



DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND PLANNING
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Director

County of Sussex

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Landrith. The meeting is held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Present were:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Landrith, Chairman, Andover Borough
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Richard Pumphrey, Frankford Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Chris Kelly, Hamburg Borough
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Edith McGrath, Lafayette Township
Ken Jaekel, Newton
Jo-Ann Williamson, Sandyston Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Katherine Little, Sussex Borough
John Armeno, At-Large
James Wright, At-Large
Dick Plog, At-Large

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Eleanor Mensonides, Vice Chairman, Vernon

STAFF PRESENT:

Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA
Neal Leitner, Program Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

John Hatzelis, Administrator, SCMUA

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Armeno to approve the minutes of May 12, 2009. It was seconded by Mr. Doyle. All were in favor with an abstention from Ms. Williamson. Motion carried.

REPORTS

A. SCMUA Update - Tom Varro gave a brief report on the monthly tonnages and revenues. From December 1 to May 29, a total of 42,517 tons were received at the facility. This is a 4.2% decrease compared to this time last year. However, compared to the prior two years, this represents 8.2% and 7.0% decreases over the same period of time. The good news is that the average tip fee cost per ton continues to rise; it is better than it was a month ago.

B. Environmental & Public Health Services Update - Herb Yardley combined his director's report with the activities of the department: 41 interviews have been conducted for a total of 50 vehicles; 60 recycling surveys were completed; 66 roll off container inspections were done; 82 complaints of solid waste issues were investigated; and 12 site investigations of tire dumps, referred by Mosquito Control, were completed. At the mention of these investigations, Mr. Yardley asked the committee to please inform him if anyone is aware of these situations; tire dumps breed mosquitoes and the department is very serious about investigating them. Mr. Yardley then said three of the 65 solid waste facility inspections have been completed; two staff members attended Household Hazardous Waste Day at SCMUA; and the Department made a request to the DEP Solid Waste Program to assist in training new staff from the recent Health Department mergers. Also, scheduled to be conducted in June, July and through August are seven exempt Class C recycling facilities, eight municipal convenience centers, 25 unannounced truck checks at SCMUA and Grinnell; and 30 closed landfill inspections. Mr. Armeno asked about enforcement programs. Mr. Yardley said one enforcement activity is going on in Hardyston through the DEP, and the Department is waiting for guidance from them as to that enforcement. Mr. Armeno asked what type of enforcement. Mr. Yardley said he will have more information on that at the next meeting because of all it involves, such as wetlands, transfer station.

C. Recycling Coordinator - Reenee Casapulla reported on SCMUA's Electronics Recycling Day. It was very well attended. There are usually between 300 and 400 vehicles; this year there were 777 vehicles. Approximately 22 tons of used consumer electronics are typically collected; this year, over 36 tons were collected. Reenee said that Byram Township is going to have an Electronics Recycling Day on June 27 for all Sussex County residents. The Hazardous Waste Program was held this past Saturday, June 6. It too was a success. Last year the combined events brought in 1,065 residents; this one event alone on June 6 brought in 960 residents. This event typically collects about 17 tons; this year over 21 tons were collected. As mentioned by Mr. Yardley, the Sussex County Department of Health

was at this event; Jim McDonald and Joe Farinella (sp?) attended and were a great help to its success. The next Hazardous Waste Day is November 7.

D. State Liaison - not present - no report

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Snyder said major business was taken care of at the last meeting; we continue to work with the MUA ironing out details on the amendment. One thing that has come up during the discussions is that the major part of the Plan is old, and there are some odd references to things, such as NJDEPE, which is Environmental Protection and Energy. Therefore we are doing some cleaning up.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Discussion re: Tax Certification & Shared Services - Mr. Schultz was not present; therefore these items will be discussed next month. Mr. Hatzelis wants it noted that this is a Hardyston issue and not SCMUA.

B. SCMUA Solid Waste Revenue and Appropriation Report - no questions, comments

C. Grinnell Recycling April Tonnage Report - Mr. Hatzelis prepared a pie chart and line graph from January - May 2009 based on tonnages going into Grinnell's facility. Sussex County is about 1.5% of those tonnages. Morris County is 45.2%. The next page of Mr. Hatzelis's report was a month by month analysis. Mr. Armeno asked how that relates to Mr. Hatzelis and the waste product he's to be sending to SCMUA. Mr. Hatzelis said, if you look at the bottom line of the line graph, that represents the tonnage that was reported into Grinnell or MRF, and it should translate into an equal amount of tonnage into our facility; it's not exact, it's equal. Someone asked if Morris County is a flow control County. Mr. Hatzelis said yes. There is a mixed load rule for MRFs and transfer stations; they are allowed to accept waste from a flow control County, however they are required to give back the residual to the County that the waste originated from. Mr. Hatzelis was asked if Morris County, with flow control, has the option of sending haulers outside. He said no, the County doesn't, but the haulers do. If flow control came into being in Sussex County, a hauler would be able to take Sussex County waste to a MRF facility out of the County, recycle whatever they can, but return the residual back to Sussex County. Referring back to his chart, Mr. Hatzelis said he put an X by those counties that have flow control.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Esenlohr, whose wife is a committee member of Green Township, can't understand why correspondence about a meeting held last month was just received today. It is from the Sussex County League of Municipalities regarding a meeting to be held on May 13. Mr. Esenlohr said Mr. Hatzelis spoke there. Topics were SCMUA budget, flow control,

anticipated landfill closure 2016, and relocating a new landfill. This is the first time in over a year since Mr. Esenlohr has been on this committee that he has seen those words in print or anyone has even mentioned that topic. Mr. Esenlohr asked Mr. Hatzelis why this committee didn't know about this. Mr. Armeno said he sent that notice out to all municipalities and cannot explain the lateness in the mail service of a particular town. He also said there was a member from Green in attendance at that meeting. Mr. Armeno said that those topics were only mentioned in order for him to encourage people to attend. Mr. Esenlohr said he has a real problem with those topics not being further discussed at these committee meetings. He mentioned this to a Freeholder who said that he will get the minutes and see. Mr. Esenlohr then asked if the Freeholders get the minutes. The answer is yes.

Mr. Esenlohr is very disturbed by the past year on this council; he hasn't seen any accomplishments. He says we are just listening to reports, and there are things we need to do. The first thing that comes to his mind is the cost per ton to bury garbage; we should be figuring out how to *not* bury garbage. He says it takes away the incentive to recycle. Mr. Esenlohr said that Mr. Hatzelis said if we see a water heater we'll take it out. According to Mr. Esenlohr, when questioned about it, Mr. Hatzelis said that it is an enforcement problem. Mr. Esenlohr said what we need is to have a system where a hauler is not allowed to pick up water heaters, TVs or anything else that can be compacted and dumped in the landfill. But, he said, because of this tonnage situation, we're between a rock and a hard place. Mr. Esenlohr has given this a lot of thought, and can't think of a way around this, but with all the smart people in this room, we ought to be able to do that. We ought to be able to get to a situation where we're not burying garbage, for no good reason. Half the stuff that goes in that landfill could be recycled. Our recycling numbers are miserable. Mr. Esenlohr doesn't see what burying garbage accomplishes; except making money. He then asked if anyone has ever sat down and figured out how much a new landfill is going to cost. He has asked that question many times and no one says a word. Mr. Esenlohr said there is some justification in that because that is where the money comes from; but we should figure out a way to get the money from somewhere else.

Something else that irritates Mr. Esenlohr is every time a cutback in expenses is mentioned, the talk turns to "being down to the bare bones". Mr. Esenlohr has been involved in municipal/County government since 1974 and he hasn't seen a government office that is bare bones; he's sure they can cut something out.

Mr. Esenlohr then spoke about methane. He said we spent \$1.5 million on collecting and burning it. He wants to know how long that flame has been burning. Mr. Varro said the temporary was 2006, July 2008 was the permanent flare, and a portion of this flow is already going to a gas facility. Mr. Esenlohr asked how much of it is going up in flames. The answer is about half. Mr. Esenlohr said that's only 50% so why are you worried about money. He wants to know why it has taken so long. Mr. Varro said you need a permanent flare, which went up last July, to act as a backup to landfill gas to energy. Mr. Varro said the authority has been producing energy from landfill gas since 1997 and there was a

substantial revenue stream from that facility. About 2006, it was realized that our contract with that vendor could not be satisfied, so we got out of that contract and now have a month to month contract. In 2006 and 2007 we terminated that agreement, applied for the flare permit, and started a 16 month process with the DEP and actually moved ahead faster and at our own risk so the flare could be installed last summer. That flare can now act as the backup to the landfill gas to energy. We then put together a request for proposals; the list is now narrowed down to three firms and we should have a decision shortly.

Mr. Esenlohr said it astounds him that the whole nation is talking about resource recovery and if the DEP was holding you up, you should've come in here and made a plea and we would've gone after them. They're giving out millions of dollars for solar panels that will take centuries to recover the cost and this is a situation where methane pollutes when it burns so you might as well get something from it while you're polluting. Mr. Varro said the efficiency of the flare is greater than 99%, in terms of a burn. It doesn't pollute any more than a generator. Mr. Esenlohr said but a generator puts out electricity at the same time. Mr. Varro said that's what we're working towards; we're very close. Mr. Esenlohr said but we've had this tremendous delay. Mr. Varro said he doesn't think we've had a tremendous delay; which is what he's been trying to explain. Mr. Hatzelis said we're concerned about the delay too but we have to go through a regulatory process; you can't build your own facility at your own risk, and risk fines. Nobody is going to build a facility until they know the quality and quantity of the gases that are generated because building is such a huge investment. A generator will cost \$7 or 8 million dollars; we're not going to spend that, the vendor is. It's their risk so we need to provide them the necessary information so they can make that generator cost effective. Then they need to get a permit from the DEP, and an electrical approval and all that will take quite a bit of time. Mr. Esenlohr said all the more reason to have started earlier.

Mr. Kelly said that he takes exception to something that was said. A large number of people sitting in this room volunteer their time and he doesn't think that they are wasting their time, or that he is wasting his time. He feels we have accomplished a great deal and says that effort is being put forth to accomplish some of the goals that were mentioned.

Chairman Landrith said we do operate under the Open Public Meetings Act, and if anyone has a subject they want discussed, it should be on the agenda. Chairman Landrith appreciates Mr. Esenlohr's comments and input, but in the future please send Mr. Leitner a request to be put on the agenda. Additionally, comments should be stated as a motion so that the entire committee can discuss them. Mr. Esenlohr said he has to think about all this. He is so upset with the lousy minutes that we had when he first got here and the way these meetings are run that it seems nonproductive. He hopes things will change. He has seen a change in the minutes, the format has changed - all that helps, but we're supposed to be an advisory council, who do we advise? The answer to that question is the Freeholders. Until recently, Mr. Esenlohr thought that the Freeholders didn't receive the minutes. Chairman Landrith said I invite you to put all these important issues on the agenda. Mr. Esenlohr said in other words, you're telling me I can't speak at these meetings. Chairman

Landrith said absolutely not. Mr. Esenlohr said he doesn't feel there's enough discussion at these meetings. He feels a lot of topics are decided upon before any of us ever get here. Chairman Landrith asked Mr. Esenlohr to let him know if he knows who is making these decisions. Once again, Chairman Landrith invited Mr. Esenlohr to participate in an official manner by getting on the agenda. Mr. Armeno made a suggestion that any member who wants an item for discussion provide a document or even a letter so the members can be prepared. Any member here can bring up a topic, but if it's going to be a serious discussion, there should be a document presented.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to be discussed at this time and a motion was made Mr. Armeno to adjourn. Motion was seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.