

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

The Solid Waste Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 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:

Chairman Tikkanen, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Janssen.

Also in attendance were Susan Burack, Eric Bradfish, Eric Forsberg, Ruth Gleckler, Evan McDonald, Carol Ekstrom, Kristina Sundstrom and Jennifer Kelly.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the August 27, 2019 Minutes as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Chairman Tikkanen discussed adding the new appointees to the Solid Waste Committee after the Approval of Agenda/Additions.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the Agenda with the one (1) addition as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Solid Waste Committee Appointees

Evan McDonald informed the Committee that it was suggested by CCRI that Evan McDonald be the Primary appointee and Susan Burack be the alternate for the Solid Waste Committee.

Chairman Tikkanen appointed Evan McDonald as the Primary, and Susan Burack as the alternate to the Solid Waste Committee.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the appointments of Evan McDonald and Susan Burack to the Solid Waste Committee.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Old Business:

1. Recycling surveys/petitions

Chairman Tikkanen discussed the petitions, and Commissioners Anderson and Janssen reviewed them. Chairman Tikkanen questioned if citizens are willing to pay for recycling.

Eric Forsberg questioned how far people are willing to travel for recycling, and what do the citizens want? Do they want recycling picked up curbside?

Carol Ekstrom stated that CCRI would like a more depth survey, and they are working on a new survey. They obtained approximately 300 names on the Petitions in 2 weeks. Tom Shook obtained 30-50 from his area.

Commissioner Anderson questioned who pays for all the pick up outside of the cities. Eric Forsberg will look into this.

New Business:

1. Community Recycling forums

Chairman Tikkanen stated that four (4) Commissioners toured Eagle Waste. Eagle Waste has toured the Houghton County Transfer Station. Eagle Waste would like to expand into Houghton County and have a collection and processing center and then transport the materials to Eagle River. The cost would remain the same or close to what is now for disposal of items. Eagle Waste is considering Houghton County and possibly expanding into Baraga County. The facility in Ashland is a model for what they want to do in Houghton County.

Commissioner Anderson stated that Waste Management may consider bidding on a RFP.

Chairman Tikkanen stated that Eagle Waste may seek possible contracts with areas for curbside pick up. They would also do individual contracts.

Evan McDonald questioned what specifics would go into an RFP?

Chairman Tikkanen and Susan Burack commented on how the state will soon be setting requirements.

Ruth Gleckler commented on how an RFP isn't binding, but it would be a good starting point since there is no commitment.

Evan McDonald questioned if the County could look into doing recycling if the survey shows that the people in Houghton County want it? Can the County add recycling to one (1) of its services?

Eric Forsberg stated a legal opinion should be looked into. How would an RFP be enforced? It is contractual law.

Eric Bradfish stated based on Eagle Waste's published disposal fees the price per ton is the same, but the fees for individual items such as chairs, couches, mattresses, etc are possibly 3-4 times higher.

Commission Janssen questioned how much Waste Management takes in for recycling.

Susan Burack stated Waste Management charges \$5.00, and does not accept cash, and has limited hours.

Commissioner Anderson stated it may be an option to put three (3) dumpsters in Houghton County, at no charge, and experiment for one (1) year. He estimated it costing \$30,000-\$40,000.

Evan McDonald recommended looking at Emmett County, and to find out how the state will be enforcing requirements.

Susan Burack stated education has to be ongoing about recycling.

Carol Ekstrom stated the survey should be ready for distribution in approximately 2 weeks.

Evan McDonald stated the survey should meet the needs of the people in Houghton County.

Horst Schmidt asked if the Board is waiting on the survey to do an RFP, and asked about the transportation costs?

Chairman Tikkanen stated the County can run a wonderful transfer station and is very effective and moves many truckloads of materials.

Evan McDonald stated Eagle Waste is looking at cutting cost and eliminating glass to save money.

Carol Ekstrom recommended beginning the RFP soon.

Evan McDonald discussed how the City of Hancock and the City of Houghton have similar RFPs. He questioned if the County and the two (2) cities can do a similar goal looking into the future? Can someone contact the cities to see how things are going?

Carol Ekstrom encouraged the Committee to have the County and the two (2) cities to discuss RFPs and possible options.

Evan McDonald questioned if the Solid Waste Committee could benefit by speaking to Eagle Waste.

Chairman Tikkanen question on when an RFP should go out and get reviewed by legal counsel?

Commissioner Janssen stated the Committee should understand the citizen's needs in Houghton County.

Commissioner Anderson stated it may be a possibility to do a lease for three (3) years.

Evan McDonald stated Eagle Waste has not changed its concept in five (5) years.

Susan Burack suggested the Committee reach out to Brian Burke and ask for his outside perspective. The Committee discussed inviting him to the October meeting. Chairman Tikkanen will invite him to the October meeting.

Carol Ekstrom stated she will continue with the survey. Professor Adam Wellstead is assisting her.

Kristina Sundstrom stated Houghton's Walmart had a car seat recycling program from September 16-21. They collected over 100 car seats and had to turn people away. Throughout the country, Walmart collected approximately 1 million car seats. They were giving people a \$30 gift card per car seat. She stated this is a problem in our nation.

The Committee discussed where local businesses are hauling their recycling to, or who is picking it up.

Ruth Gleckler asked about tire recycling in Houghton County. Chairman Tikkanen will find out what Calumet Township is doing on September 30th. He will update at the October meeting.

The Committee will revisit the discussion on a RFP next month.

The Committee stated they would like an update from Terri Brey or Eric Forsberg on how the cardboard recycling is going at the Houghton County Transfer Station. Is the County making money on this?

Public Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

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