

Public Works Committee Minutes
September 9, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Raymond; Supervisors Allen, Lent, Lewza, Richardson, Tollisen, Martin and Sausville; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Hans Arnold, Gerhardt, LLC; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Tollisen, seconded by Mr. Allen the minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Gerhardt gave a brief overview of the proposed RFP for Recyclable Transfer Stations stating that last fall five of the recyclable transfer stations were examined which are currently operated by county staff. The current process is referred to as "Multiple Stream Recycling" with seven different separations going to ten different market locations. This is an expensive process that requires a designated county staff person, and all the transportation that it takes to move seven different commodities to ten different locations. Mr. Gerhardt said there are two initiatives; one, being a consolidation of the staff with the local governments who are at four of the five transfer stations and have their own separate operation for solid waste. He said a consolidation could occur where the town/city staff could oversee, not only the waste part of the operation, but the recycle part of the operation. The second opportunity for savings is to move from multiple stream recycling, (seven separations) to single stream recycling, where the industry has moved over the last decade from requiring all these separations to technology that can accept all the recyclables in a single stream and market it, becoming much more competitive financially. He said if this is done, the transportation costs would go down significantly.

Mr. Gerhardt said a request is being made for a RFP that will organize and setup a system for the private collection and transportation of recyclables from the five transfer stations. After examination of the transfer stations it was noted that all of them are very well equipped to convert to single stream, he said. The RFP will require bidders to provide for the placement of containers at the transfer stations, the receipt of the material and upon the containers being full, they will be required to transport those recyclables to a viable processing facility and then to a mill to be made into new products.

Mr. Gerhardt said there is enough known about the market and the service, that the highest goal would be to put the county in a net positive financial position. He said this is the message to the private sector that is going to be bidding. It is estimated that transportation costs could be reduced by 50% by going through this initiative.

Mr. Gerhardt said he has drafted an RFP that has gone through an internal review. Comments have been received and changes will be made for an October 1st RFP submittal, with proposals due October 31st. The timeline is for a review and presentation to the Board of Supervisors in November for consideration; potential award in December; service to begin January 1, 2015.

Mr. Gerhardt said the individuals who are currently assigned to the transfer stations will be reassigned to other positions within the county workforce.

Ms. Raymond said the understanding was that there would be no layoffs, but by attrition the positions would be eliminated. She said there would be no impact to staffing that is currently employed by the county.

Mr. Gerhardt said the way it will be set up is for a two year agreement with a private company for the transportation.

Mr. Allen asked who would be responsible for maintaining the sites. Mr. Gerhardt said the private company that is hired will be held strictly responsible for cleanup of any spillage and to tarp as necessary. He said single stream recyclables have to be tarped before they can be removed.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom