



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday, January 31, 2017
9:30 AM
Sam King Room, 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Bill Collins, Chairman and Rome City Commission
Commissioner Larry Maxey Floyd County Commission
Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Rome City Commission
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, Rome Public Services Manager
Mr. Gary Burkhalter, Assistant County Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Rome Public Works Director
Mr. Michael Skeen, Floyd County Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Rome Finance Director
Mr. Mike Gattis, Rome Solid Waste Processing and Disposal Director

GUESTS: Mr. Pete McDonald, Oakdene Resident
Mrs. Jane McDonald, Oakdene Resident
Mr. Ira Levy, Paper Recovery

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order. He postponed the election of officers until the next meeting when Commissioner Hancock could be present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December meeting were approved by Common Consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Landfill Pump Station Update

Mr. Jenkins reported the landfill pump station was originally scheduled to be completed by January 17th, but there was a delay in the receipt of some components of the control system, which will be delivered today. The pumps are already in so the project should be completed fairly quickly.

Review Contract for Public/Private Partnership for Recycling

Mr. McCord reported the draft lease agreement was reviewed by both the City and County attorneys and some revisions were made by staff. He noted that Mr. Levy was the only one that responded to the RFP last July and one of the few people in the industry in Northwest Georgia that we have the ability to partner with. We are at the point where we need two new pieces of

equipment to continue the operation, which is why this partnership with Mr. Levy came up. The biggest change in services would be with the commercial cardboard routes. We have more than 800 customers signed up. The larger users would go from no charge to a charged system. The smaller users would no longer be dealing directly with the Recycling Center, but would deal directly with Mr. Levy's staff. City curbside service would not change, except the collection where material is taken would change from Watters St. to Lavender Drive. He added there are still some unanswered questions. Mr. Skeen distributed financial projections for the relocation to Lavender Drive showing an additional \$90,000, which includes retaining a position at Watters Street.

This is the best scenario staff could come up with to relocate to a more suitable area, this is the best scenario. The lease agreement is a 10-year agreement with a 10-year removal. We would have the ability to discontinue the lease with a 90 day notice. We would have to do some pavement improvements and put up a fence, but the largest expense would have to add sprinklers for approximately \$100,000. However, he noted that we do not have the fund to build a new building so this is our best alternative. We have developed a strong agreement. He noted it would be a much more secured location for inmate labor. The transition would take at least six months complete.

Commissioner Collins asked what time period the \$90,000 deficit in 2017 covers. Mr. McCord replied it refers to the full 12 months of the year. Mr. Skeen added that if we continued as we are now, we would expect a \$196,000 shortfall. If we were doing a full year at the Lavender Drive location we would expect \$286,000 shortfall. The difference is the \$90,000.

Commissioner Collins noted we have discussed setting aside \$300,000 for the Watters Street improvements. What could be done to cut that in half? Mr. Skeen replied that the Lavender Drive location would have to be the first priority in order to get the operation up and going. He added the \$90,000 projected deficit includes cleaning up the outside of Watters Street and maintaining one staff member there. We don't know exactly how much will be needed to improve Watters Street. There would be a collection site established on Lavender Drive during business hours. There would no longer be 24-hour drop off available.

Commissioner Collins asked where our other collection sites are located. Mr. Skeen replied there is a collection points on Hicks Drive that is unmanned. Mr. McCord noted that the Lindale collection point and IGA requested their collection sites be shut down in the last two years. We currently have collection sites at the GMC in Coosa, Food Lion in Armuchee, He added we have had a greater amount of garbage showing up at the Center after hours which takes time and resources to clean up.

Mr. Skeen noted that after relocation, we would cease accepting scrap metal and shredding at Watters Street anymore, but the staff member retained on site would distribute information on where items could be dropped off. A staff member would direct customers to Mr. Levy's operation for shredding services. Mr. Rich noted that we don't want to leave the site unsupervised so we can control unacceptable materials dropped off. Commissioner Stevenson noted \$60,000 was projected for personnel at the Watters Street site.

Commissioner Collins invited Mr. McDonald, a resident of the Oakdene Community adjacent to Paper Recovery, to address the Commission. Mr. McDonald distributed a list of questions he wanted on record. He noted he and his wife have concerns regarding the material handling contract with Paper Recovery and not the lease at Lavender Drive. He asked where the agreement with Mr. Levy stands with respect to material processing. He asked the questions and answers be recorded in the minutes. He asked the Commission to explain the status of the contract covering

the processing of recycling materials under the new public/private initiative. Mr. Skeen replied that about 10 roll off containers of cardboard would be delivered to Paper Recovery each week, from material collected at the remote sites and pulled out of the co-mingled material. Only paper and no plastics would be sent to Paper Recovery. Mr. McCord stated the lease and the material handling contracts will be separate from each other but connected.

Mr. McDonald stated he and his wife along with Mrs. June Dellis own approximately 8 acres that border Mr. Levy's property, and they are concerned because there is a tremendous amount of material at Mr. Levy's material that stays outside. There is no containment and material blows up into the trees onto their property as well as into the wetland owned by the City. Some type of fence needs to be erected or the material needs to be stored inside. Mr. McDonald stated he and his wife are very willing to plant a vegetative barrier on their property. He feels that Mr. Levy does not have adequate space for the business he is trying to run. He asked how Mr. Levy will handle the additional material that will be brought in as a result of this agreement. He also expressed concerned about trucks blocking the entrance to their neighborhood bringing material in. The operation does not have adequate space currently so they are concerned about the additional truck traffic and material coming in to the business. He asked Mr. Levy what physical equipment changes will be made with this agreement. Mr. Levy said he has been unable to proceed with the additional 12th Street property so he has been trying to negotiate with the Norfolk Southern about purchasing some of their property. He added that he is restricted from building a roof over the outside material due to the historic designation, and equipment is purchased almost every month, which would not be changed significantly by this contract. He noted the additional material that would come in from the Center will make up only 1 or 2 % of the total operation. Business hours do not allow enough time to clean up after late afternoon deliveries so Mr. Levy has changed to a split shift operation to improve that issue. Mr. McDonald reiterated that he would like to see the final agreement address the problems of containment and additional truck traffic.

Commissioner Collins noted that this Commission has a responsibility to the neighborhood. He feels their concerns should be addressed before going before the full Commissions so we need a concrete plan to address these conditions.

Mr. McCord stated staff could work with Mr. Levy between now and the next meeting. He asked if we should recommend this lease agreement pending the outcome with Mr. Levy regarding his property.

Commissioner Stevenson moved to approve the lease contract pending the outcome of with Mr. Levy regarding the issues concerning his property. Commissioner Maxey seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recycling Center Operation Reports

Mr. Skeen presented the year end operations reports. He noted we aren't getting the material from Waste Industries and Allied that we once were, we lost Rome News and glass went away back in the spring. Corrugated is by far our largest product. We haven't had any major changes in our special events. It was a pretty normal year for volume other than the changes we made.

Recycling Center Financial Report

Mr. Burkhalter noted the year-end financial report is not yet available.

Landfill Operations Report

Mr. Gattis presented the December landfill operations report. He noted tonnage is way up and C&D material is way down. Tipping fees were almost identical to last year. He noted that one big customer that was getting a preferred rate for increased tonnage, was bought out by a customer that is on a contract rate.

He noted that EPD inspected four closed sites that were rated perfect with no deductions, and the open sites, C&D and Phases 4-9 rated 100.

Commissioner Collins noted the City Manager and Mayor award Mr. Gattis his 40 year pin Monday night. He congratulated Mr. Gattis on that great achievement.

Mr. Milam asked if the Commission could discuss the meeting day and time for 2017. Commissioner Collins stated the schedule will be discussed at the next meeting after the election of the new Chair. The next meeting will be at 9:30 on the 22nd of February.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary