

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Landfill Committee

March 2, 2020 6:00 PM



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Members:

Chairwoman Sonja Culler

Layla Ward

Nancy Brown

Gary Bailey

Charles Von Cannon

Mark Blevins

Jerry Proffitt

David Miller

I. Call to Order

The Landfill Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Sonja Culler at 6:00 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by David Miller, second by Gary Bailey. The agenda was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 2020 meeting was made by Mark Blevins second by Nancy Brown. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Old Business

- **Property for sale at Landfill location**

No update will continue to watch.

- **Fencing at new recycle center**

Benny Lyons informed the committee that he had gotten an estimate of about \$1500 for the county and \$1500 for Mr. VonCannon who agreed to split the cost for the fencing. Mr. Lyons stated that he would like to get the other building up before he goes ahead with the fence. Chairwoman Culler stated that she would keep it on the agenda for updates. Mr. Lyons also stated that he had noticed a lot of foot traffic through the area from what he suspected were homeless persons. Chairwoman Culler stated that Elizabethton Police Department should be informed so they can monitor the site.

- **Bids for addition at Recycle center**

Mr. Lyons reported that the addition had been placed for bid 3 (three) times. The first time they received 1 (one) bid. The second time they got 0 (zero) bids. He just placed it out for the third time with a deadline of March 6, 2020.

Gary Bailey asked that because it had been placed for bid with no results could he not just go ahead with the project. Mr. Lyons stated that after the second bid came back with no activity, he could proceed with the new storage building.

- **Fee for loads not being tarped**

Discussion started about charging a fee for untarped loads. Nancy Brown and Gary Bailey both stated that they believe that if a fee is charged for not tarping loads it will cause people to dump on the side of the road. Ms. Brown stated that she had received several calls from people in her district and they are not happy about a fee. A lot of work has been done to clean up the county and she believes this will be a step backward. Mr. Lyons and Chairwoman Culler explained that not everyone that comes to the landfill will be charged. Only the people that come in with stuff hanging off the truck and falling onto the roads. People that come in with bags of trash or things in the bottom of a truck that is not in danger of blowing off will not be charged. Chairwoman Culler reminded the committee that the reason this failed in the full commission is because they have no guidelines. She is asking for the committee to investigate what the guidelines should be, she will add it to next months agenda.

Nancy Brown asked if something could be done, such as a yearly fee that would allow the taxpayers to go to the dump anytime for free. She stated that she believed this would be a popular idea in the county and wants the committee to bring it back for discussion. Mark Blevins asked, if an annual fee was placed on the taxpayer, what about the people that have never gone or will never go to the dump. This is unfair to them that they would have to pay for the privilege without ever using it. He reminded the committee that once a tax is charged it never goes away. For example: Johnson County added a tax to pay for the hospital. The hospital is gone now but the tax remains. Chairwoman Culler stated that it would be a county wide tax increase, and everyone would pay and have a pickup service. Ms. Brown asked the committee to help her research it an bring it back for further discussion.

Mr. Lyons stated that for the 12 years that he has been at the landfill the pay out has increased every year and the community cost has never increased. He is charging \$42.50 per ton.

Gary Bailey made a motion, second by Nancy Brown, to change the tarp fee from \$20.00 to \$2.50 and raise the price per ton from \$42.50 to \$45.00.

After further discussion Mr. Bailey changed his motion to \$2.50 tarp fee and \$43.50 per ton.

With continued discussion Mr. Bailey withdrew his motion and asked the Chairwoman to table the discussion for further research. Chairwoman Culler agreed to keep it on the agenda.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Directors Report

Mr. Lyons reported that everything had been discussed. No further updates.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

None

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Blevins, second by Nancy Brown. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.