to consider how the vehicle and fuel would be paid for or if we would do it all under a contract. Mr. McCord stated he would prefer the Solid Waste Commission purchase the van and the County provide the outside detail at cost, which would be in the neighborhood of \$55k to 56k. The van would cost approximately \$15,000. Mr. Stone said a 4-door cab truck that is 4-wheel drive with a bed in the back is needed to do the job. The area to cover would be Walker Mountain Rd. Cave Spring Rd, Eden Valley and South Broad which would take some of the pressure off the City Street Department. The Commission agreed.

Credit Card Processing

Mr. Jenkins updated the commission on a credit card processor at the Landfill He reported that staff met with the IT personnel to discuss the problem with having a card reader that spanned 32-feet to the scale house office. We found can get within 27 feet by using a different location right under the operator's window. He noted that when a credit card is used there is a processing fee that staff recommends we absorb initially. Commissioner Waters agreed. Mr. McCord suggested we consider a limit on purchase without service fees. Mr. Jenkins agreed to look into that. Mr. Jenkins noted that staff also discussed having the option of having the receipt emailed to the customer, saving time for the operator. He added that IT personnel are currently working on the contract negotiations.

Traffic Concerns

Mr. Stone reported that traffic is the biggest problem at the landfill. He believes that eliminating the household bagged garbage from the traffic appears to be the only way alleviate the problem which is getting worse every day. He suggested diverting bagged trash to remote sites to alleviate much of the issues they are experiencing, which can be life threatening. On average, 50 or 60 cars today bring bagged trash. There are two hills on Walker Mountain Road that reduces sight distanced for large truck traffic who come upon landfill customer traffic suddenly. Mr. McCord stated that the County will need to build a new remote site. Commissioner Cochran suggested separating the entrance from the exit and having two lanes cueing up at the entry it may alleviate some of the problem. Mr. McCord noted that in 2010 during a recession we made a huge effort in recycling which also could help reduce household garbage. Mr. McCord noted that the existing Midway remote site is about six or seven miles from Walker Mountain Landfill. Commissioner Watters noted that we need to do a better job of letting people know where the remote sites are located and should have staff promote them better on social media. Mr. McCord suggested Mr. Carroll get together with Mr. Ivey to look at this issue also .

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recycling Center

Operations Report

Mr. Skeen reported that material has had to be diverted from the Center because there has been a shortage of inmate workers. Everything else is running pretty well but could be better with more material. Mr. McCord added that we are trying to get an additional position in the County fund that will provide some assistance at the Center and remote sites. The position should be filled in the next couple of weeks.

Financial Report

Mr. Burkhalter presented the 2020 year-end un-audited financial statement and the February 2021 financial statement. He noted on the February statement that the market and prices were down, corrugated was up and co-mingled was down. At the end of February, material sales were at 2.2% of the annual budget with \$700 more than 2020. Most of the January and February receipts were for 2020 invoices, with the remaining outstanding payments expected in March. We had a cash balance of \$7,633 at the end of February.

Walker Mountain Landfill

Operations Report

Mr. Stone reported that in January garbage tonnage was down by 100 tons but we picked up 700 tons in February. C&D is dropping down 186 tons year to date through Feb. Inert was down 46 tons, and tires were down a half ton. Through February we are up 469 tons over than last year.

Financial Report

The Landfill Financial report was distributed for review.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary