

Vernon County Solid Waste/Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 23rd, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Running at 9:31a.m. Those present included: Justin Running, Mary Rae, Shawn Redington, Mike Paulsrud, Tim Hundt, Joe Retzlaff, Matt Harter, Kevin Dempsey, Dan Schwabenbauer, Bill Meeks, and Stacie Sanborn.

Proper Public Meeting Notice was confirmed.

A motion was made by Rae, with a second by Redington to approve the minutes of the March 20th, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Audience to Visitors

Bill Meeks from Southwest Sanitation presented the committee with a proposal to manage the leachate for the Vernon County Landfill and a proposal to collect, manage, and send for sorting and processing, commingled recycling for the 19 towns that the County is currently providing source separated service for.

March Committee Report

Material volumes for landfilled materials was up 16% over March of 2018 and 7% on the year. Recycling Fee Items are up 55% for March and 22% for the year. Recyclables Sold is down 53% for March and for the year. These recycling numbers should increase with pending shipments. Leachate costs are up 73% for the month of March and down 4% so far for 2019.

Review/Approve Vouchers

Vouchers totaling \$55,282.89 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Rae, with a second by Redington to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action on Purchase of New Hook/Leachate Truck

The Department requested to replace the 1998 International Hook Truck/Leachate Truck. Sanborn expressed concerns regarding the costly repairs needed to keep the 20 year old truck road worthy. The repairs being a replacement cab and repair to the main cylinder on the hook lift system. With the age of the truck the department would be lucky to find a cab to exchange without the same rust issues and parts for the hook lift system are very difficult to find.

Sanborn provided the Committee with the following figures:

- In the last five years the Department averaged 692 loads of leachate water per year (over 3 million gallons).
- Since the hiring of a part-time leachate driver in 2017, the Department has hauled 77% of its own leachate and hired out the remaining 23%.
- Of the 692 loads per year 69% is taken to the Sparta WWTP, 17% to the Viroqua WWTP, 13% to LaCrosse County, and emergency 1% maybe taken to Richland Center WWTP.

The 1998 International is a multipurpose tool the Department uses primarily for Leachate trucking, however it is used to transport the larger dumpsters for spring and fall Town clean-ups, scrap metal, glass, dumpsters from community clean-up projects (flood relief and river clean-ups) and shingles from LaCrosse County for landfill road base.

Sanborn requested that the Committee move to replace the truck over hiring out these services because the current truck will not last the life of the current landfill, the truck would be a capital asset to the Department as opposed to paying for the use of someone else's asset, and mainly it would provide the Department with cost stability for its 3rd largest landfill expense. Whether the Department were to buy a truck or hire the service, the Department would be paying fuel, labor, and truck expenses, but as a municipal entity the Department has several cost saving advantages over a business. Municipal entities do not pay Federal Excise Tax which is a savings on the up front purchase of the truck and on fuel expenses. Municipalities also benefit from non-expiring licensing. Municipalities pay a onetime licensing fee on truck titling over an annual fee for businesses.

Sanborn's estimated cost per load to the Sparta WWTP with the purchase of a new truck was \$99.40 per load, which came in \$65.00 per load cheaper than the proposal submitted by Bill Meeks of Southwest Sanitation during the Audience to Visitors.

The Department plans to pay for the expense by utilizing budgeted funds of \$35,000, logging revenue of \$35,000, and asking the Finance Committee to extend the Department's current loan one year to cover the remaining balance of \$80,000.

Proposals were submitted by Mack, International (with Automatic option), and Freightliner (with Automatic option). Further discussion was had on the purchase of the truck.

Redington made a motion to purchase the International Truck contingent upon Finance Committee approval to extend the Department's current loan one year. Motion seconded by Rae. Motion carried.

Department Update

Sanborn updated the Committee on the Spring Clean Sweep on May 11th from 8:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. and a letter received from Revolution Plastics regarding the agricultural plastic recycling program and cost share request.

The next SW/R Committee meeting will be May 8th, 2019 at 9:30a.m.

A motion was made by Redington, with a second by Rae, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:53a.m. Motion carried.

Minutes by Sanborn.



Shawn Redington, Secretary