

Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – July 19th, 2022

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

Absent: None

- Call to Order:
 - Brad Jackson called the meeting to order.
- June 2022 Board Minutes
 - Brad Jackson asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the June 2022 Board Meeting. Mike Long made a motion to approve as presented. Bob Conley seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Claims and Financial Report
 - Michelle Puckett presented the claims in the amount of \$64,884.90. The ending checking account balance is \$76,067.56, in addition to the 1.4-million-dollar investment. Bob Conley made a motion to approve claims as presented. Jerry Frush seconded the motion. The board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Cary Groninger began discussion about the 1.4-million-dollar investment discussion that took place at the June 2022 Board Meeting. Groninger asked if Michelle Puckett was keeping an eye on the account. Puckett assured the Board that if the account goes below \$50,000, the initial investment of \$1.4 million will be reduced by \$400,000 – that, in which, will be put into the cash account. Puckett mentioned that until the account is below \$50,000, the longer the investment can be left alone, the more interest it will build. Puckett also stated that the bank balances are checked routinely, each day. Cary Groninger then asked about any penalties associated with early withdraw of the investment. Michelle Puckett stated that the initial investment will become completely matured in February 2023, so there will be a penalty for early withdraw – not a drastic penalty. Mike Long asked if the entire \$400,000 will be taken out at once, or if it will be used like a line of credit. Michelle Puckett mentioned that at the last meeting (June 2022), it was agreed upon by the Board that the entire \$400,000 would be pulled out at once and put into the cash balance due to not knowing how things will play out going into the next year with a new contract and not knowing how the revenues will be coming in. Long asked if there would be less penalty if less was taken from the initial investment. Puckett stated that it is up to the Board of Director's to give her direction as to how much they would like taken from the investment - \$400,000 was the number she was given at the last meeting.

- New Business:
 - Tom Ganser stated that the first item in new business is to discuss the residential drop-off bid specifications. Ganser mentioned that he had sent the specifications out by email to all of the Board members for them to take a look at – nothing has changed much since. Tom Ganser also mentioned that Scott Reust took a look at the specifications, did some edits, and made some changes to the liability portion - \$500,000 to \$1 million/\$2 million on some of the categories. Tom Ganser stated that he would like to get this out in August for the pre-bid meeting to see who is “at the table,” in September have the bid openings, and in October do the award – this should give everyone ample time to get equipment here in preparation for the turn of the year. Tom Ganser asked if there are any questions on the bid specifications. Cary Groninger asked if there would be a way for the containers to be bought by the District and wanted to know if this would be in any way cost-saving. Ganser mentioned that it may be fairly expensive due to the current cost of steel, but he will look into quotes for the containers. Ganser mentioned that his concern with the District owning the bins is that with the increased prevalence of curbside recycling providers, and funding, there may be a need for closure of sites; in turn, this would mean that the District will be sitting on extra, unused containers. Groninger mentioned that most larger providers will have containers; however, if there is a smaller provider that bids, then there may be the possibility of the District needing its own containers. Discussion briefly continued among the Board members on the different types of containers available, advertisement on containers, upkeep/maintenance, cost-savings. Brad Jackson mentioned that it could be put as an option in the contract depending on if it is cheaper to own the containers or not. Tom Ganser stated that he will be following up with them on the container discussion within the next week and let them know what quotes he finds from different providers. Brad Jackson stated he does not want the contract bid to be delayed over the possible container purchase and Tom Ganser stated things are a month ahead of where they were last time the contract was up. Ganser asked if there was any further discussion on New Business – there was none.
- Old Business
 - Cottage Watchman Security Systems
 - Tom Ganser stated that he received a proposal from Cottage Watchman for security systems to be put up at the Syracuse and North Webster drop-off sites. Tom Ganser stated that there is now a system available that uplinks with cellular service, instead of needing a building placed at the site. Ganser stated the quote given was for one site, minus any cost that would be needed to set up electricity to a pole for the site – added to these costs would be a monthly service charge for the cellular service (around \$160 per month, per site). Tom Ganser asked for thoughts and opinions on the matter from the Board members in order to add this into the budget for next year under

recycling station improvements (400-001). The total cost per site would be roughly \$4600. Ganser stated that the results from having cameras at the Depot location drop-off site have made a measurable difference in contamination and dumping. Mike Long asked how much money the cameras may save. Tom Ganser stated that the Syracuse and North Webster sites have a lot of contamination/dumping, so these cameras may cut 10-12 tons of non-recyclables out each month (as much as \$2000 per month). Mike Long made a motion to approve the Cottage Watchman quote and have it added to the 2023 budget for one site - Syracuse. Rick Swaim seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

- GFL Consent of Assignment

- Tom Ganser stated the second part of old business is the Consent of Assignment for GFL. Ganser stated he looked over the contract and had Scott Reust take a look as well. The GFL contract appears to be the same as it was prior to the buyout from Whitley Environmental. Cary Groninger asked about any increases or changes. Tom Ganser stated there were no increases as GFL is just taking over Whitley Environmental. Cary Groninger made a motion to approve the contract. Bob Conley seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously. The contract was signed by Tom Ganser.

- 2023 Budget

- Tom Ganser and Michelle Puckett stated that the 2023 Budget will need to be approved. Michelle Puckett added that the Board of Director's recommendations will go forward to the Council for binding recommendations. Discussion on the budget began. Tom stated the total budget for next year is \$931,769. Brad Jackson asked what the percentage increase would be. The percentage increase worked out to roughly 18%. Brad Jackson asked if everyone was okay with that much of an increase. Cary Groninger and Tom Ganser added that it is hard to tell right now due to inflation and not knowing where the new contract will end up. Michelle Puckett asked when the new contract amount will be known. Tom Ganser answered with October. Michelle Puckett added that before the County Council final adoption of the budget, a more precise number will be known (reduction as necessary). Mike Long made a motion to approve the 2023 budget. Rick Swaim seconded the motion. The Board approved the 2023 budget with a unanimous vote. Brad Jackson added that he was very shocked by the 18% increase and Rick Swaim added that it is the world we live in – costs are going up.

- 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. Ganser added

that the Director and Educator were at the Kosciusko County fair for a lot of hours the week prior. Rick Swaim stated that he continues to appreciate the social media posts as they are getting good information out to the public.

- Comments and Questions
 - Mike Long asked for clarification from Michelle Puckett on the budget and tax rate – how can the differences be made up? Michelle Puckett added that part of the differences can be made up right now with the \$400,000 cash that will be pulled out, but, per the last meeting, the tax rate will be kept low at 0.0001% until the need arises for that to be increased. Puckett also mentioned that the maximum tax rate would collect \$252,000 per year, the lowest tax rate collects about \$6,000 per year. Puckett stated that if the Board members would like to increase the tax rate, then a discussion would need to take place now so that she can put that in when advertising the budget. Discussion continued on the budget and tax rate. Michelle Puckett added that being there are so many current variables on revenue, it is hard to tell where the tax rate may need to be at. Mike Long made a motion to have the highest tax rate available advertised and draw it back as needed. Jerry Frush seconded the motion. The Board approved the highest tax rate advertisement with a unanimous vote.
- Adjournment
 - Bob Conley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Long seconded the motion, with the board approving.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 at 11am.