



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday, September 27, 2016
9:30 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. Kirk Milam, Rome Public Services 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

GUESTS: Mr. Ira Levy, Paper Recovery
Mr. Charles Love, North Rome Community Action Committee
Winston Sirmons, North Rome Community Action Committee

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Corrective Action Plan – Revision Update

Mr. Milam gave an update on the corrective action plan work to address the issues of the Recycling Center property and its designation as a hazardous waste site on the State inventory. We have most recently been responding to some comments from the State on our last submittal we made over a year ago. He noted the State regularly updates their standards or requirements during a review period which requires our consultant to tweak his response. The response was completed last week and Mr. Milam signed a certification of compliance that will be submitted along with it to EPD for another review. The result

is still the same in terms of what we recognize as contaminants in the soil and how we plan to continue to utilize that property. We do not foresee any need for clean up in the future but we will have continued responsibility for monitoring and providing measures to restrict public exposure to the property such as fencing.

Landfill Pump Station Update

Mr. Jenkins updated the Commission on the landfill pump station project. He presented an aerial photo with the flow of leachate to the pump station and back out to the sewer line highlighted. He presented photos noting the mat blanket has been laid and an 8 ft. wide and 20 ft. deep wet well will be constructed in the newly graded area. He added the erosion control is also in place. The cost of the project is \$534,000. He added that construction has begun and should be complete by mid-January.

Mr. Milam added this is one of the capital improvements that is fully funded with money we set aside over time in preparation for replacing the pump station as the foot print of the landfill waste has increased, which increases the volume of leachate produced.

Recycling Center RFP Update

Mr. McCord reported that proposals were received in late spring. We did not meet in July to discuss the one proposal we received. We made a decision in July to reject that proposal since it did not fit our needs, but we have continued to work with Mr. Levy to try to improve our operations. He noted the Recycling Center operation has out grown the location since we started accepting co-mingled material in 2010. Since then we have increased the volume of material by 100%. He added the County Commission does not want to put a lot of money into the current site, noting the facility was never appropriate for this kind of operation. We can't make some of the needed improvements, such as a proper fence boarding the property, because we don't have enough room to construct it and there are EPD restrictions against digging and disturbing the asphalt. We are currently considering three locations that are more appropriate although they each present different challenges. He added we are also still exploring a public/private partnership arrangement with Mr. Levy.

Mr. McCord expects a plan can be in place going into next year's budget, but there are still a lot of things we need to do. He added we definitely want to relocate the Center and we believe we are close to narrowing down a location. Our goal is to have this operation indoors where we can control the material and contain it properly. Currently everything is outside exposed to weather except for baling and sorting. Ideally all of it should be housed indoors.

Mr. Rich agreed added that even if we move the operations we need to decide whether or not we want to put some money into improving the site. He noted that moving the facility will not guarantee the North Rome residents will like what they see there. We can't guarantee an exit date at this point. We need to decide if any money will be

dedicated to improving the existing site. Mr. McCord added there are restrictions on what can be done with the \$1.3 million in SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Collins asked how far off the Levy proposal is from being workable Mr. McCord replied that a partnership is possible whereas totally private is not. Commissioner Collins noted that we have been dealing with this for some time. A new site would be a big ticket item that we may not be able to build. We need to make improvements to the current site as we have promised the public. He suggested we consider diverting some of the extra material we receive elsewhere. We have an opportunity to take some pressure off of the center with the current proposal while making some improvements to the appearance of the Center.

Commissioner Hancock added there are some operational changes we could make that would alleviate some of the problems we are experiencing right now, but we must consider any significant expenditure to improve the current site would not be transferable to a new site. We must do our due diligence in making the best decision and not resort to a temporary knee jerk reaction.

Commissioner Collins added we should also consider that if we put \$4 or \$5 million into a new operation, what will we do if the markets go down then? If we make such a large investment in a new facility we will be obligated to remain in that business. At the same time, we have a facility that could grow as an educational center and drop of site. The citizens voted to improve that site. We need to dedicate some of those funds to improving its appearance.

Commissioner Stevenson asked for the terminology specifying the use for the SPLOST funding. Mr. McCord said the funding is stipulated for “Recycling Center Improvements”. She asked if this Center is what was intended with that vote. Mr. McCord said it was intended that we enlarge the Center but we don’t have the room to do it. Commissioner Stevenson said we will still be obligated to take care of the site. Commissioner Collins said he wants to see a portion of the SPLOST funds to cleaning up and improving the appearance of the site whether or not we relocate it. He charged the staff to come back and meet in 30 days to revisit the numbers and look at spending at least \$.3 million to dress up the site. Mr. McCord said we can’t determine how much we could dedicate to improving the site until we know where we are going. Commissioner Collins asked how strong the leads on the other location are. Mr. McCord replied there are two strong leads and one weak one, adding we will be able to establish a timeline once we have selected a site.

Commissioner Collins said he would like staff to revisit the current proposal to come up with some numbers for a public/private partnership to remove some of the burden from the Center, along with a commitment of a portion of the SPLOST funds towards improving the current site.

Commissioner Collins invited Mr. Love to address the Commission. Mr. Love stated that he wants to change our narrative from how things used to be to how they need to be. He

suggested we focus on areas that we do well such as shredding and market them. Recycling should be a service to the community. We need to focus on those things that work and come up with a solution to take back to the community. Commissioner Collins noted Mr. Levy has a shredding business and the City does not want to compete with our local businesses. He asked Mr. Levy if he would express his views. Mr. Levy stated, as a tax payer, he has offered his advice to this Commission many times over the years. He stated that recycling has changed over the years. The market for plastics is going to be very tough in the future. He agreed the Center needs to be relocated and the site improved with education centers and drop off access. Commissioner Stevenson noted we need to look at North Rome as part of the whole and not an island unto itself.

The Commission agreed to meet again on October 25th at 9:30 AM.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recycling Center

Operations Report

Mr. Skeen reported that volume is down almost on every item which is expected since we got out of glass and our arrangement with the Rome News Tribune. This gives us more time for processing. Co-mingled material coming from the City curbside is much cleaner lately. He thanked the City Solid Waste Department for their efforts for that, which resulted in a big reduction in what we shipped out co-mingled. Under *Miscellaneous*, he noted there were 50% more participants in the last HHW event than previous events. The press release on Facebook was shared 22 times. Although we averaged 15 seconds per vehicle, there was still a good bit of congestion. We normally have electronics events 6 times per year and a combined HHW and electronics 3 times a year. We may consider doing 3 of each or moving off site again for our next event.

Financial Report

Mr. Burkhalter presented the Recycling Center financial report. He noted material sales were down almost \$40,000 year-to-date. Corrugated was up although the price was down. We have more revenue this year than last year. Mixed paper was down significantly and #1 plastics and steel were also down significantly. Expenses were flat between the two years. Salaries and benefits were down slightly. The change in net position was only \$3000 difference between the two periods. We are down \$141,000 in cash this year versus up \$4,000 last year. In this point in time through the end of August we had \$212,000 in cash.

Walker Mountain Landfill

Operations Report

Mr. Gattis gave the reported the garbage tonnage was up over last year and C&D tonnage is down from last year. Revenues are about the same. We have the ponds cleaned out and we are ready to install HTPE risers and outfalls. He added we finally had our brush ground up and now have a giant stock pile of mulch.

Financial Report

Ms. Shore reported each year after the audit we have to submit financial assurance worksheets and affidavits to EPD. This has been submitted and we have received the letter from EPD stating we have met our financial assurance requirements for 2015.

Under the August accrual statement under *Commercial and Industrial*, the garbage is up and C&D is way down, but together they are close to last year. There is not too much variance from last year on expenses. She noted we receive the second recycling payment in September.

On the cash report she noted the decreases *Depreciation/Capital Outlay* includes the above ground storage tank, which is finished and an excavator. The pump station will be paid for in 2016 although it was budgeted in 2015 at \$500,000 which will come out of the \$2.4 million in the restricted account for Capital Equipment as well as a couple of other large pieces of equipment.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary