

Valley County Refuse District #1 Board Meeting

Valley County Courthouse Community Room

Sept 19, 2023

Call to Order: Board Chairman Paul Tweten called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Board members present included Paul Tweten, John Fahlgren and Mary Armstrong.

Also in attendance were USACE representative Michelle Fromdahl, Mark and Char Arneson, Refuse District Manager Brian Austin and T&R Trucking representative Rocky Thompson.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Elect Chairman for FY2024: Mary moved to reelect Paul Tweten as Board Chair; John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mary moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; Paul seconded; motion passed with John abstaining due to absence from the last meeting.

T&R Report: Rocky reported that they have been busy but pretty much business as usual.

Finance Report: (thru August 2023)

Capital Improvement fund: \$400,000.

Unrestricted cash: \$397,279.

Expenses YTD: \$159,178.

Revenues YTD: \$55,052.

Brian asked the Board what financial reports we wanted for the Board meeting, and he was advised that they want unrestricted cash, expenses YTD and revenues YTD.

Paul asked Brian about several invoices for out-of-county disposal streams that come into the landfill. Specifically, he asked about Fort Kipp and reconciliation between the material report and the actual revenue received by the County. Brian advised that he would ask Darcia about it and get back with the

Board. Brian also explained that the computer needs to be updated with the correct charges for out of county waste streams because it was defaulted to the Valley County disposal charge. He also advised that individual contractors doing out of county construction jobs get charged an upfront fee of \$200 and then are charged \$30 per ton per individual job. John recommended that we should make sure to look at construction material fees when we evaluate rate schedules.

Mary asked that the minutes include an update on the FY23 expenses after the County's FY2023 books were closed by Olness and Associates in September. FY23 expenses were \$1,218,526 for the Refuse District as opposed to \$1,293,323 as reported in the July 2023 minutes.

Manager's report: Brian reported that they suspect that their water cistern is leaking due to the high volume of water they are going through. Mary moved to authorize Brian to get the system fixed if the total cost is above his \$5000 spending authority. John seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brian also reported that there is a fuel leak in the Cat track loader. He does not know what the fix will involve but the T&E representative estimated the cost between \$7500 and \$12,500. John moved to get the loader sent to Great Falls for repair when T&E can schedule it in. Mary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brian advised that the crew is busy prepping the landfill for winter.

Assessment update: Paul reported that Dylan is sending another letter to the US Border Patrol in continued effort to get them to pay their refuse district assessment for the facilities at the border.

Michelle Fromdahl, USACE, asked the Board if the USACE could pay the portion of the Refuse District assessment that is currently collected by T&R through T&R until T&R's contract with them is up in another 1.5 years. The USACE would like to get an invoice from the Refuse District for the remainder of the assessment that is due based on the latest rate update. When the USACE/T&R Trucking contract is renewed, T&R will only charge the USACE for transportation, and the District assessment will be paid directly by the USACE to the Refuse District. If the assessment is less than \$10,000, the USACE does not have to have a contract with the District in order to pay the assessment. If it's more than \$10,000, a contract will have to be established.

Brian agreed to work with the USACE to provide the billing detail that USACE needs to pay the remainder of the assessment that they are not paying through T&R Trucking. The Board thanked Michelle for coming to the meeting to work directly with us.

Discuss container site improvement/determine next steps: Brian reported that he had not completed the review of the container sites with T&R. He estimated that it will be done in the Spring, 2024. He advised that some of the sites, like Oswego, will need some gravel prior to Spring.

Discuss mowing State ROW on Highway 24: Mary asked Brian why the crew mowed the ROW on Highway 24 between Highway 2 and the landfill access road. Brian advised that they do it so they can see the trash, and so that it looks better. Mary said that she is concerned with the safety of the crew on the State Highway. She moved to discontinue the practice of mowing on the State highway. There was no second to the motion. Discussion continued about the safety of the mowing crew. Brian said that he would look at the process and consider flagging and/or other potential steps to ensure the safety of the crew.

Public Comment: Char Arneson commented that it might be helpful if the secretary for the Refuse District attended the Board meetings since she is the person that does the billing.

Chairman Tweten adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be on October 17, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.



Paul Tweten, Refuse Board Chairman