

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Solid Waste**  
**August 3, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste (SW) Director Cathy Mayer, SW Operations Manager John Phillips and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion):**

**Projects – Current, Upcoming and Other Project Impacts**

Solid Waste (SW) Director Cathy Mayer began with an update on the Household Hazardous Waste facility. She remarked that there had been some defective work performed by the contractor which required remediation and additional negotiations on cost. She said the final change orders should be coming shortly, with the final expense at about \$1.5 million. She stated that, other than those few problems, they were satisfied with the building.

SW Operations Manager John Phillips addressed the old Ramsey Landfill, now located in the area in and around the brush pile at the Transfer Station. He said they stopped putting waste in that area in 1992 – 93 and capped it, but the area was experiencing differential settling. He explained this caused unsafe driving conditions and made snowplowing difficult. Mr. Phillips reported that SW had used their own equipment and staff to develop a grade plan and lay the subgrade, after which they hired an asphalt company to lay the final subgrade, compact the material and pave. He noted that the final bill was about \$39,750, which was a substantial savings for the County.

Ms. Mayer commented that the old landfill still generated gas and needed to be managed. She predicted that it would require monitoring past the thirty year post-closure mark required by federal law.

Ms. Mayer reported that the project to put in new stairs in the back of the Prairie Transfer Station had been contracted with TML Construction and Jacobs Engineering Group for \$68,000. She remarked these would be safer and more convenient for the staff.

Ms. Mayer reminded the Commissioners that the Highway District was putting in a traffic circle at the crossing of Prairie and Pleasant View Rd. She said SW had yielded a small amount of land to the state for the project. But, she said, it would create a strong impact on traffic, especially SW transport trailers, because they would not be able to exit the site as they had in the past. She stated that the County had not previously been asked to compensate the hauling contractor for the extra time taken due to construction projects.

She said they hoped this would not become a substantial change for them, but it was possible that they might request an increase in payment.

Ms. Mayer said that they had been discussing the proposed annexation by the City of Post Falls. She explained that the City wanted to annex the land south and north of the transfer station. She said the City had expressed a desire to annex the actual transfer station property itself, but SW had not been interested in that proposal.

Ms. Mayer stated that Post Falls needed to connect the two chunks of land in order to annex them, so they had asked to take just a small sliver along the right-of-way on Pleasant View Rd. She reported that Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes was working with Post Falls on the request, after which it would be brought to the Board.

Mr. Phillips reported on events at the landfill: the maintenance shop was being painted and they had begun filling in the corridor created by the old access road with waste as of May 27, 2020. He noted that they had needed to dig down into the old waste to link the deposits, which made it a smelly job, but there had been no complaints from neighbors. He remarked that there would be a change order coming from Jacobs Engineering Group for the project shortly for installation of a drain and some additional work hours.

Mr. Phillips said that the new scales had been installed but the automation portion of the project had not yet been completed. He stated they had been working with Information Technology (IT) Network Administrator Grant Kinsey on fiber, communication lines and electronics hook up. He predicted it would be done in a couple of months.

Mr. Phillips announced that SW was getting a compactor delivered. He explained it would be arriving in pieces, on separate trucks, because it was so big and cumbersome. He said the remaining parts should arrive by the end of the week.

Mr. Phillips updated the Board on the rural collection sites. He said that they were considering putting in lighting and cameras in some of the southern sites. He remarked that the southern sites had received some misuse this summer and they were looking for ways to control that. He said the Chilco rural site had been impacted by the railroad overpass nearby.

### **2020 Waste Statistics**

Ms. Mayer provided information on increased use of the Landfill, increased number of customer visits at the Prairie and Ramsey Transfer Stations and SW revenue over the past several years. She explained they chose to base the report on January to June data each year. The total increase from 2015 to 2020 was 44.2% in landfill waste, 57.81% more customer visits at Prairie and 20.84% at Ramsey and 24.45 in SW revenue, despite rate decreases. She noted that some figures for the landfill deposits had to be estimated because of changes in procedure they had needed to implement due to COVID.

**Department Status Update**

Ms. Mayer reported that Principal Planner Lauren Chaffin had worked with Deputy Finance Director Keith Taylor and Staff Accountant – Fixed Assets Isaac Ohm to update their fixed asset records. She said the Auditor’s Office gave permission for them to fully depreciate many of the items worth less than \$10,000, which would simplify their record keeping. She said that Ms. Chaffin would be working with the Auditor’s Office to make a complete list of those items, to be brought to the Board for approval.

Ms. Mayer commented that SW had been sharing some staff with Parks & Waterways/ Noxious Weeds/Snowgroomers Director Nick Snyder. She explained that SW staff had been allowed to work for the other department on days off.

Ms. Mayer announced that the local Girl Scouts had donated 140 boxes of cookies to the essential staff at SW as part of a project to show appreciation of essential workers. Everyone agreed that this was a wonderful gesture of support and much appreciated. Mr. Phillips said that the Girl Scouts also gave cookies to the Fire Department and other services.

Ms. Mayer commented that they currently employed 62 people. She said that they had just hired a couple seasonal workers.

**D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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