

Valley County Refuse District #1  
Board Meeting  
Valley County Community Room  
December 20, 2022 – 3:00 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Tweten, John Fahlgren, Mary Armstrong

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darcia Schindler – Administrative Assistant, Brian Austin – Refuse District Manager, Rocky Thompson – T&R Trucking

Chairman Paul Tweten called the meeting to order.

Chairman Tweten asked for public comment.

The November 15, 2022, meeting minutes and were reviewed.

**John Fahlgren moved to approve November 15, 2022, minutes.**

**Paul Tweten seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The November/December 2022, claims were reviewed.

**John Fahlgren moved to approve November/December claims.**

**Mary Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Finance Report**

Unrestricted Cash as of 11/30/2022 - \$482,602.97  
Accounts Payable as of 11/30/2022 - \$32,071.71  
Accounts Receivables as of 11/30/2022 - \$25,175.46

**Mary Armstrong moved to accept the November minutes financial report. John Fahlgren seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**REFUSE DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT - -**

- \*\* Snow, more snow, plowing snow.
- \*\* Signs up in Frazer.

**T&R REPORT - -**

- Lots of snow
- Frazer, Oswego was blown in. Took a skid-steer a clean up sites for five hours.
- Have had some truck issues because of the cold.

**ASSESSMENT UPDATE - -**

Daniels County Commissioner's called the Valley County Commissioner's about hauling garbage to Valley County Refuse District. Mr. Fahlgren stated they Daniels County Commissioner's seemingly, all of a sudden, didn't know Daniels County Landfill was running out of space and Barry Damschen Consulting does both Daniels County and Valley County landfills. Mr. Fahlgren is worried about the life of the Valley County Refuse District life span under Mr. Damschen. Refuse Manager, Brian Austin stated there is 129 years of life span left at Valley County Refuse District and he made the Valley County Commissioner aware in the spring of 2022 he had stated at a meeting that he had received a phone call about bringing garbage from Daniels County to the Valley County Landfill because Daniels County was starting to look at different options because the landfill was nearing the end. Mr. Austin also stated as far as he was aware Daniels County has just signed a contract with Barry Damschen Consulting to open a new cell. Mr. Austin also stated, this isn't new news to Daniels County, they have been aware of this for a while.

Rocky Thompson from T&R Trucking also received a phone call about a year ago for a quote on hauling Daniels County's garbage to either Valley County or Wolf Point.

Ms. Armstrong said Commissioners from Daniels County called them and were not aware of the problem. Mr. Austin explained the little bit of garbage Daniels County would take is nothing, and Valley County already has the facility, the men, the equipment, and the fuel. Anything after that is disposable income for Valley County.

Mr. Fahlgren stated that's all fine and well to trust Barry Damschen Consulting's work, but it alarmed him that all of sudden Daniels County needs to scramble to find a solution. He feels that maybe there needs to be a second opinion on the life of the landfill. Secretary, Ms. Schindler explained you have to send a report in every year to get the figure to pay on closure/post closure. The report takes the amount of garbage the landfill receives for the year and the life span left to get the figure to pay into closure/post closure. Also, she stated the Mr. Damschen does 18 of the 23 landfills in the state of Montana. DEQ also looks over the report yearly to make sure the life span and figure are correct. Ms. Armstrong said, Daniels County's concern is they don't have enough money so they will have to raise their assessment absorbingly. Again Mr. Fahlgren felt a second opinion was needed. Ms. Schindler feels it would be a waste of money since the life span is figured yearly between Barry Damschen Consulting and DEQ. Commissioners asked for the report on the closure/post closure be brought to the next meeting.

There is a potential to trade some land with the state by the landfill which could give more life to the landfill. Would need to have permission from DNRC to take soil samples.

**John Fahlgren moved to contact DNRC to get access to the land to do soil samples and see if the soil is clay, so there wouldn't be any need to use a liner. Mary Armstrong seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

End of Report

**OLD BUSINESS:**

END OF OLD BUSINESS

**NEW BUSINESS**

Daniels county is considering bringing the landfill waste from Daniels County to Valley County Refuse District. There has been some discussion under assessment updates. Ms. Armstrong stated that the three commissioner's and one Refuse Board member from Daniels County called the commissioners office to discuss the cost of bringing the garbage to Valley County Refuse District. Daniels County has also looked into Sheridan County and Roosevelt County. The cost was the cheapest at Valley County.

Mr. Fahlgren is concerned that the residents of Valley County are subsidizing the out of county customers bringing in the garbage to Valley County. It's a concern on how to do an economic analysis of out of county rates. Ms. Armstrong thinks one needs to be done. Mr. Tweten also feels one needs to be done. Mr. Tweten would like to see Great West Engineering come and do a whole new study. To see what we should be charging and charging for out of county. Ms. Armstrong also think the commissioners need to follow up with Daniels County commissioners just to touch base after the discussion of the refuse regular meeting. Mr. Fahlgren stated what Phillips County and Jordan are paying could be the wrong amount and the refuse doesn't want to tell Daniels County that Valley County would take their garbage at the wrong rate. Valley County would be willing to help them out while Daniels County is in a bind.

**Mary Armstrong moved to bring in Great West Engineering to do a complete economic evaluation on the landfill rates, both internally and externally. John Fahlgren seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

END OF NEW BUSINESS

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Tweten asked for public comment.

**Mary Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting. John Fahlgren seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned 3.45 PM



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Paul Tweten, Chairman



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Darcia Schindler, Secretary

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*Next meeting will be January 17, 2023, 4:00 PM*