

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2019**

The Solid Waste Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Attendance:

Commissioner Tikkanen and Commissioner Janssen.

Also in attendance were David Hall, Tom Shook, Walter Kania, Eric Forsberg, Ruth Gleckler, Terri Bray, Evan McDonald and Jennifer Kelly.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the July 23, 2019 Minutes as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Tom Shook provided signed Petitions to the Committee.

Old Business:

1. Transfer Station RFP

Chairman Tikkanen stated the subcommittee met, and he provided a draft of a proposed RFP to everyone in attendance. Chairman Tikkanen read a letter addressed to the Solid Waste Committee.

Evan McDonald discussed Copper Country Recycling Initiative (CCRI) doing a Petition for recycling.

Terri Bray asked if the Petition will state that recycling will need to be paid for by the people who use the transfer station for recycling.

Ruth Gleckler stated she has seen the Petition and it does not say anything about people paying for recycling.

Commissioner Janssen discussed going forward with the RFP Proposal to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners. There is no commitment at this time, and stated that the County can always back out.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the County owes approximately \$1.8 million for the Houghton County Transfer Station, and feels there is not enough information to go forward to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners. He questioned if public hearings should be scheduled to get the public's input. Commissioner Janssen agreed.

David Hall stated a plan could force areas to recycle. The County has no risk, and they could modify any RFP at no cost to the County. He further stated that the County has been in violation of the current law since 2001.

Eric Forsberg questioned if the County could hold a purchaser to an agreement that they will always recycle.

Evan McDonald asked if other facilities are monitored for solid waste services by the state. What does Eagle Waste do? He stated the County should prepare for things locally before the state sets regulations and makes it harder for anyone to comply, and the RFP should say no risk to the County. He asked if WUPPDR could look at the RFP and the County's goals.

Eric Forsberg stated that the local dump trucks are not set up for recycling, and the need to work with Eagle Waste to work with the local areas. There is no contract with local municipalities. Waste Management currently sends their recycling to Eagle Waste.

Tom Shook asked if the RFP could include rural routes, and if a purchaser would keep the cardboard recycling. And, could a presentation/public hearing be done at the Covington Community Building.

Walter Kanin questioned why everything is dumped in 1 container at Waste Management instead of using separate containers.

Terri Bray stated 1 person can contaminate everything, so Waste Management uses a machine to separate everything.

Evan McDonald questioned if the County could spend money for a study to be done with WUPPDR and Eagle Waste.

Discussion took place regarding contacting Superior and Ashland Wisconsin to find out what their expenses are, and possibly doing a conference call at the September meeting.

Discussion took place regarding a curbside survey on recycling that was done in the City of Houghton. There was a 95% response from residents that wanted recycling.

Commissioner Janssen stated she was not ready to present an RFP to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Tikkanen and Commissioner Janssen will report to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners on the progress with the Solid Waste Committee during the September Board meeting and will follow up with other areas who currently have recycling and find out about their rates, and scheduling possible public hearings on recycling in Houghton County.

Evan McDonald stated the Solid Waste Committee should use the Daily Mining Gazette in the future for awareness for recycling.

2. Walmart cloth bag application

Chairman Tikkanen informed the Committee that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners passed a Motion to have Houghton County be the applicant.

New Business:

1. Recycling Petitions

The Solid Waste Committee agreed to put the Recycling Petitions on the Houghton County Board of Commissioners Agenda for the September Board meeting.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to add the Recycling Petitions to the September Board of Commissioners meeting, and to ask Gerry Perreault to attend the September Solid Waste Committee meeting, and look into having a sign on the gate at the Transfer Station for recycling, getting a brochure holder in the office at the Transfer Station, and a battery collection box.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Tom Shook asked if someone is looking into regional recycling.

David Hall commented that the County cannot do that due to financial reasons.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Prepared By: Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk/Register of Deeds & Clerk of the
Solid Waste Committee