

Commissioner Colleen M. Swedyk opened the Public Hearing at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner William F. Hutson was also in attendance. The Public Hearing was for the purpose of consideration of recommended amendments to charges and fees imposed at the Medina County Solid Waste District Facility.

The attendance sheet is attached with the following people in attendance:

- |                            |              |                 |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Beth Biggins-Ramer         | Lynda Bowers | Marc Valentin   |
| Amy Lyon-Galvin            | Scott Miller | Christina Fozio |
| Bob Finnan                 | David Hull   | John Lengacher  |
| Glenn Wojciak              | Don Johnson  | Nino Piccoli    |
| David Williams             | Jeff Boylan  | Robert Patrick  |
| Clayton Minder (1015 a.m.) |              |                 |

*Solid Waste Coordinator Beth Biggins-Ramer* stated that the commissioners set three public hearings to receive public comments on the recommended increases to the charges and fees of the Solid Waste District. The Solid Waste District is not supported by the commissioners’ general fund monies, and fees are to be reasonably established and collected to create sufficient revenues to cover expenses of the entire Solid Waste District operations. She stated that the current rate of \$42 per ton on inbound solid municipal solid waste has been in effect since January 1, 2016, and after three years of operating at that rate, the Sanitary Engineer has recommended to the commissioners a rate increase to \$44.50 per ton. As recommended in a proportional rate increase to the price per bag of refuse delivered to the Solid Waste District Facility, the price from \$1.25 per bag to \$1.30 per bag has also been recommended. Additionally, adjustments to a variety of specialty waste items delivered to the Solid Waste Facility have also been recommended.

Public Comment

*Lynda Bowers* explained that she was around when the Central Processing Facility was constructed and the things that led to that happening. She stated that it appears there is more than an adequate reserve. Mrs. Bowers stated that she understands no decisions have been made, but if there are fees to dispose of items such as TVs, sofas, mattresses and tires, those things will end up in the ditches. She discussed the impact this would have on the township and the residents. She noted that they will stop mowing their berms if they start having trash dumped in them. These are the types of things the county had that led to the CPF and the things we have today. She stated that they are to collect enough money to provide the most effective and efficient services available at the lowest possible cost; not to build up large reserves. Mrs. Bowers inquired about the township cleanup days; Amy Lyon-Galvin answered that they will continue.

In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson, Don Johnson stated that if someone throws a TV in the trash, it goes to the landfill. Mr. Hutson stated that if there are charges to dispose of the TVs, they could end up in places we don’t want them. Jeff Boylan stated that they do not haul TVs or monitors; the residents must make other arrangements to dispose of them.

*Christina Fozio* explained that they administer the Hazardous Materials Team. She cautioned with a charge going for the household hazardous waste to include things such as mercury and mercury-containment equipment, there is a possibility that there could be a cascading event for fire departments and the HazMat team.

*Robert Patrick* inquired about the capital improvements and the increased expenses with the hauler. He stated that it appears without any increase, there would still be a 24 percent fund balance at the end of next year; with the increases, it would raise to 28-29 percent. Scott Miller reviewed the financials, 2019 projections and the capital improvement needs. Mr. Miller explained that the increased expenses with the hauler are due to the contract renewal which included an increase of \$.60 and an increase in volume. Mr. Patrick inquired about the desired reserve percentage; Mr. Miller answered that his goal is to have four months of reserves.

*Nino Piccoli* stated that Commission Friedrich had addressed City Council during the last quarter of 2018 about the Rumpke contract with no mention of the tip fees being even slightly increased. He asked what changed in the last quarter that precipitated the proposal for an increase. Amy Lyon-Galvin answered that the Rumpke contract is not a part of the rate change request that is up for discussion. Part of it is an idea of a philosophical change as it used to be that the primary means of revenue was in the tipping fees; there weren’t charges for the variety of items listed. She explained that the haulers who bring in waste pay per ton and would like to keep their profit margins as large as they can, so they would like to keep that cost as low as they can. The only way to offset that is to introduce fees for some of the other items that have a cost to the District. The Rumpke contract is not relative to this proposal. Mr. Piccoli stated there had been discussion of the tipping fees, and there was no mention by Mr. Friedrich of an increase. There was discussion regarding trash coming from Wayne County and the City of Medina Sanitation Department previously being sued for having excessive fund balances in capital accounts.

There was discussion regarding the increased costs to Wadsworth and Medina cities.

*Clayton Minder* asked if the \$200,000 increase is for the volume in solid waste or for the volume increase in the drop off program. Mrs. Lyon-Galvin stated that it is earmarked for the continued growth of the countywide drop

off program; that contract is based on the amount of times the bins are tipped. An audit is performed quarterly to assess the needs.

Mr. Patrick asked is any of the increase in the single stream cost due to contamination or illegal dumping. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer answered no. In the past 24 months, they have not been charged for contamination by Kimble. If there are items left outside of the containers, the Solid Waste District sends their crew to retrieve it.

*Jeff Boylan* asked when these increases will take affect if approved. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer answered that the date has not been determined, but she anticipates it wouldn't be until at least February or March. Mr. Boylan stated that when the Rumpke contract takes effect, they will be faced with another tipping fee increase of \$10-15 per ton. Mrs. Lyon-Galvin stated that they anticipate there will be another rate increase, but the costs have not been determined. The tipping fee that they are targeting is around \$50 or less under the new contract.

*Don Johnson* explained the process for haulers to pick up TVs and stated that he believes the proposed fees for TV disposal is high, and he believes that we will see more getting dumped on the side of the road and the haulers will be blamed for not picking it up. He asked the commissioners to look again at that number.

Commissioner Hutson stated that if you make it costly for people to do the right things, they are more apt not to. He explained that there are some things on the proposed list they need to look at, but the question becomes how to cover the disposal costs incurred by the Solid Waste District.

*Christina Fozio* inquired about whether there is a way to partner for grant opportunities; she asked for them to reach out to her for whatever they need when it comes to household hazardous waste. She would like to research avenues to lessen what the expense is and perhaps reduce that burden.

*John Lengacher* asked if there have been any discussions or plans of streamlining the scale house process. He suggested a hauler line and a residential line.

*Nino Piccoli* stated that they understand there is a reserve need, but it's a philosophical difference whether it should be two-four months of operating reserves.

*Robert Patrick* asked the commissioners to take a look at the reserves. The reserves could also be used as a rate stabilization tool. He also asked them to take a look at the contractor expenses. He stated he could see a problem with the single stream recycling bins as they have experienced a lot of illegal dumping outside the bins and possible some illegal dumping inside of the bins could be adding to the costs the county is incurring.

Scott Miller stated that they have not had a bin rejected because of contamination. Mrs. Biggins-Ramer confirmed that they have not had one rejected in the past 24 months. Don Johnson explained the process Kimble follows if improper items are left outside of the bins.

Adjournment

Mrs. Swedyk asked if there were any other comments, questions or concerns. There being none, Mr. Hutson moved to adjourn the public hearing; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Swedyk. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all the commissioners voting AYE. The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,	COMMISSIONERS	_____ Patricia G. Geissman
	OF	_____ William F. Hutson
_____ Rhonda Beck Clerk to the Board of Commissioners	MEDINA COUNTY	_____ Colleen M. Swedyk