

## MINUTES

### RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

George L. Gordon Government Center

Board of Supervisors Chambers

**Meeting Convened:** A special meeting of the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board (R-Board) was convened at 7:01 P.M., Wednesday, September 3, at the George L. Gordon Government Center in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

**Roll Call:** The following members were present: Chairman, Matthew Kelly; Vice-Chairman, Paul V. Milde, III; Beverly R. Cameron; Gary Snellings; Anthony J. Romanello; William C. Withers, Jr.

Also in attendance were: Bill Hefty, Esq., R-Board Attorney; Keith C. Dayton, Director & Deputy County Administrator; Jason Pauley, R-Board Superintendent; Diane Jones, Julie Williams-Daves, R-Board Staff;

Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order and after the determination of a quorum, invited any members of the public to speak.

**Presentations by the Public:** The following members of the public desired to speak:

**Ms. Barbara Pyatt,** Eskimo Hill Road – expressed the following points:

- Concern about increased traffic on Eskimo Hill Road;
- Question regarding the police escort into and out of the landfill on Sunday, August 10 between 10am and 12pm.;
- Displeasure at having landfill staff cut down buffer trees when residents were told they would remain in place; and
- Supports rezoning the landfill and adjacent properties to make it compatible with the operations onsite.

**Mr. Bruce Callander,** Lancaster Street – expressed the following points:

- Not in favor of restricting or limiting Sunday hours. He works out of the County and the weekends are his only opportunity for disposal of brush. He suggested a 1-hour later shift to allow for more time after church to get to the landfill before closing.

**Mr. Bill Johnson,** Winsome Lane – expressed the following points:

- Pleased to see Goodwill's more prominent location, but would like to promote what items are accepted with a flyer or signage;
- Stated that he would like to see Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg participating in the CLEAR Project and would like them to research what kind of recycling is being done;
- Recommended townhall meetings in the evening to involve the public; and

- Recommended holding R-Board meetings in the City Council Chambers so City residents would feel included.

**Board Comments:**

Mr. Milde stated he is available to the public and does not support eliminating Sunday hours. He feels that rezoning the area bordering the landfill is worth a conversation with Stafford County's Community and Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Kelly met with Habitat for Humanity and visited their newly opened storage facility that is four times larger than previously. They are interested in meeting with the R-Board to discuss collections for construction materials. Mr. Kelly would like to invite representatives from Habitat to a meeting in the near future.

**Report of the R-Board Attorney:** Mr. Hefty had no new business to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Financial Discussion:**

Mr. Dayton briefly reviewed the staff report provided in the board package, explaining the calculation for the \$1.4 million in additional revenue or reduced expenses believed to be necessary for a sustainable financial outlook, and presenting two possible approaches to achieve that goal. Mr. Milde asked to clarify what the City subsidy is compared to what Stafford is paying.

Mr. Withers asked why the City pays one-half of the gate rate tip fee. Mr. Dayton explained that the current City subsidy is based on their historical tonnage and the \$20 per ton rate. Should the option to assess Municipal waste fees at the \$34 per ton for waste and \$41 per ton for C&D be utilized, the City would see an increase in their current \$170,000 annual payment. This amount includes the City's Municipal Solid Waste curbside collections as well as their Public Works Department construction and demolition waste materials. Mr. Romanello explained that the County's share is for Parks & Recreation and Utilities to dispose of construction debris. The \$40,000 is an estimate of the annual amount for the C&D material rather than receiving a bill for each trip over the scales.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Hefty about the County and City obligation to pay back funds to the R-Board to cover any deficit as the operating agreement states. Mr. Hefty said that was instituted recently and confirmed that as long as it's agreed, it doesn't have to be paid.

Mr. Kelly addressed staff and asked if there is an anticipated drop in use with the proposed change in fees. Mr. Dayton replied that staff will monitor use closely and he does anticipate a change in user patterns. It is expected that with the proposed resident drop off fees, people will move towards curbside service or visit the landfill less frequently.

Mr. Withers asked if the per trip fee included all waste material. Mr. Dayton noted that if the visit was for recycling materials only there would be no charge for that trip.

Mr. Kelly emphasized the need to look at the long term financial needs and brought up equipment capital expenses that are not even covered in this discussion. He wants to look at increasing tipping fees as they are presented in both Option 1 and 2. He wants the City to be a good neighbor and not push Stafford County into using funds from the general fund and acknowledged that approach limits increases in revenue to implementing user fees. He stated that staff is recommending a user fee and the City is stepping up and agreeing to pay more. The user fee requires those who use the service to pay for it.

Mr. Milde stated that he does not want to charge a user fee. He prefers balancing the budget with funds from Ameresco and the new recycling contract. Mr. Dayton clarified that the Ameresco funds are already accounted for in the budget and that it is too early to predict how much new revenue the recycling contract will generate.

Mr. Snellings agreed with Mr. Kelly. He noted that at the last R-Board meeting he wanted to go back to the Board of Supervisors and push them to pay for the litter crew, but in light of the Governor's recent budget cuts that won't happen. He doesn't see an alternative to charging residents and doesn't feel the R-Board can piecemeal the finances together. He compared a user fee and the ambulance fee Stafford implemented and further explained that a user fee isn't a tax. He declined to vote tonight, but suggested taking the user fee proposal back to the respective elected boards.

Mr. Withers agreed with Mr. Snellings and offered to present either Option 1 or Option 2 to City Council. He added that he is opposed to closing on Sunday.

Mr. Kelly acknowledged that the R-Board finds itself in the position it is in after years of depleting the reserve fund. He agrees with going back to the respective boards and giving the public an opportunity for more input on fees. He stated that it is time to face reality in some form of Option 1 or Option 2. These hard decisions are sound governance, but not good politics.

Mr. Snellings added that Mr. Milde's proposal for returning the litter cleanup back to Stafford County and the operation of Belman Road back to the City and other revenue enhancements be added to Options 1 and 2 for consideration by both City Council and Stafford Supervisors. Mr. Milde requested staff assistance in preparing his proposal for consideration by both the County and the City.

Mr. Milde restated his concern about user fees and said that \$800,000 annually could be achieved without implementing resident user fees. Mr. Romanello added that there will be a ramp up period for any increase in fees to the City and County, possibly taking up to two fiscal years. He also stated that the

revenue projection is predicated on not losing any commercial business, but nothing is known for sure. He expressed concern about working without a net.

Mr. Milde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romanello, to raise commercial tipping fees by 5% effective November 1<sup>st</sup> as presented in both Option 1 and Option 2.

By voice, the vote was:

Yea:	(6)	Milde, Kelly, Cameron, Snellings, Romanello, Withers
Nay:	(0)	
Absent:	(0)	

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Milde to prepare a formal proposal of his solution for presentation to the respective boards with Options 1 and 2. Mr. Snellings asked what will happen if both boards make different choices. Mr. Kelly stated that another discussion would follow if that happened.

Mr. Withers motioned, seconded by Mr. Milde, to remove closing on Sunday from the table.

By voice, the vote was:

Yea:	(5)	Milde, Kelly, Cameron, Snellings, Withers
Nay:	(1)	Romanello
Absent:	(0)	

**Future Session:** The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, at 1:30 P.M. in the George L. Gordon Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers.

The R-Board desires to meet before then, given the urgency of the financial matters. Mr. Kelly will email the board members and staff to propose dates for a meeting on a Wednesday in October.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. by unanimous vote.

  
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Keith C. Dayton, Director & Deputy County Administrator  
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Diane Jones, Acting Clerk