



**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**May 6, 2021**

**8:30 AM**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Bulkowski, Janes, Ponstein

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Administrator; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Constance Westgate, Environmental Engineer Technician; Katelynn Kirkstra, Resource Recovery Specialist; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Isaac Thaler, Recycling Facility Supervisor; Calvin Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; Craig Paull, Indigent Defense Administrator/Attorney Administrator/Controller; John Van Tholen, Van Tholen & Associates; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; James Hurt, City of Grand Rapids; Diane Druckenmiller, Arrowwaste; Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications; Bob Swain, City of Grand Rapids

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair Emily Brieve.

**II. Consent Agenda**

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

**Motion**

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

The Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Janes, Bulkowski, Ponstein

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** None

### **III. Waste to Energy Facility Operations**

- A. WTE Transfer Trailer – AR
- B. Director Baas reviewed the action request. Two existing open-top transfer trailers used for reject/bulky waste hauling for the Waste-to-Energy facility are at the end of useful life and require replacement. The Department of Public Works, through the Kent County Purchasing Division, solicited proposals (RFP 4330) for two (2) steel, 120 cubic yard live floor, open-top transfer trailers. Two proposals were received as follows:
  - Warren Equipment \$202,000
  - Spector Manufacturing \$210,856

Staff recommends proceeding with the purchase from Warren Equipment as a result of the competitive bid process. The Department has an approved Capital Improvement budget for the purchase of the proposed equipment.

Pursuant to Kent County Purchasing policy and procedures, the Kent County Purchasing Division will trade in or sell via public auction the two (2) retired open-top trailers.

#### **Motion**

It was moved by Commissioner Ponstein and seconded by Commissioner Bulkowski to award the purchase of two (2) steel, 120 cubic yard live floor, open-top transfer trailers for the Waste to Energy facility to Warren Equipment for the total amount of \$210,856.00 and authorize the Director to execute the associated contract documents.

The Consent Agenda was approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:** Commissioners Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Greene, Janes, Bulkowski, Ponstein

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** None

### **IV. Accounting & Finance**

- A. 2020 Financial Review  
Director Baas discussed the 2020 Financial Report from the eight PowerPoint slides. Here are some highlights from the presentation:
  - The Department of Public Works (DPW) is governed by the Board of Public Works. We have 60 employees that work for the department and we also have additional

20 workers that work through a temp agency. The Waste to Energy facility is operated by Covanta with 39 employees.

- The overall budget for 2020 is approximately \$41 million. DPW's budget is broken down into three significant areas:
  - Administration, \$1.7 million
  - Solid Waste, \$15 million
  - Waste to Energy, \$24 million
- During the pandemic, the Recycling and Education Center was temporarily closed until we were able to put barriers in place and provide masks for staff.
- At North Kent, we finalized the PFAS design facility and we are currently in the construction phase.
- The new paper screens approved by the Board in 2019 was install at the Recycling and Education Center in March.
- The storm water management system at the South Kent Landfill was refurbished and completed.
- The Waste to Energy (WTE) operations continues to operate in a deficient. DPW has been recommending and will be recommending that we bring this operation to a break even in June for the 2022 Budget to ensure we are covering our costs. DPW is an enterprise fund and we are not supported with tax or general fund dollars.
- DPW is impacted by the commodity revenue as petroleum becomes inexpensive and mixed paper is selling for \$0.00 to \$50.00 a ton. The Recycling and Education Center lost nearly \$1.5 million dollars and we backstopped it with landfill revenues. We have been doing this for a number of years and are looking to reduce this reliance on the Landfill because it has a limited life.

#### **V. Director's Report**

Director Baas provided brief updates:

- The footings are being poured on the new Administrative Building.
- DPW has received five proposals for the new operator at the Waste to Energy Facility. Within a couple of months, we hope to bring recommendations to the Board of Public Works.

#### **VI. Public Comment/Miscellaneous**

Chair Brieve mentioned a hybrid meeting option for the June meeting.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.