

Public Works Committee Minutes
December 10, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Raymond; Supervisors Collyer, Lewza, Jenkins, A. Johnson, Wright, Sausville, and Grattidge; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Hans Arnold, Gerhardt, LLC; Keith Manz, Tom Speziale, Public Works; Press.

Chairman Raymond called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Arnold said he was retained by the County and requested by the Board of Supervisors to look at the County's five recycling transfer stations located in Clifton Park, Corinth, Milton, Moreau and Saratoga Springs to identify potential opportunities for improvements in efficiency and cost savings.

Mr. Arnold said all five stations use multi-stream recycling, separating recycles into seven categories. Each station has one county employee. Four or five are co-located with town/city waste operations, and the county handles all the trucking.

The findings were as follows:

- All stations are clean, orderly and laid out logically and easy for residents
- The county does a superb job marketing recyclables
- County-wide there is about 22,000-28,000 tons per year of residential recyclables
- Of that, about 3,500 tons per year is delivered to the five transfer stations
- Calculating to a service of approximately 27,000 to 35,000 residents using the stations

Mr. Arnold said of concern was the fact that the overall trend of receipts is down 41% in the last five years.

- Expenses for the five stations is approximately \$1 million with 54% in operations/staffing; 40% trucking and 6% marketing and management
- Marketing is superb with \$530,000 or \$150 per ton brought in 2012
- The net cost to the county is \$477,000 or \$135 per ton. Mr. Arnold said while the marketing is great the cost per ton is high.

Opportunities for efficiency and cost savings:

- Currently the county spends approximately \$406,000 for the transportation of recyclables. The county recycles seven different commodities at five locations and delivers

the material to ten different market locations. Mr. Arnold said a savings could be obtained by privatizing, but not continuing to have seven different separations with ten different market locations. He said if you privatize trucking, coupled with single stream recycling, it is estimated that you could reduce the trucking costs to \$204,000.

- The secondary cost savings would be in the area of the actual staff that run the transfer stations. Mr. Arnold said that his observation was that the four transfer stations that have both a county recycling person and a town/city solid waste person, if the process went to single stream it could be done with one person.
- Mr. Arnold said single stream is more convenient for people and you will be able to pick up more volume. He said you won't sell a ton of single stream recyclables for as much as the Public Works Department is now getting for the seven combined, but there would be savings in other areas with more volume and ultimately more sales.

Ms. Raymond suggested that the committee accept the report and direct the Department of Public Works to go through it to establish a plan that would work and bring it to the Public Works Committee next year. The committee agreed.

Ms. Raymond thanked the committee members for their support throughout the year.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jenkins the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom