



# Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday July 27, 2021 8:30 AM  
Sam King Room

PRESENT: Commissioner Allison Watters, Floyd County Commission  
Commissioner Mark Cochran, Rome City Commission  
Commissioner Larry Maxey, Floyd County Commission  
Commissioner Bonny Askew, Rome City Commission  
Mr. Sammy Rich, Rome City Manager  
Ms. Meredith Ulmer, Rome Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager  
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Rome Public Works Director  
Mr. Justin Messer, Rome Assistant Public Works Director  
Mr. Bruce Ivey, Floyd County Special Projects Manager  
Mr. Aaron Carroll, Rome Engineering Services Director  
Mr. Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director  
Ms. Toni Rhinehart, Rome Finance Director  
Ms. Susie Gass, Floyd County Finance Director  
Mr. Lee Stone, Walker Mountain Landfill Director

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Waters asked for corrections for the May meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes of the were approved by common consent.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Update on Traffic Concerns at Walker Mountain Landfill

Mr. Stone reported that starting on June 1<sup>st</sup> the service to the bagged garbage customers was discontinued and directed to the remote sites. After a month and a half, traffic has only backed out into the street only about five times where it used to be daily. Customer complaints were very few. Mr. Skeen added the remote sites remain busy but no major issues were reported.

### Update on Card Reader for Scale House

Mr. Jenkins reported the credit card reader has been reviewed by the attorney's and the reader has been received. We are waiting for a couple of additional parts for the electrician needs and should be installing it in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Stone added the rate changes have also assisted the flow of traffic. Mr. Jenkins noted that this will be an added convenience for customers. Commissioner Watters asked that we keep up with the processing fees going forward. Mr. Jenkins stated we will continue to monitor the fees but will be absorbing that cost for now. The transaction fee currently is a minimum of \$1.95 or 2.5%.

### Rate Study Scenarios

Mr. Jenkins reported our consultant, Abby Goldsmith, spoke to us about our cost of services back in May. We are using this information as a guide in developing our Solid Waste Management Plan to give us a long-range goal for our tipping fees so there will be funding available for future expansion.

We set out a plan years ago that we have deviated from over the years. We give Republic a preferred rate of \$21.69/ton while the gate rate is \$38/ton and our host rate is \$32/ton. The preferred rate was set years ago because we needed the tonnage and wanted them to bring their waste to us. We are now getting 70% of our tonnage from other customers, so Ms. Goldsmith is providing us with scenarios that will show the effect of various situation such as Republic reducing their tonnage. Commissioner Watters noted the Mr. Rich and Mr. McCord have been approached with by Republic for an even greater rate reduction off their current reduced rate. Mr. Jenkins noted that Ms. Goldberg can give us projections off of several scenarios that we might encounter. He added that the Recycling Center has been running at a deficit for some time so we might want to look at a scenario where it can be fully funded through tipping fees. At the last meeting, we discussed a gradual increase in Republic's fees which could result in their attempting to take their tonnage out of our County. At that point, Mr. Jenkins added, we would have to consider enforcing flow control requiring Floyd County waste to be disposed of at Walker Mountain Landfill, which would require police officers and increased staff to manage.

Commissioner Watters asked how much time we have to evaluate these scenarios. Mr. Jenkins replied that we have time since we are not required to do this plan. It is to our benefit to do it going forward. He added that he will be getting with Mr. McCord and Mr. Skeen this week to select what scenarios both the City and County governments will want to evaluate.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

### Recycling Center

#### Operations Report

Mr. Skeen presented the operation reports. He noted that 2021 overall is comparable to 2020 but noted that the months of May and June show we are getting back in line with where we were pre-COVID. He added that the cardboard market is up to \$140/ton where

it was \$50 to \$60 per ton just 18 months ago. Plastic and aluminum are up a little as well. We just need more volume and hope that Ms. Wells will work on getting greater participation from County residents.

We had an Electronics event in July that went smoothly and in September we will have an HHW/Electronic event. He added that we had a very large HHW event in January that did very well.

#### Financial Report

Ms. Gass gave the financial report. She noted through June, the Center had a deficit of \$133,000 which would be \$66,000 without depreciation. Material sales are down and are at 33.2% of the budget through June. She noted that sales of 1 & 2 plastics last year at this time were about \$30,000 and through June this this year, we have not sold any. Operating expense were about \$5300 more than 2020. She noted much of that is due to health insurance increases. Also, a baler and large roll-up door had to be repaired. Through June, the ending cash balance was \$15,521 but as of today it is down to \$8,000. She noted the City and County each contributed \$37,000 in the first quarter and in the second quarter about \$22,000.

#### Walker Mountain Landfill

##### Operations Report

Mr. Stone gave the operation report. Garbage was up for the month at 775 tons and year-to-date was 4500 tons over last year. C&D is up slightly at 74 tons over last year. Over all we are at 2043 tons over 2020. Inert is down slightly and tires are holding steady. Altogether we are at 5588 tons over 2020. He noted that Republic's tonnage is only 40% of the current tonnage and only 30% of our revenue where they once were up to 50 to 60%.

Mr. Stone noted the benefit of not having the bag customers is that now we are 100% accurate in accounting for every pound coming into the landfill. He added that properly categorizing material helps us with our Title V Air Quality permit that requires us keep our gas emissions within a threshold.

Mr. Stone added that EPD inspected last month and we scored 100's. The C&D site is not officially closed and the inspector was very satisfied with the work we have done.

##### Financial Report

Ms. Rhinehart presented the financial report. She noted revenues for 2021 vs 2020 are up about \$219,000. What makes that up mostly is mostly the C&D which is up about \$78,000. Private residential haulers are up about \$19,000 from last year. The miscellaneous category is where we are capturing the AGL hydro excavator loads. She noted that we have billed them and they have paid almost immediately, which is almost \$83,000.

Expenses are in line with last year. The net income for the year is \$1.171 million, which is up by \$188,000 from last year. The cash balance at the end of June was a little over \$9 million.

Commissioner Watters asked if everything regarding the AGL illegal dumping has been resolved. Mr. McCord noted that Mr. Brian Roberts is following up with this. There are four or five sites that we will require some sort of remediation going forward. As far as we know, everything is going to approved sites now. Mr. Carroll noted that are nearing the end of the need to haul.

OTHER

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary