

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Landfill Committee Zoom Meeting

August 3, 2020 6:00 PM

Members:

Chairwoman Sonja Culler - present

Nancy Brown - present

Mark Tester in for Charles Von Cannon

Jerry Proffitt - present

Layla Ward - present

Gary Bailey - present

Mark Blevins - present

David Miller - absent

I. Call to Order

The Landfill Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Sonja Culler at 6:18 pm. Roll call shows Mark Tester in for Charles Von Cannon and David Miller absent.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Nancy Brown, second by Mark Blevins. The agenda was unanimously approved.

III. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 2020 meeting was made by Mark Blevins, second by Gary Bailey. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Old Business

- **Tipping Fee increase**

Benny Lyons checked with Blue Ridge and they would not accept an increase that was proposed. They indicated that they would take their trash to Blountville. But they are willing to do a \$2.50 per ton increase. Discussion ensued about how much Blue Ridge brings to the landfill and how much money the county makes per ton on their trash. Mark Blevins asked what Blue Ridge is paying now. Mr. Lyons replied that currently they are paying \$33.60 per ton and in 8 months from November 2019 – June 2020 Blue Ridge brought in 4518.35 tons that is 151,816.47 in those 8 months. Mark Tester asked how much it costs the county, including personnel, insurance, fuel, wear on the vehicles and equipment to process a ton of trash. He feels like the only way to find your profit per ton is to know what it costs per ton. Mr. Lyons informed him that Brad Burke would have those numbers. Jerry Proffitt asked where Blue Ridge falls in the top customers at the landfill? Mr. Lyons stated that Blue Ridge and the City of Elizabethton are the top customers. Mr. Proffitt asked how much tonnage Elizabethton brings in? Mr. Blevins asked what does the City pay per ton? Mr. Lyons told the committee he does not have the tonnage in front of him and they are contracted to pay \$34.00 until August of this year with a .75/.80 increase and increase each year. When asked what smaller



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companies pay Mr. Lyons replied \$41.50. Mr. Tester reminded the committee that \$245,025 was taken from the general fund to support the landfill. The increase should be across the board for every hauler no matter how much trash they bring to the landfill. Mr. Lyons stated that last month when Ms. Reyes came and spoke to the committee stated that most of the landfills are subsidized by their counties. We are one of the only counties that does not have a set amount subsidized by the county. We are also one of the only ones that has a transfer station. There has not been a raise at the landfill in ten years. Conversation continued as to the profitability as keeping the cost for Blue Ridge.

A motion was made by Mark Blevins, second by Jerry Proffitt to set a price across the board of \$43.50 per ton with a 3% cost of living increase per year for haulers and \$1.25 per bag at the convenience centers.

Roll Call:

David Miller – absent

Jerry Proffitt – yes

Nancy Brown – Zoom call dropped, no vote

Mark Tester – yes

Sonja Culler – yes

Mark Blevins – yes

Layla Ward – yes

Gary Bailey – yes

The motion passed with 6 yes votes. Chairwoman Culler will present this to the full commission at the August meeting.

When asked when this rate change will take place Chairwoman Culler informed the committee that the soonest it could possibly take place would be October 2020.

- **Property for sale at Landfill location – Continue to discuss**

Chairwoman Culler informed the committee that one of the pieces of property they had been looking at for landfill expansion has been sold. When asked about the other property Benny Lyons informed that the property closer to Hwy 91 was still for sale. Chairwoman Culler will leave it on the agenda for further discussion.

- **Bids for addition at Recycle center**

Benny Lyons informed the committee that it has been turned over to the Buildings & Grounds Committee to get bids.

VI. New Business

- **Bailer**

The bailer that is use now is unable to keep up with the amount of product needing bailed. Chairwoman Culler asked if it was still working, Mr. Lyons replied “yes”. Mr. Proffitt asked if we needed a larger bailer. Mr. Lyons replied that the one being used is a hand tie bailer and takes more time than a larger automatic tie machine. Mr. Proffitt asked if it was cost efficient. Mr. Lyons answered by explaining that the materials are

bailed, and the machine must be turned off so the bail can be tied by hand. That takes time. He indicated that a new bailer would pay for itself over several years. When asked how much a new bailer costs he replied "\$25,000". Mr. Proffitt asked what the increase in bailing would be, Mr. Lyons stated, double, almost triple what it is now.

A motion was made by Jerry Proffitt, second by Mark Blevins to research new bailers. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairwoman Culler asked how much cardboard was bringing right now and Mr. Lyons replied, \$60.00 per ton.

- **Plastic Recycle**

Benny informed the committee that they still are not taking plastics at this time. He is working with a local company to take the plastic and use it for other purposes. They have taken several bails to test.

- **Employees**

Mr. Lyons has moved a part time employee into a full-time position and will be hiring a new part time employee.

VII. Directors Report

Mr. Lyons wanted to call attention to the social media that has said the recycle center is not open. The recycle center has been open for months.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Mark Tester informed the committee that Mr. Von Cannon asked him to ask about the fencing at the recycle center. Mr. Lyons informed him that the fence is on the back burner till the center is complete. The committee agreed at a previous meeting that the fence should be the last thing that would be done. Mr. Lyons should use the funds he has on the recycle center.

Mr. Proffitt asked that if other counties had a set amount in the budget for the landfill why don't we. Chairwoman Culler informed him that the landfill has been self-supporting since Mr. Lyons took over. Mr. Lyons stated that the money was appropriated for use at the landfill if there is a shortfall. The money has not been put into the landfills budget. Chairwoman Culler said she and Benny would investigate the funds and get back to the committee.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Proffitt, second by Gary Bailey. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Gwen Crowe