



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

June 7, 2018

8:30 AM

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Meeting Room Chambers
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Vonk, Brieve, Yonker, Janes, Koorndyk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Skaggs, Bulkowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Kristen Weiland, Communications & Marketing Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Pat Greve, Area Manager Public Sector Solutions at Arrowwaste Inc.; James Hurt, Director of Public Services at City of Grand Rapids; Michael Kransz, Reporter from Mlive.com

I. Call to Order

Chairman Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes
- B. Approval of Monetary Outlays

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment

James Hurt, Director of Public Services at City of Grand Rapids, 201 Market Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 discussed the proposed 2019 Operations Budget, specifically regarding the increased tipping fee at the Recycling & Education Center. Also, he discussed reviewing other options and gave an example to increase the fee over a few years to help offset the cost.

IV. Accounting & Finance

A. 2019 Operations Budget Presentation – Action Request

Director Baas reviewed the action request and presented the 2019 Operations Budget. The 2019 budget anticipates elimination of the solid waste exchange agreement and resulting tipping fee increase at the North Kent Transfer Station and increases in Recycling Center service fees to cover significant commodity revenue shortfalls. Here are other highlights from the presentation:

- Provides two new positions:
 - Resource Recover Specialist – Recycling & Education Center (REC)
 - Operations Supervisor – North Kent Transfer Station
- Maintain \$50 tip fee for 2019 at the Waste to Energy (WTE) Facility.
- The WTE Facility Rate Stabilization funds are fully utilized in 2018 budget and \$900,000 in unrestricted reserves are used to cover 2019 budget shortfall.
- Although DPW brokers to domestic markets, in the past 10 months, DPW has lost \$1 million in commodity revenue due to China import policies.
- Staff recommends an increase from \$35/40/45 to \$65/70/75 to stabilize operating revenues. Contracts with waste haulers requires 6-month notice.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve the Department of Public Works 2019 Budget for submittal to County Administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Director's Report

A. Michigan Technical University (MTU) – Guest Lecture in October

Director Baas discussed that he has been invited to present at MTU in October.

B. MTU – Planning Grant for an NSF-ERC proposal on Center for Zero Solid Waste

Director Baas discussed that he has been invited to join the MTU Planning Grant for an NSF-ERC proposal on Center for Zero Solid Waste.

C. Solar Evaluation – REC

Director Baas discussed that he and Nic VanderVinne, Manager of the REC is researching the possibility of placing Solar Panels on the roof of the REC Facility.

D. Closed Landfill – Methane Gas Recovery Evaluation

Director Baas discussed that Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager is researching to see if the methane gas from the closed landfill can be cleaned and used as natural gas.

E. WTE Combustion Ash Mining

Director Baas discussed the two requests for information received to mine the ash from the WTE Facility. A recommendation will be provided by the end of the year.

F. WTE Front End Processing – Conceptual Design Report

Director Baas provided the WTE Front End Processing Conceptual Plan for review.

G. Metro Mayors WTE Tour – June 18

Director Baas discussed the tour on June 18, 2018 with the Metro Mayors.

VI. Miscellaneous

None.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.