

WILL COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Immediately following the Forest Preserve Meeting, but not prior to 9:45 a.m.

Will County Office Building – County Board Room
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
September 10, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Moustis called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Bilotta, Adamic, Anderson, Deutsche, Singer, L. Smith, Weigel, Dralle, Wisniewski, Kusta, Goodson, B. Smith, Gould, May, Rozak, Konicki, Seiler, Brooks, Stewart, Winfrey, Babich, Wilhelmi and Moustis.

Absent were Members: Maher, Traynere and Blackburn.

Also Present: B. Friefeld.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: M. Tatroe; M. Manning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Gould led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Waste Management to Present its Methane to Energy Proposal

Mr. Moustis indicated we now have enough capacity in our landfill to start getting energy from the methane gas that comes off of it. This will require some changes to our agreement.

Mr. Addleman stated this county asset is about 5 years old; it opened on January 16, 2004. We are at a point now to bring some recommendations for your consideration. The Prairie View Recycling and Disposal Facility has been a real boom to this county. We are at that point we want to bring forward two green initiatives for your consideration. The first initiative is the methane to electricity plant at the facility; the

second is the leachate recirculation, which enhances the production of methane. We see these recommendations as being appropriate to extend the life and enhance the revenue potential of this facility.

Mr. Paul Pabor, Vice President of Renewable Energy gave the presentation on the methane to electricity plant.

Mr. Wisniewski questioned if they have applied for IL Dept of Commerce funds that are available for energy resource projects.

Mr. Moustis commented the County Executive's Office has been looking at various grants that may be available.

Mr. Ryan replied we have been talking to DCEO about their energy program but primarily the focus of our efforts are on the energy efficiency grants that we know we are eligible for and are moving along in that process. We continue to explore all available grant funding.

Mr. Moustis commented these numbers could change slightly; they are common sense numbers based on what we have today. They could look better down the road.

Mr. Pabor stated the goal is to put as much value in this as possible with minimal risk to the county.

Mrs. Riley left at this juncture.

Mr. Hoekstra gave the presentation on Leachate Recirculation.

Mr. Moustis stated there were restrictions put on the date when the landfill was transferred to Will County. When the arsenal was decommissioned the first thing the federal government did was put in a landfill that was desperately needed for this area. At some point we do have to address the restriction on the years. He understands the restriction on tonnage, but not the restriction on the years. We have had discussions with the County Executive's Office; in our long range planning, we possibly need to do that within the next year.

Mr. Ryan indicated we have had some preliminary discussions on that.

Mr. Moustis commented it is something that is an asset for us.

Mr. Hoekstra stated we show the affects of that with recirculation. You have an asset here; it should be filled to its capacity.

Mr. Moustis commented we do have the restriction that we only take in Will County waste.

Mr. Adamic questioned if we did not have the 23 years restriction, how much more time would be left to fill that to capacity.

Mr. Hoekstra replied we are taking about 760 tons per year right now; if you take that out on a 2% rate you would need an additional 4 to 5 years. Capacity in landfills is a constantly changing number; he cautioned about putting an extended date beyond 2027.

Mr. Babich asked if we do not fill to capacity at 2027, would we look at bringing outside waste.

Mr. Hoekstra answered no; we are restricted from doing that. We would seek to get an extension to close it.

Ms. Konicki asked what the reasons were for initially restricting leachate.

Mr. Moustis commented it had been a problem in all landfills.

Mr. Hoekstra answered it was not widely accepted and understood. The IEPA was just starting to look at this. Yard waste was pulled out as well, which brings in a lot of moisture. The EPA recognized we needed to do something about this while the operator is still managing facility. It is a more accepted technology now. There is an in-depth permit process we have to go through. The fear was how much leachate you allow to be recirculated based on the amount of incoming tonnage and the size of the facility; that was not a known technology at the time. Also the production of methane gas; if the operator is not familiar with that could have been a problem. Some concepts were not really understood when we sited the facility.

Mr. Addleman stated when the documents were prepared the EPA was relatively neutral on this technology. Now that they have looked at this they are proposing this be adopted in suitable sites with reasonable protection. The idea is to have the operator of the site still be on site when the site is fully stabilized. The key is that leachate recirculation quickly decomposes the waste at a much rapid rate and creates that stabilization earlier. And as the land fill ages it begins to dry out. Another reason why we did not address it in the early stages of the landfill is we did not have enough mass to justify that volume going on there; now we are producing sufficient quantities.

Mr. Wilhelmi asked if there are odor problems with the process.

Mr. Hoekstra answered not really because of the way it is managed. We will be able to control any odors that might occur.

Mr. Moustis indicated he would like to recommend the board pass a resolution giving the County Executive the ability to amend the host agreement and negotiate with Waste Management. We will address this at the executive committee.

Mr. Addleman stated we are proud of this facility; this is Waste Management's showplace for the Midwest.

Other Business

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Adamic, second by Mr. Singer, to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION

CARRIES.