



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

January 10, 2020

8:30 AM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Antor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Vonk

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Kristen Wieland, Marketing & Communications Manager; Lauren Westerman, Resource Recovery Specialist; Katelynn Nettler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Isaac Thaler, Resource Recovery Specialist; Craig Paull, Assistant Corporate Counsel II; John Van Tholen, Van Tholen & Associates; Steve Faber, Byrum & Fisk; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Brieve called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and Director Baas opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

II. Election of Officers

A. Election of Chairman (Resolution 1-20)

Commissioner Antor moved the adoption of the following resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Janes.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Brieve is elected Chairperson of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2020.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Antor

ABSENT: Commissioners Vonk

NAYS: None

Commissioner Brieve chaired the remainder of the meeting and opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

B. Election of Vice Chairman

Commissioner Janes moved the adoption of the following resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Yonker.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Vonk is elected Vice Chairperson of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2020.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Antor

ABSENT: Commissioners Vonk

NAYS: None

C. Election of Secretary

Commissioner Janes moved the adoption of the following resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Antor.

BE IT RESOLVED that Commissioner Yonker is elected Secretary of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2020.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Antor

ABSENT: Commissioners Vonk

NAYS: None

D. Election of Deputy Secretary

Commissioner Janes moved the adoption of the following resolution which motion was supported by Commissioner Brieve.

BE IT RESOLVED that Darwin Baas is elected Deputy Secretary of the Kent County Board of Public Works for the calendar year 2020.

The resolution was adopted with the following vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brieve, Janes, Skaggs, Yonker, Bulkowski, Antor

ABSENT: Commissioners Vonk

NAYS: None

III. Consent Agenda

A. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Skaggs and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve the November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Monetary Outlays

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Janes and seconded by Commissioner Yonker to approve the Monetary Outlays.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Accounting & Finance

A. Power Purchase Agreement Surety Bond – AR

Director Baas reviewed the action request. Kent County Board of Public Works entered into a 20-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Consumers Energy (CE) for purchase of electrical generation from the Waste to Energy facility.

DPW is required to provide early termination security in the amount of \$1,675,000, securing the DPW's obligation to sell energy to Consumers pursuant to the PPA in the form of a surety bond, letter of credit, one-time escrow payment or monthly escrow payments. Both Corporate Counsel and Fiscal Services recommended use of a surety bond as security.

Fiscal Services solicited four proposals to provide a surety bond and recommends Argonaut Insurance Company that best meets the requirements for providing the required surety.

This resolution requests the Kent County Board of Commissioners enter into an agreement with Argonaut Insurance Company for the surety bond. All costs associated with the surety bond will be the responsibility of the DPW. Funds are available in the 2020 Waste to Energy budget to cover these costs. The 2020 expense is estimated at \$7537.50.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Janes and seconded by Commissioner Yonker to request the Kent County Board of Commissioners enter into a general agreement of indemnity to obtain a surety bond required by the power purchase agreement as early termination security for sale of energy at the Waste-to-Energy facility.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Director's Report

Director Baas discussed the Recycling Map projected on the screen. DPW has been working with the waste hauler industry to collect information on access to curbside recycling. DPW will continue to develop the map and inform the Board on our findings.

Director Baas shared an email from Grand Rapids resident:

Dar,

I write to let you know of the remarkable job one of your employees did today with the group I was in. Lauren Westerman has several traits that serve her very well in her education role: interaction skills (a natural teacher), enthusiasm and friendliness, and mastery of her material. She is an ideal person to interact with the public, no matter if pre-school or senior citizens (and everything in between). It's a great story that she gets to present regarding the County's solid waste management efforts.

I was part of an adult life-long learning group associated with Aquinas College, and Lauren wasn't phased by any of the questions (whether the stupid ones she's heard a million times before or the thoughtful ones that she had to think about for a few moments). Now she was probably preaching to the choir today about resource management but the takeaway was much important information and renewed commitment to steward our local community (and by extension our planet).

The Education component of your Wealth Street facility is a wonder and much needed one. I applaud your efforts to reach out to the public to instill awareness and to modify/channel behavior in more

environmentally sensible ways. It was eye-opening today but a blast as well. Thanks. Your department's efforts are appreciated.

Michael Kopinski
Happy to be a Grand Rapids resident

VI. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

Commissioner Brieve shared her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chair to the Board of Public Works. There are a couple of things she would like to focus on: the fruition of the Sustainable Business Park and putting together a steering committee. The steering committee will consist of representatives from local units of government and here are a few things the group would look at:

- a) Rate equity
- b) Access and participation in residential recycling
- c) Composting and organic waste
- d) Encouraging more business and multi-family recycling
- e) Construction and demo debris recycling
- f) Expansion or front-end process at Waste-to-Energy Facility
- g) Sustainable Business Park

In February, Commissioner Brieve and Director Baas will provide an update to the Executive Committee. Also, there will be a Public Works work session in the near future to discuss topics outlined above.

Commissioner Brieve also discussed meeting with local officials on a quarterly basis in different areas of the county to provide DPW information and learn about needs. The suggestion came from Commissioner Antor.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.