

Minutes
Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission
January 14, 2014

The Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission (Commission) met on January 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex. The Commission was represented by Steve Field, John Watkins, Larry Jameson, Robert Harrison, Jim Akins and Tom Paul. Other attendees included Attorney Kevin Stevens; Gordon Harless; Former Commissioner Bill Waldrop; Santek representatives Cheryl Dunson, Ron Vail and Levi Higdon; and several citizens.

Mr. Field called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m, and welcomed Mr. Paul to the Commission. Mr. Paul was appointed to the Commission as a representative of Loudon County.

MOTION: Mr. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2013. Mr. Jameson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

There were no Items of Public Concern.

Ms. Dunson presented the December Cash Activity Report and the Landfill Operations Report. Mr. Field said he would check with the Loudon County Finance Department regarding the line item for Legal Service which appeared to include substantial expenses beyond the previous invoice submitted by Mr. Stevens' law firm.

Mr. Vail addressed the Commission regarding the status of the landfill's major permit modification and the Commission's concerns about the final elevation, permitted footprint and airspace, and the closure plan. He distributed a chronological timeline of the permitting process which detailed the four-year review period with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). He concluded his remarks by telling the Commission that re-designing the modification at this juncture would be cost prohibitive and would add two to three years to the permitting process. He advised the Commission to secure the major permit modification first and, then, seek minor modifications later to address any elevation or footprint concerns. He also said Santek Engineering personnel are in the process of responding to TDEC's most recent round of comments in the Dec. 17th Notice of Deficiency (NOD).

Mr. Field asked Mr. Vail his thoughts on the challenges associated with phased closure. Mr. Vail said closing the landfill in phases could result in unnecessary expenses if the facility is expanded at a later date. He said it could also result in veneer failures and storm water rills. Mr. Field said he spoke with TDEC about the status of landfill closures in the state of Tennessee and, currently, only five percent of facilities are being closed on an ongoing basis which gives TDEC great concern. Mr. Field said he believes TDEC will change its past position and require landfill operators to close as they go.

Mr. Harrison noted that the next step in the process could be to consider retaining a third-party engineer to re-design the modification. He asked Mr. Vail how much airspace remains in the current permit. Mr. Vail replied 6.4 years. Mr. Harrison then asked how much it would cost to redesign the modification without a hydrogeological study. Mr. Vail estimated \$350,000. Mr. Paul asked Mr. Vail how long it would take Santek to respond to the NOD and Mr. Vail said two months. Mr. Watkins said he was disappointed Santek did not address the Commission's concerns. Mr. Vail reiterated minor modifications can be completed once the major modification is secured, and it would be a lot less costly and time consuming.

During the Attorney's Report, the Commission discussed the upcoming Land Use Workshop. Mr. Akins said that he spoke with Steve Batiste with Brown and Caldwell about the questionnaire for the upcoming

Workshop, and Mr. Batiste indicated it's complete. Mr. Akins said the questionnaire should be sent to potential Workshop participants. He also said the Commission should form a committee and set a date for the Workshop. He said the ideal number of committee members is seven with no more than 10. Mr. Harrison suggested the questionnaire be sent to Pat Phillips with the Loudon County Economic Development Association (EDA) as well as local and neighboring mayors and solid waste directors.

MOTION: Mr. Watkins made a motion to accept the questionnaire as written. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In addition to the Commission's governmental stakeholders, the consensus was to send the questionnaire with a cover letter to the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, EDA, and three to five of the landfill's largest customers. Ms. Dunson said she would get industry addresses and contact information to Mr. Akins. The Commission agreed to hold the workshop sometime in March.

Mr. Akins said that he spoke with Lenoir City Manager and he indicated his support for a county solid waste director. He did not oppose preference the solid waste director reporting directly to the county mayor, but would like for the City to receive regular reports from the solid waste director. Lenoir City would also like to participate in the process of selecting the solid waste director as well as composing the job description for this new position. Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Field how much time he spends on Commission business. Mr. Field replied four to eight hours per week. Mr. Harrison said it might be in the Commission's best interest to hire a temporary employee for 10 hours per week for a six-month interim period. Then, the temporary employee would be knowledgeable enough to help Mr. Field write a job description. Mr. Jameson suggested using a co op program with local colleges, and Mr. Waldrop suggested that Mr. Field compile a list of tasks he wants to delegate to an employee.

Mr. Jameson said although Santek does a good job washing roads, he asked Santek to consider the installation of a wheel wash. Ms. Dunson said she would take the request back to the corporate office.

Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Stevens if there had been any further discussions with the Loudon County attorney. Mr. Stevens said there had been no new developments.

Mr. Field mentioned the upcoming solid waste conference in Gatlinburg. He asked commissioners who want to attend the conference to complete the registration application and return it to him at the Commission's next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Jameson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul and it passed unanimously.

The Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is February 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Field, Chairman

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission