

Valley County Refuse District #1 Board Meeting

Valley County Commissioners Office

October 17, 2023

Call to Order: Board Chairman Paul Tweten called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Board members present included Paul Tweten, John Fahlgren and Mary Armstrong.

Also in attendance was Refuse District Manager Brian Austin.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: John moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; Mary seconded; motion passed unanimously.

T&R Report: There was no T&R report.

Finance Report, tonnages from container sites, out-of-County Contracts; other tonnage across scale:
(thru September 2023)

Brian provided the Board with finance, container tonnage, and materials by category across the scales. The Board reminded Brian to bring the financials for the prior month end (through September for the October meeting).

Capital Improvement fund: \$400,000.

Unrestricted cash: \$327,096.08

Expenses YTD: \$259,644.53

Revenues YTD: \$79,429.80

Commissioner Tweten showed Brian the finance reports that are requested by the Board. Brian advised that he had to get the reports from the Treasurer's office. He said that he has never pulled the reports from the Black Mountain system.

Manager's report: Brian advised that they are moving dirt to stockpile, moving portable fences around as the wind shifts, and generally getting ready for winter. They will burn some tree piles once snow is on the ground.

He reported that the scraper has an issue with the throttle and he is working on getting it diagnosed. He is also looking for a tank for the track loader.

Brian reported that he has contacted Michelle Fromdahl, USACE, but has not been able to meet with her to get her the information she needs to complete billing details for the USACE refuse streams.

Assessment update: Brian was unsure if the refuse district assessment updates have been provided to the Treasurer for this year's tax bills. Valley County Treasurer Brenda Anderson came into the meeting to advise that she had the updated assessment information, reflecting the past year refuse volumes by business. She advised that assessments increased by approximately \$6500 over the prior year.

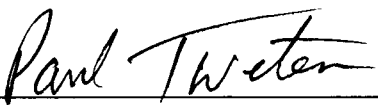
The Board discussed the exemption request from Jon Bengochea on his vacant lot in Glasgow. Brian advised that the Board granted the exemption on February 16, 2021, prior to the reorganization of the Board. At that time, County Attorney Dylan Jensen had advised the Board that he did not know of a legal way to "grant an exemption" of the refuse district fees. Administrative Assistant Darcia Schindler asked the Treasurer to remove the assessment from the FY23/24 lot tax bill because it was not removed in 2021. Chairman Tweten advised that the upcoming CIP/Rate Study will address the assessment of vacant lots.

Discussion on CIP/Rate Study: Chairman Tweten advised that Bob Church, Great West Engineering, has not heard anything back from the State of Montana on the Valley County grant application.

Discuss container site improvement/determine next steps: Brian advised that he had not been out to evaluate the container sites for improvement requirements. He said that Oswego needs groundwork to remove mud, oversize rock to backfill and gravel. Frazer needs gravel. He said that T&R and Fossum were too busy to address issues. Commissioner Fahlgren confirmed with Brian that Valley County Refuse District is responsible for maintaining the container sites. The Board and Brian discussed renting equipment if we cannot get a contractor to perform the work in time for winter. Brian estimated that Oswego needs 40 to 50 yards of oversize rock and 50 to 60 yards of gravel.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Chairman Tweten adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting will be November 21, 2023.



Paul Tweten, Refuse Board Chairman