

Commissioner Pat Geissman opened the Public Hearing at 8:32 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. Commissioners Colleen M. Swedyk and William F. Hutson were 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:

Jerry Springer
Curtis Perkins
Glenn Wojciak
Colin Johnson
Don Johnson
Beth Biggins-Ramer

Sanitary Engineer Amy Lyon-Galvin provided a handout of a presentation that was shared with the Solid Waste Policy Committee. She explained three budget scenarios noting that this discussion is based on scenario 2. Mrs. Swedyk asked Ms. Lyon-Galvin to explain generation fees. Ms. Lyon-Galvin explained that a generation fee is a fee that is collected at the first point the waste material generated in Medina County is received. There is waived waste that does not come to our facility because the characteristics of it are such that it cannot be deposited on our transfer station floor. Those with a waiver are allowed to haul that material directly to the landfill. This fee would allow us to collect fees we're not currently collecting on that waived waste at \$5.00 per ton. It would be collected at the first point of receiving and the cost will be remitting back to us. This would generate approximately \$270,000 additional revenue per year. Ms. Lyon-Galvin stated that specifically they are recommending the following changes:

- An increase to the charge imposed at the Solid Waste District Facility for municipal solid waste from \$44.50 per ton to \$50 per ton
- An increase to the charge per bag of refuse delivered to the facility from \$1.30 per bag to \$1.45 per bag
- Elimination of the yard waste voucher program and allowing pass through charge for yard waste be charge to all customers (currently \$21 per ton but will be raised to \$22 per ton with the next contract)
- Elimination of the credit for early payment and institution of late fees for those who do not pay on time

Addition of a \$5.00 generation fee through an accelerated Solid Waste Management Plan amendment process is not included in the resolution as it will come with the ratification process.

Ms. Lyon-Galvin noted that these recommendations received unanimous support from the Solid Waste Policy Committee.

Public Comment

Curtis Perkins inquired about the decreasing carryover balances. Ms. Lyon-Galvin answered that they are deficit spending; they are not collecting enough revenue to pay all of their annual expenses, so they continue to draw from their balances to pay their operating costs. Mr. Perkins asked if this was because of the yard waste; Ms. Lyon-Galvin answered that it is a variety of things including subsidized programs such as yard waste and household hazardous waste. Mr. Perkins stated that it doesn't make sense to subsidize something; you should at least break even. There was discussion regarding how the rates for household hazardous waste disposal was determined and the effort to keeping it affordable as to deter residents from illegal dumping.

Mr. Perkins inquired how many people the Solid Waste District employs in comparison to five years ago; Ms. Lyon-Galvin answered there are currently seven employees and to her knowledge, they have always been close to seven. He asked that Ms. Lyon-Galvin determine how many employees there were prior to the Sum of All Parts program. She stated that under the prior contract, the tipping fee was \$61 per ton and that contractor was responsible for the yard waste and for other programming that the District is now responsible for. It's a lesser priced service with more recycling tonnage and not much of a difference in staffing.

Mr. Perkins inquired about the carryover balance projected for 2035 at \$8M. Ms. Lyon-Galvin explained that GT Environmental is working with them on the creation of the Solid Waste Management Plan update and it is their demonstration to the Ohio EPA that there is a positive cash balance that allows the Solid Waste Management Plan to be approved. Mr. Perkins stated that Mr. Hutson had asked at the Policy Committee meeting that a cost study be conducted to justify a carryover balance that high. Mr. Hutson explained that they are not doing scenario 3; they are looking at scenario 2 which has a \$3M carryover balance. For the size of the operation, you have to have some cushion in there. Mr. Perkins stated that he considers the \$3M carryover balance to be reasonable. Ms. Lyon-Galvin stated that they have talked about continual improvements to the facility; it's been a long time since there have been upgrades to it. They have discussed the creation of a second commercial scale house to streamline operations for the commercial haulers, paving work that needs done, and work they would like to continue to reinvest in the facility responsibly, and this allows them the opportunity moving forward to continue to improve the facility. Mr. Perkins stated that they have already paid for a lot of that. Ms. Lyon-Galvin answered that they haven't paved or upgraded the building in 20+ years. Mr. Perkins stated they are paying the price now for something that should have been done through the years.

Jerry Springer stated it used to be \$61 per ton and they got it down to \$50, but when they were paying \$61 per ton, they took care of all the equipment in the building, and they furnished and repaired the semis; all that is gone. Now you're adding 12 percent. He doesn't know of anybody that got a 12 percent raise anywhere across the country. He can't see the \$50 per ton. You pay for a building and nothing in the building because whoever is coming in the building has furnished the equipment and trucks. The expense of Medina County dropped, yet the dollars is not. Ms. Lyon-Galvin stated that there is a cost associated with the contractual service for the commercial mixed waste processing. This increase in revenue is, in part, to allow them to pay for that additional service they have offered. Mr. Springer stated that he used to say that Medina County is a beautiful county; everybody in Medina County recycles. Not everybody in Medina County recycles anymore. Mr. Springer referenced trash bins sitting everywhere stating we never used to have that. Ms. Lyon-Galvin stated that those are recycling containers and they are the cornerstone of the Solid Waste Management Plan that generates more recyclables recovered in the county than under the prior operation at a lesser cost. Mr. Springer stated that the cost is going to be more. Mr. Hutson noted that so far it not costing more, and \$61 is more than \$50. There are tradeoffs as certain programs have been discontinued and certain programs have been added. Mr. Hutson challenged the assertion that everybody in Medina County recycled. Mr. Springer stated that we had a plant out here where everybody threw their trash in a dumpster and it went through the plant. Mr. Hutson stated that he moved to Medina County in 1992 and he toured the facility several times and was told that 100 percent of the trash brought to the curb was recycled. Mr. Springer stated he never heard 100 percent. Mr. Hutson stated that anytime he talked to anybody about what was going on at that plant, he was told everything put out at the curb gets recycled; Mr. Perkins stated that we were lied to. Mr. Hutson stated that he pushed for a scorecard because he wanted to see what came in and what every function did to reduce that volume and what went where, and the reality of it was the numbers were not as good as we were led to believe. Mrs. Geissman stated that there were so many different figures and she always heard 40 percent; never 100 percent. She recalled Steve Hambley had claimed 6 percent. She stated that there was something in the contract that did not allow him to at a certain point take anything to the landfill and some of it did stay on the floor overnight. Mr. Hutson added that he's not saying anybody did anything wrong, but from a public perception standpoint, the public was led to believe that the recycling rate was not what they said it was and we were paying dearly for it. Mr. Springer stated that at \$50 a ton, if we don't have enough money, we're going to add more money. Ms. Lyon-Galvin noted that we're not here to debate the strategies of the Solid Waste District from five years ago to today; we're here to hear public comments related to the recommended amendments to the fees for current operations.

Mr. Perkins stated that the fees are probably fair, but he wouldn't want to see them go much higher than that. He complimented that the dumping situation at the District has greatly improved greatly with the changes that have occurred.

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 9:00 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