

Carter County Landfill Committee
February 6, 2017
Carter County Courthouse, Mayor's Conference Room

Meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Commissioner Dietz. Commissioners Collins, Dietz, Hill, Miller, Peters, VonCannon and Ward were present. Commissioner Simerly was absent.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Hill to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed by acclamation.

Motion by Ward, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes of the previous session. Motion passed by acclamation.

When the chair opened the floor for public comments, none were brought forth.

Under "Unfinished Business", the committee was informed by landfill director Lyons that the progress report on county wide recycling was completed and submitted to the state. This year's numbers include previously unsubmitted data from Snap-On Tools, Fidelitone, International Paper, which increased the recycling percentage for Carter County. Currently 25% is still the state recycling threshold for 2017, but this number will likely increase for 2018. Director Lyons went on to state that without surveying businesses and industries in the County, we would barely meet 10% for overall recycling. The committee was also reminded of Household Hazardous Waste Day on May 13, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the recycling center.

Under "New Business", the committee learned that the tire hub is disbanding. Washington County has pulled out as of January 1, 2017. The Landfill Director is negotiating with Patriot Tire and initiating the bid process to access tire disposal services for Carter County. Director Lyons stated that the real challenge would be to find a place for tire retailers to dispose of their tires, and without the opportunity for proper tire disposal we could expect instances of roadside dumping to become more frequent. Currently, the Carter County Sheriff's Department brings in 30-40 tires each day the litter grant cleanup detail cleans up the county Right Of Ways.

The next discussion pertained to the need for a feasibility study on possibly establishing a new Landfill post closing of the current one. A motion was made by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Ward to request a meeting with the CTAS environmental expert to explore post closure options as well as steps to stretching out the remaining lifespan of the existing landfill. Motion passed by acclamation.

The Chair then gave the floor to Mr. Edward Jordan of "Carter County Proud", who informed the committee of an upcoming public service announcement campaign on litter reduction. Jordan went on to describe how his organization was in process of re-organizing to more closely match the organizational structure of Keep America Beautiful. Jordan claims that he is working on recruiting student volunteers from county school system, and initiating awareness campaigns. Commissioner Ward pointed out that the Carter County Schools had been implementing and improving recycling and litter reduction campaigns ongoing basis at least since 2014 when he came into office. Jordan went on to importune the county to give preference to his litter initiatives over other volunteer service groups' projects. He went on to inform the committee that his next "big move" would be a meeting with the Carter County Chamber's voting board in April, and that his funding was in an escrow account at the Chamber until such time as he could get organized. He then spoke of intentions to begin litter cleanup along the Tweetsie Trail, and was reminded by a committee member that the City of Johnson City

already performed maintenance on the Tweetsie Trail in conjunction with Elizabethton public works. Mr. Jordan concluded his presentation by demanding "free days" at the Landfill in order to facilitate dumping litter collections by Carter County Proud at no cost. Director Lyons spoke about the strain on staff and infrastructure, as well as the expense to the landfill program resulting from past "free days" at the Landfill (The last "free day" at the landfill came at a cost of close to \$60,000 in disposal fees with no revenue to offset expenses). Commissioner Hill suggested that Mr. Jordan might consider deploying his volunteer corp to alleviate some of the stress on landfill staff, should a "free day" be considered, but the suggestion was immediately rejected.

A motion was made, but then withdrawn by Commissioner VonCannon to request a \$60,000 allocation from the budget committee to fund a "free day" at the landfill. Mr. Jordan then agreed to work with Director Lyons toward finding a solution that would work for all parties, and develop a proposal to bring to the March committee meeting.

During the Commissioner Comments portion of the meeting, Commissioner John Lewis, who was visiting, informed the committee of a recycling report he had seen on TV about Lebanon, Tennessee. In Lebanon, recyclables are collected from a 65 mile radius and this results in positive cash flow for their solid waste ops

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

respectfully submitted by Mike Hill, recording secretary