

Commissioner Pat Geissman opened the Public Hearing at 9:04 a.m. Commissioner Colleen M. Swedyk 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:

Linda Nunn	Beth Biggins-Ramer	Clayton Minder
Joe Nunn	Steve Viny	
Chuck Calvert	Curtis Perkins	
Scott Miller	Bethany Dentler	

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

Steve Viny asked what the extra money is needed for. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that they have had increases in operational costs due to inflationary purposes; they need to right-size the budget. *Scott Miller* stated that since 2016, the cost of operations have increased and projections show that at the end of 2019, if rates have not increased, there will be a deficit of about \$500,000. With an increase, there will still be a deficit, but only about \$46,000. *Mr. Viny* and *Curtis Perkins* requested a copy of the projections.

Curtis Perkins asked how the increases are justified. *Mr. Miller* answered that when looking at the operational costs, including the increased activity at the bins and personnel, rates have not been raised since 2016 to cover any of those costs. *Mr. Perkins* inquired about the same cost for different sized bags. *Mr. Miller* offered to meet with *Mr. Perkins* to discuss; *Mr. Perkins* declined. *Mr. Perkins* stated that he had trucks sitting at the facility last week for an extended period of time. He stated that if they want to raise rates, he expects better service. *Mr. Perkins* noted that if the new contract takes effect, an increase would happen at that time; why can't the increase wait. *Mr. Miller* stated that the increase is requested due to the projected deficit.

Clayton Minder asked if the Solid Waste District has a surplus in the fund right now. *Mr. Miller* answered that the current balance at the end of 2018 was \$2,332,000 which would cover about three months of operations.

Steve Viny inquired about the increase in purchased services and transfer of capital improvements. He stated that the RFP called for reimbursement to the proposer after the work was done. If that related to a Rumpke expense for capital improvements, it shouldn't be due and payable until after the work was completed which would be in 2020. He inquired what the other debt was. He stated that there is a projected loss and an actual loss, maybe they are not in the red. *Mr. Miller* explained that the cost for the bin program has increased due to increased activity. Improvements must also be made to the building. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* noted some of the repairs that need to be made. There was discussion regarding issues with the roof.

Chuck Calvert asked if there is still an outstanding bond issue. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that the first one was paid off, but there is a second one that has not yet been paid.

Steve Viny asked if the county is still planning to stay on the second floor. *Mr. Miller* answered that a list of capital improvements can be provided. *Mr. Minder* asked if the relocation of the Solid Waste Director's offices part of the \$500,000 capital improvements for 2019 and 2020. *Mr. Miller* answered that he does not have an answer at this time.

Chuck Calvert stated that his concern is by charging people for dropping off items that were free in the past would result in these people putting it into their trash, along the street or in the bins.

Joe Nunn inquired about the proposed charge of \$70 to drop off a TV. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that is what they have to pay to process those items. *Mr. Nunn* stated that there will be a lot of TVs dropped on the sides of the roads. *Mr. Calvert* stated that they will end up in the bins.

There was discussion regarding the how the increases were calculated. *Mr. Miller* explained that contract costs increased as has use and activity of the bins.

Mr. Minder asked if the Rumpke rate tied to CPI. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* stated she will look into it.

Mr. Perkins asked if the cost for disposal of TVs and tires are the actual cost. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that the new prices would cover the costs. Some of the prices have not been adjusted since the early 2000s. He stated that the tip fee covered everything. He inquired about a previous maintenance fund. *Mr. Miller* noted that they are looking to increase these fees in order to keep the tipping fee low in hopes that the trash haulers will keep their fees lower for the residents. He asked how the public hearings are advertised. *Rhonda Beck* answered that it was published in the Gazette on December 13, 20 and 27; it is also on the website and the commissioners' agenda.

Bethany Dentler inquired when the new fees would go into effect if the commissioners approve the new fees. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that the effective date has not yet been determined.

Commission Swedyk asked if the hazardous waste drop off days will still be sponsored. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* answered that drop off days are not being continued; hazardous materials are now accepted year-round. They are open three days per week. Specialty waste items are accepted every day they are open.

There was discussion regarding the proposed costs for disposing of items containing refrigerant. *Mr. Viny* asked for clarification on the cost for appliances. *Mrs. Biggins-Ramer* stated that the verbiage needs corrected to small and large for refrigerant removal.

Commissioner Geissman stated that this is the first she has seen this because she wasn't here when it was passed. A couple of things have come to light that she would like to look into.

Adjournment

Mrs. Geissman asked if there were any other comments, questions or concerns. There being none, *Mrs. Swedyk* moved to adjourn the public hearing; the motion was seconded by *Mrs. Geissman*. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all the commissioners voting AYE. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Beck
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Patricia G. Geissman

William F. Hutson

Colleen M. Swedyk