

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Solid Waste Management Authority Board Meeting
10:30 A.M.

October 10, 2017

M I N U T E S

PRESENT: Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner (SWMA Member), Vice-Chairman Michael Edmondson (SWMA Member), Tax Commissioner Terry Baskin (SWMA Member), Mary-Ann Carp (SWMA Member) and Robb Leatherwood (SWMA Member). Also present were Jeff Metarko (Director of Transportation and Development), Dennis Johnson (Budget Manager), Jack Hancock (County Attorney), Chief Operating Officer Detrick Stanford, Josh Lawson with Jacobs Engineering and Sandra T. Davis (Clerk).

ABSENT: Victor Lett, Sr., (SWMA Member) and Andrew Love (SWMA Member).

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Terry Baskin offered the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Turner.

II. ADOPTION OF JANUARY 25, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Baskin to approve the January 25, 2017 minutes, second by Ms. Carp and carried unanimously with a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Leatherwood abstained due to not being a board member at that time.

III. CONTINUE DISCUSSION – COUNTY CONTROLLED FRANCHISING PROGRAM

Chairman Turner informed that we have conducted meetings for the past six to eight months around the county to advise of what is being proposed in terms of mandatory trash pickup. He noted that there were a lot of concerns and questions. He suggested that we continue to vet out those questions. Chairman Turner then asked that Jacobs Engineering representative come forward to explain the proposal for mandatory trash pickup and the purpose of the town hall meetings.

Transportation and Development Director Mr. Jeff Metarko came forward and recalled that there were seven to eight meetings around the county to listen to the citizens of the county regarding mandatory trash pickup. He pointed out that there were some questions that the answers have not been determined at this time. He shared that a FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) sheet was compiled after a couple of meetings of receiving repetitive questions by providing some feedback upfront. With regards to a timeframe, we have always been going off of a two year start timeframe after the decision was made; potential start time of March 2020. However, the driving timeframe is with respect to collections and whether or not the fee would go on the tax bill. After hearing from the citizens, now it is time to determine where we want to go from here.

Chairman Turner recalled that one of the biggest concerns of the citizens was service delivery. However, all of that could be dictated in the RFP (Request For Proposal). Transportation and Development Director Metarko agreed with this statement. He pointed out that the number of days, type of containers, number of zones, etc. all could be determined with the RFP.

Another concern relayed by Chairman Turner, was the tax bills go up. He said that a lot of citizens recommended that the billing go through the water authority. Transportation and Development Director Metarko responded that door is not shut at this point. He then explained he has spoken with the general manager of the Water Authority and there is potential; however, there are a lot of questions and some sort of MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) would have to be developed between the Water Authority and the county.

Tax Commissioner Terry Baskin made note that he attended six of the meetings and a majority of the citizens had a negative feeling towards the collection fee going on the tax bill. Transportation and Development Director Metarko agreed that most of the citizens seem to oppose implementing this fee on the tax bill and had some concerns; there are other options. Chairman Turner then asked have we looked at those other options. At this time, Transportation and Development Director Metarko provided some other potential options: tax bill, water bill and stand-alone bid for trash collection services.

Mr. Robb Leatherwood asked if other options are being considered as far as different types of trash service. Transportation and Development Director Metarko responded that over the years, this authority has discussed several different options on landfill specific matters; however, the only initiative the authority has requested further information on has been this residential mandatory collection program. Chairman Turner added that we have also received information on transfer stations; however, we believed this was the best way to mitigate the problem of illegal dumping and littering.

Chairman Turner made the statement that the citizens wanted to be able to make this decision; therefore, if the county was to put the mandatory trash pickup on a referendum, what kind of time frame would we be looking at if it was approved by the citizens. Mr. Josh Lawson- Jacobs Engineering responded that it hinges on the collection mechanism. If we would continue with the

tax bill, Tax Commissioner Baskin has certain deadlines that must be met. Chairman Turner suggestion that we also look at the Water Authority for collection, because he believes that the citizens would opt to approve it if it is attached to some other entity other than the tax bill. With that suggestion, Mr. Lawson estimated that if this referendum was voted favorable in November 2018, he still believes that there could be a March 2020 implementation.

When Chairman Turner asked if Elections and Registration had been contacted, County Attorney Jack Hancock advised that he believes there are some prohibitions in the state law regarding what the board could have a referendum called by local government for and he does not believe this would fall into one of them. When Chairman Turner asked about a non-binding decision, County Attorney Hancock further explained that he believes there are some problems created by spending county money on a non-binding decision like that. Chairman Turner then asked if County Attorney Hancock could follow up on this matter and advise of the answer.

In response to Vice Chairman Edmondson with regards to if the Solid Waste Management Authority has the authority to offer or mandate solid waste collection, County Attorney Hancock maintained that it has got to be a county requirement; therefore, the Board of Commissioners would have to make that decision.

Mr. Robb Leatherwood provided some statistical information with regards to the number of rental properties in Clayton County with most violators being renters, he then asked is there a way to mandate the rental homes, who are operating as a business, to provide trash service for their tenants. Tax Commissioner Baskin responded that as far as the tax records go, that is not required. He also made a statement with regards to an earlier comment in that he cannot readily say that a majority of the violators are renters.

Chairman Turner proposed to the authority that he believes it is vital to hear back from County Attorney Hancock regarding the legality of whether or not this could be a referendum and if not, we need to brainstorm in terms of how we can get the citizens' input on the matter.

NOTE: Vice Chairman Edmondson left the meeting during this portion of the proceedings at approximately 11:03 a.m.

IV. LANDFILL UPDATE

Transportation and Development Director Metarko provided a brief overview on the landfill operations. This is a follow-up to the price changes at the landfill with there not being much change. The estimated capacity for the landfill was previously 25 years with the intake and now it is up to approximately 65 years and this is with a full build out of the permitted space. If we remove Cells 5 and 6 that are not developed and cannot receive trash, this would bring us down to 22 years. He reminded the authority of the cost to develop Cells 5 and 6, which could easily be in an amount of \$7 million and spoke of the one or two wells that need to be removed. He suggested

that some time in the future, we want to discuss the landfill hours of operation and days of the week to see if there needs to be adjustments to make it more efficient. He concluded that nothing has raised up or gone deeper in the hole and the number of customers that we are seeing is steady a year after the price increase.

Ms. Carp asked about the fall schedule, at which time, Transportation and Development Director Metarko replied that during the winter months, we are open half the time on Saturdays and are open on every other Saturday; this goes into effect in November through March.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

After Mr. Leatherwood spoke of his review of previous Solid Waste Management Authority meetings, he asked what caused such a downward spike in capacity from 36 to 12 years during a seventeen month time frame. Transportation and Development Director Metarko explained that 12 years was actually 25 years. Therefore between the 36 and the 25, we began to see a drastic increase in intake. He then explained how the calculation is made and reported to EPD for the capacity at the landfill, which is heavily based on the current intake; therefore, there may be these bounces and spikes on the estimated capacity. Mr. Lawson added the calculation is based on not only tonnage but rate of compaction.

Mr. Leatherwoods mentioned a transfer station and then asked how feasible is it for the county to offer a low-cost solution to our residents to give them an alternative. Mr. Lawson pointed out that we have looked at a transfer station. He then explained the two ways to approach a transfer station: self-funded (county run facility), but there is a cost issue there or engage with a private entity; there would be a benefit to the county for that relationship. He pointed out that both of them have their own challenges, but neither are quick solutions. Chairman Turner suggested that we look at that as a possible option, if we cannot do anything else. He then requested that some information be put together so that we may talk to someone to find out how the transfer stations operate, and the possibilities of what could be constructed in Clayton County. He also asked that Mr. Leatherwood be a part of any such discussions and share that information with the authority. Mr. Leatherwood shared that he has already spoken with the parties in Fayetteville and would welcome us speaking with them to follow their practices. Chairman Turner then suggested a road trip.

With regards to a previous question on the referendum, County Attorney Hancock advised that it is not permitted without local legislation. Chairman Turner said that we would have to go through our legislators to get it on the referendum and County Attorney Hancock agreed.

Mr. Leatherwood said that one other matter that has come up is education. He maintained that there have been valid comments from the community. He called attention to the young people who are littering and asked if there is a way to coordinate with the School Board to create a way for young people to accept more responsibility by initiating some sort of program. Chairman Turner said that arrangements could be made to have a discussion with the school superintendent

regarding some type of an initiative, because the key is to reach them at a younger age. Mr. Baskin added that there is a campaign, he believes in Gwinnett County, which is all about recycling that had the kids really fired up with some type of mascot. Chairman Turner then asked that he gather this information for the authority members. Mr. Leatherwood also added that Gwinnett County has a recycling directory on their website; therefore, it provides contact information for all of the businesses in their county that could assist with their recycling needs from furniture to appliance to whatever they are trying to get rid of. He said that he believes this would be a good model to mirror.

On another note, Transportation and Development Department Director Metarko announced that Mr. Tim Gilliam has retired; therefore, the Landfill Manager's position is currently open.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Mickey Garber- Unincorporated Rex, Georgia came forward to commend the authority on looking at other aspects, because our trash problem cannot be attacked from one aspect. He said the forefront is education starting at Kindergarten up to the 12th Grade. He then asked that the contents of the bag he brought forward be revealed, which he acknowledged is garbage. He said every one of the containers in that bag has a value to it, which adds to the solution. In conclusion, he pointed out that we create our own trash, and the county would be faced with the problem of continuous trash pickup; however, we can change the worst of it and turn it into a good thing.
- 2) Jerry Garber- Unincorporated Clayton County approached the rostrum and recalled that most people were against the mandatory trash pickup. He said with that many people against it, he does not know why we are still going down that avenue. Now, the authority is trying to get it put on a referendum. He shared that the cities already have a mandatory pickup; yet, they vote on the same ballot that the authority is proposing to put the referendum on. Therefore, it would not cost them any more money. In conclusion, Mr. Garber spoke on the notion of putting the fee on the water bill, which he does not agree with, because he explained that his water bill is already high enough.

Tax Commissioner Baskin maintained that the cities would also be impacted one way or another, because the tax bill goes to the people in the city; therefore, that is a whole new avenue that we have to deal with. County Attorney Hancock advised that it is not a tax but a fee. Therefore, if it is added to the tax bill, it could only be added to those bills that are impacted by the use of the service. Tax Commissioner Baskin asked how do we designate that, how do we figure that out. He maintained that there is the whole ballfield that we have to get into when it comes down to that tax bill, because once again, the bill does go to the cities.

With there being no further comments, Chairman Turner reminded the members that at the beginning of the meeting, an intergovernmental agreement was passed around the table. He asked the member to review it and if there are any questions to contact County Attorney Hancock and be prepared to take a vote on it. County Attorney Hancock advised that this agreement just puts down in writing what has been going on.

Chairman Turner pointed out that he would like to have the meeting with the road trip and with Waste Management prior to the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Tax Commissioner Baskin, second by Ms. Carp, to adjourn the Solid Waste Management Authority Board Meeting of October 10, 2017 at 11:43 a.m. Vote unanimous by the four members present with Vice Chairman Edmondson having left the meeting.