

Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – December 20th, 2022

Present: Brad Jackson, Cary Groninger, Bob Conley, Joe Thallemer, Rick Swaim, Mike Long, Jerry Frush, Rick Swaim, Scott Reust, Tom Ganser, Michelle Puckett, Leslie Williams, Liz Shepherd – InkFree News

Absent: None

- Call to Order:
 - Brad Jackson called the meeting to order.
- November 2022 Board Minutes
 - Brad Jackson asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the November 2022 Board Meeting. Bob Conley made a motion to approve as presented. Mike Long seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Claims and Financial Report
 - Michelle Puckett presented the claims in the amount of \$43,224.54. The ending checking account balance is \$4,180.10, in addition to the 1.4-million-dollar investment. Michelle then stated that the ending balance is not the actual balance – that it is just taking into consideration the processing of the claims or receipts. Michelle added that what she would like to do, due to lots of changes recently, is cash in \$100,000 of the investment for next years budget. Rick Swaim made a motion to approve claims as presented and approve the transfer of \$100,000 from investment to account. Mike Long seconded the motion. Cary Groninger asked if the outstanding bills for GFL have been paid. Tom Ganser and Michelle Puckett answered by saying that the bills are paid to November – we are still waiting on November's bill (\$20, 677.25). The board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- New Business:
 - Tom Ganser stated that this is Michelle Puckett's last meeting with the Solid Waste District Board. Tom added that she has been a huge asset to the District and thanked her for all of her years of service.
 - Michelle Puckett stated that this is her last, official, meeting as Kosciusko County Auditor. She added that she was the first one to touch the District's books in 2001 and has been involved

with the District ever since (for 20+ years). She looks forward to going to the Treasure's office in January. Michelle added that she is proud of all Board members and the decisions that they have made, even though they have not all been easy. She once again thanked everyone.

- Old Business
 - Approval for 2023 Salary Ordinance
 - Tom Ganser stated that the 2023 Salary Ordinance will need to be approved. Tom added that this has gone through Council and will need the final vote by the Board. He stated that the ordinance is able to be viewed – there were two copies being passed around. Tom stated that they were no specific changes, and asked if there were any particular questions that anyone had. Mike Long made a motion to approve the salary ordinance. Cary Groninger seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
 - Capital Asset Policy for the District
 - Tom Ganser stated that the District needs a Capital Asset Plan – there is a copy in the meeting pack. Tom stated that the Board members can see the current capital asset list, but to make it cleaner, the Board will need to create a policy of how much it is going to be to hit the capital asset plan. Tom Ganser stated that he will need to rework the values to the original purchase value of the assets. Tom added that he has seen plans as high as \$10,000 and as low as \$1,000, so it is up to the Board to decide what amount the plan will be at. Tom stated that he put \$5,000 because that is what most Solid Waste Districts do. Michelle Puckett added that the County's policy is much different, but as far as the Solid Waste District's policy, it is important to have an active list of valuable assets – anything under \$5,000 is much easier to replace than things above the \$5,000 value mark (i.e. vehicles, major equipment, building, etc.). Michelle stated that \$5,000 is an excellent amount to be at, and what the State Board of Accounts recommends. Cary Groninger made a motion to approve the \$5,000 Capital Asset Plan. Bob Conley seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- Possible Sale of the Syracuse Site
 - Tom Ganser stated that since the announcement has gone out about the residential recycling program closure, there have been a few people to approach the District about the sale of the Syracuse property. Tom stated that he had asked Michelle about the procedure on selling the property. Tom added that he would like Scott Reust's opinion on what to do or how to go about selling the property. Scott Reust added that there are many options: list with a realtor, agree on a sale price, online auction, RFP. Tom Ganser stated that the Wawasee Community School Corp. is interested in the property, along with Town of Syracuse, and a private entity – all are interested in purchasing. Rick Swaim asked if there are any downsides of selling the property. Tom stated that there are not many downsides to selling the property, but there are downsides to not selling the property as people may begin dumping at the location. Scott Reust stated a good option may be to get an appraisal, advertise the property for sale, and have a date that the sealed bids are due. Scott stated the property would need to be sold “as is.” Mike Long stated that the property may need to have mentions of the environmental side of things – since it was a recycling drop-off location. Scott stated that he would investigate environmental aspects. Mike Long made a motion to approve the sale of the Syracuse property with sealed bids. Joe Thallemer seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- Old Business
 - 2023 Recycling Drop-Off Program
 - Tom Ganser stated that all of the Clothing and Shoe containers have been pulled from all locations, other than Warsaw. Tom stated that GFL will be starting to pull the 8-yard containers from the properties and put in 30-yard roll-offs within the next week – this will be to expedite the removal process at the end of the year. Tom stated that he had concerns about blowing debris, but GFL assured him that the sites would stay clean. Tom added that he had recently been to the southern sites to put up closure signs and mentioned that they were clean.

- Rick Swaim asked if we will receive a report on how curbside recycling sign-ups are going. Tom stated that he would ask Borden's for that information. Tom added that he is already seeing positive improvements within the county – Stafford's Solid Waste is offering a drop-off area for cardboard, mixed paper, and cans. Tom mentioned that he hopes companies continue to see the need for recycling services in the county.
 - Cary Groninger asked about the conversations that employees at the District have been having with members of the county about the residential recycling drop-off program closure. Tom stated that he has seen positive feedback/conversations. He added that when he is able to explain the reasoning, people understand and saw how contaminated the sites were. Tom stated that he has had a few people ask about a rebate or tax break due to recycling closure but is able to explain the small amount of tax money that the District actually receives (around \$6,000), and people are understanding it. Cary Groninger added that the tax rate was brought to his attention as well and agreed with Tom's explanation. Tom added that he has also had to explain that HHW, electronics, etc. are still accepted at the Depot. Cary mentioned that he would like to take a look into decreasing the prices on HHW, electronics, paint, and other toxic materials in the coming months. Tom agreed. Conversations briefly continued on the topic. Tom ended the conversation by saying that funds received from the landfill have increased (in comparison to recent years past). He also added that Heritage has finally opened back up and we will be sending out lots of materials today – the first time this year.
- Reports
 - Tom Ganser stated the Director and Educator Reports were included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions regarding these reports. There were no questions.
 - Scott Reust
 - Scott Reust stated that he would like to apply for the same position for 2023 that he held in 2022 if the Board approves. Mike Long made a motion to retain Scott Reust. Cary

Groninger seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- Comments and Questions
 - Cary Groninger asked about the new agreement with the GFL Host Fees. Tom Ganser mentioned that we did receive their proposal back in August, but Scott Reust will need to take a deep look into it. Tom Ganser added that GFL is looking to expand the landfill. Discussion on this briefly continued. There were no further questions or comments.
- Adjournment
 - Rick Swaim made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Long seconded the motion, with the board approving.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 17th, 2022, at 11am.