

**DRAFT COPY Landfill Committee Meeting  
6/6/2016, Mayor's Conference Room**

**Meeting was called to order** by Commissioner Dietz at 6:00 PM

**Roll call:** Commissioners Acuff, Collins, Dietz, Hill, Miller, VonCannon and Ward were present.  
Commissioner Simerly was absent.

**Approval of minutes of previous session and agenda:**

Motion by Ward, seconded by Hill to approve the agenda passed by acclamation.  
Motion by Hill, seconded by Ward to approve minutes from previous session as amended to reflect the date of Hazardous Waste day as May 7 (note: this was correct in the May minutes) passed by acclamation.

**Public Comments:** None were brought forth.

**Old Business:**

The Chair recognized Director Lyons who informed the committee that construction of the metal buildings for oil recycling are complete and ready to go, pending inspection at Roan Mountain and Little Milligan convenience centers as well as at the transfer station. There was also some discussion about the fact that Carter County is one of very few counties that contributes no tax funding to landfill operations, and that the Landfill Committee is actually the in charge of management of the landfill.

**New Business:**

The Chair recognized Mr. Edward Jordan, who updated the committee on the efforts and accomplishments of his Carter County Proud initiative. Mr. Jordan stated that the group is headed in the right direction, and that he is hopeful that the Chamber of Commerce will take over and sponsor the initiative's efforts to become part of the Keep Tennessee Beautiful franchise. He went further to explain that other cleanup organizations in the county had expressed interest in coming under this umbrella to provide a streamlined approach to litter control county wide. Mr. Jordan expressed observations that the current "pay as you go" approach to trash disposal in Carter County was a major contributing factor to our litter problem, and that he believes that pennies should be added to the ad valorem tax rate to subsidize landfill operations and counter this problem. He expressed praises for our landfill director and stated that he does an impressive job with the resources available to him that far exceeds expectations, using the phrase "worth his weight in gold" at one point. Jordan went on to speak about the fact that the life expectancy of our landfill right now is seven years, and that his research indicated a timeline of over eight years for establishing a new landfill and getting through the permitting process, making planning for the next landfill a critical need. A question and answer session with our guest followed. Commissioner Miller commented about the working class not being able to afford to pay to dispose of household waste. Director Lyons spoke about some alternative methods for landfill funding that wouldn't add to the tax rate, such as "flow control" which is passage of an ordinance requiring all commercial trash businesses to use the Carter County transfer station as a condition of operating within the county. Mr. Lyons went on to state that by law, Carter County is required to provide a means for citizens to dispose of household waste, and that the permitting process for a new landfill site would be more costly than building a new school. He also informed the committee that there was some acreage in the back of the existing landfill site that could, if opened, extend the life of the current facility by an additional 15 years. Commissioner Lewis, who was in attendance, asked about the Chamber's role in keep TN Beautiful. Mr. Jordan made a recommendation to institute a tariff on commercial trash operations and out of town individuals. Commissioner Ward stated that it sounded like we were asking Mr. Lyons to devise a five year plan of action to identify potential new landfill sites, and a recommendation to bring in CTAS was made by someone in the room. Commissioner Acuff inquired about the cost of lining the 20 acres to put in service, and Lyons estimated the cost at approximately 3 million dollars.

**Director Lyons' Report:**

Director Lyons informed the committee of a recent incident where he was asked for assistance from the Elizabethton City Water and Sewer Director. The city needed our assistance in hauling approximately 70,000 gallons of over chlorinated water for re-treatment with the landfill tanker truck. The water had to be transported to the treatment facility because it couldn't otherwise be disposed of without possible harm to wildlife and the ecosystem. Lyons asked for compensation for fuel and staff hours to which the city readily agreed.

Lyons also reported on a recent meeting in Johnson City for the tire hub, where he learned that TDEC desires to open a permanent household hazardous waste site in our region that would be paid for with grant funding. Among the requirements for this operation that would be paid through grant funding are an onsite chemist with an annual salary in the \$85,000 range and approximately \$500,000 for a building. Lyons stated that a private entity could feasibly perform this function, mentioning Eastman Chemical Company as an example.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Ward inquired about the performance of the Little Milligan Convenience Center, and Mr. Lyons reported that usage and revenue was trending much higher than the previous location, and recycling is skyrocketing for plastic and cardboard. The question of glass recycling came up again with the usual response. Commissioner Hill reported of a great amount of interest being expressed within the Roan Mountain community regarding school recycling sites. Lyons reported that the recycle percentage county wide was currently trending above 30% which is much higher than the state's minimum target of 25%.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05