

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, LAPIN, FARWELL, KENNEDY, BROCKWAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
8:30 a.m.

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative McCarty- present, via zoom
Representative Lapin- present, via zoom
Representative Farwell- present, via zoom
Representative Kennedy- absent
Representative Brockway- present, via zoom

SOLID WASTE- ERIK SCRIVENER, SHANE DIGAN and ALLEN RUFFLES via zoom

Erik Scrivener requested approval to accept the SWEC committee meeting minutes from August 11th. Representative Farwell requested the minutes be amended by adding "portion of the agency housing", "for cardboard" and "per ton". Seconded, McCarty. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 1,780; Absent: 627-Kennedy. Motion carried. Representative Brockway motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 1,780; Absent: 627-Kennedy. Minutes adopted.

Erik Scrivener requested approval for the following budget transfer to upgrade phone system:

Transfer from Solid Waste A8160-545620 Maint./Repair \$500.00
Transfer to Solid Waste A8160-541000 Telephone\$500.00

Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Roll Call vote. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 1,780; Absent: 627-Kennedy. Motion carried.

Erik Scrivener informed the committee of a large pothole causing issues at the Northern Transfer Station. Mr. Scrivener spoke with Rich Brimmer at Highway; they are not able to do it but estimated \$2,000. Webster's and Fuller Paving will be giving a quote. Mr. Scrivener is looking for a contingent approval if the quote exceeds the threshold. Representative McCarty requested that once Mr. Scrivener receives the quotes to email the committee for approval.

Erik Scrivener and the committee discussed the proposed 2021 budget. Mr. Scrivener presented a spreadsheet showing the known increases of contracts and anticipated increases in recycling processing. The proposed Tip Fee is \$90 and the proposed User Fee is \$25 (the current Tip Fee is \$87 and the User Fee is \$20). From 2021-2023 MSW and recycling has a 3% increase.

Recycling processing is just below \$115. Increasing the Tip Fee and User Fee will cover all Solid Waste expenses and allow funds be put into a Solid Waste Facilities Maintenance Fund. The intent of the fund is for capital improvements. Recycling processing is capped at \$120 for 2025.

Shane Digan stated that the County does not have their own MRF (Material Recovery Facility) or landfill causing us to send all to others costing us money and paying Casella for transporting. Representative Farwell commented that counties with transfer stations have higher costs than counties that operate their own landfill.

Allen Ruffles stated that Solid Waste is not a mandated service. It was discussed at the Budget Workshop that the County has to look at all mandated and non-mandated programs due to the large deficit. There was discussion as to the definition of mandated. Representative Lapin stated there is federal legislation governing waste management, is it mandated that we do it or is it state mandated, how do we define that. Representative Farwell stated that with the proposed increase of the Tip and User Fee, the local cost would be zero for the first three years. Representative McCarty stated Solid Waste will cost the taxpayers a lot more money if done privately. Shane Digan mentioned that the County is mandated to have a recycling law but not necessarily a Solid Waste Department; residents have to pay for Solid Waste no matter what. Mr. Digan said they can control Solid Waste from the whole county perspective, start new programs, mandate costs, keep costs controlled, enforce recycling and make improvements for better efficiency. Solid Waste is not in it for a profit unlike private haulers and private transfer stations.

Erik Scrivener informed the committee the Office Specialist resigned.

Erik Scrivener updated the committee on the SGS/Buffalo Fuel proposal \$130/ton includes recyclables, mattresses and tires. Some concerns are the existing contract with Casella and the minimum of five-year time frame.

Shane Digan updated the committee on the Electronics RFP. They are at the end of the contract with Evolution, issued an RFP and waiting for responses. Mr. Digan proposed and the committee agreed to redraft the 1989 recycling law.

Representative McCarty requested that recycling and solid waste numbers and costs be reflected in the minutes.

Shane Digan reported the following Solid Waste and Recycling totals for August:

- MSW (Municipal Solid Waste): 3,365.36 tons
- Recycling: 323.36 tons – net of \$123.41/ton

- Electronics Revenue: \$2,292.00
- Mattresses: 317
- Cardboard: pending invoice
- Glass: pending invoice

JORDAN CLEMENTS- SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT via zoom

Jordan Clements reported to the committee there are many projects that need to be done but are at a standstill due to the lack of materials and price increases. Mr. Clements is getting grants out and is waiting for an official announcement on the grant funding from earlier this year. Mr. Clements invited all to his first virtual tour on Wednesday, October 14, 10 am – 12 pm. Mr. Clements stated there is new staff in the DEC permits office and has sent the map of the last few projects. There will be a carbon sequestration project presentation at the Public Works Committee on Thursday and the Butternut report is completed.

Allen Ruffles asked what would a reduction look like in Mr. Clements department and how would it affect them. Mr. Clements said depending on the size of the reduction, possible staff reduction making him the sole employee of the District. Mr. Clements stated the funding received from the County is of utmost importance and is definitely important to have because all of the funding that the District receives from the state and grants are reimbursable, needing staff to do the work, to pay and get funds reimbursed.

Representative McCarty asked Mr. Scrivener to call him after the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned.