

**Minutes from the Landfill Committee Meeting held in the courtroom of the courthouse on Aug 5, 2019**

Members Present: Sonja Culler, Dr. Bob Acuff for Mark Blevins, Ginger Holdren, Charlie VonCannon, Gary Bailey, Robin McKamey, Nancy Brown, and Austin Jaynes

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Culler

Motion to approve the agenda with one addition under new business (possible fee for exposed debris) was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Nancy Brown. Motion carried with all ayes.

Minutes were read individually. Motion to accept minutes was made by Charles VonCannon and seconded by Austin Jaynes. Motion carried with all ayes.

**Public Comments:**

Connie Ford, an 8 year employee of the landfill, spoke on behalf of Director Benny Lyons stating that he would give you the shirt off his back and he doesn't deserve the bad publicity he has received of late.

Bo Lyons, Director Lyons' s brother, works for a trash company and therefore visits the landfill several times per week. He says that the potential for getting a nail in your tire is to be expected by the nature of the business. He also recalled that a few years ago Director Lyons discovered an employee who had been stealing diesel and put an end to it!

Melissa Troutman, the scale operator at the landfill, stated that Director Lyons never uses foul language as Grant Construction's website accuses. She stated that she wouldn't choose to work at the landfill IF Director Lyons used that kind of talk. She also confirmed that there is no romantic interest in Director Lyons as has been implicated in social media.

**Old Business:**

1. Ticket program as requested by the city for our contract with them will save the girls a lot of hand-work. The one proposed is approved by the TN comptroller at a total cost of \$8445 (\$4950 for scale management, 995 for QuickBooks accounting software, and \$2500 for a driver's license scanner. Motion was made by Austin Jaynes to move forward with purchasing these items. Motion was seconded by Robin McKamey. By voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

2. Concerning the purchase of a loader, Director Lyons and Austin Jaynes have been searching together and negotiating with Caterpillar and John Deere. There is no proposed purchase at this time. They are trying to reserve \$25,000 of the approved funding for a decent truck.

3. One needed employee was hired on the morning of August 5, but one employee quit the same day. The landfill still has a vacancy to fill.
4. Approximately four cabs have been driven, but Director Lyons wants to drive one in the local region before presenting a recommendation to the Landfill Committee.

**New Business:**

1. Chairwoman Culler brought up the possibility of closing the demolition site to prevent a possible lawsuit against the county. Director Lyons called attention to the fact that in his evaluation approximately one year ago there were no violations cited for the demolition site. Charles VonCannon inquired about the purchase of land to improve access off Minton Hollow Rd. The sellers wanted more than the appraised value of the land when this was considered in the past, and the county is not allowed to buy properties priced above appraisal. This same tract of adjoining property may be available to the county for purchase again in the near future, but we will need to see if the selling price is within our capabilities. Director Lyons talked about placing slate in the path to the demolition site as an improvement over gravel because gravel disappears with the first rain. He also reported that he regularly uses an 8-foot magnet to collect metal objects that could puncture tires. Attorney Hardin stated that the county cannot ban anyone from using the landfill, but we can enforce rules. Hardin also declared that unless we are found negligent we are not responsible for nails in tires, etc. No commissioner made a motion to close the demolition site, so it will remain open at this time.
2. Director Lyons toured Jefferson County recently and learned that they impose a \$20 fee for untarped vehicles entering the landfill/demolition area. He also stated that there is a law requiring tarps and the Tennessee Highway Patrol does ticket people in violation. Robin McKamey made a motion to charge \$20 for untarped vehicles entering the landfill beginning January 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Robert Acuff. Seven ayes and one abstention from Charles VonCannon because he could not hear the motion. The motion carried.
3. The Landfill received a letter from the Director of the Parks and Recreation in the county inquiring if the landfill can provide a dumpster free of charge when volunteer groups are cleaning a park or other public area. Nancy Brown made a motion to allow the use of a dumpster at no cost for cleanups on public property in the county. Robin McKamey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all eight commissioners voting yes.
4. Roan Mountain Recycling Center is coming along well. The building will be delivered to Hampton High School so Mr. Arnett's class can work on what they designed. Director Lyons hopes to have the center opened in October. Nancy Brown asked on behalf of her constituents if we could approve a free demolition day when the center is opened in her district. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**The Director's Report:**

There was a fire at the recycling center on Cherokee Park Dr. Foul play is definitely suspected. It completely burned the office and a large portion of the ceiling/roof. There is no power there as a result of the fire. The center is closed for now.

**The Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Barnett asked if the Landfill Committee would like for him to petition the state legislature about giving us the building that burned. Chairwoman Culler questioned if we would want the building now that it is so badly damaged--it may be cheaper to purchase something different. State inspectors were scheduled to inspect the building on August 6.

During **Commissioner Comments**, Chairwoman Culler commended the job that Director Lyons is doing. Gary Bailey asked for Director Lyons not to respond to negative comments on social media.

A motion to adjourn was made by Austin Jaynes, seconded by Robin McKamey. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.