



Recycling Committee

Monday, June 13, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.
225 W. Main Street, Room 100
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beachnau called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Members Present: Paul Beachnau, John Burt, Dave Smethurst, Dave Matelski, Beth Dipzinski, Diane Franckowiak, Pat Morse, Jack Thompson, Don Sklarczyk, Mary Sanders

Others Present: Jessica Kane, Patricia Osburn, Rachel Koleda, Jim Akans, Kelly Ignace

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Smethurst, to “accept the Recycling Committee minutes of February 24, 2011 as presented”. Motion carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recycling Education

Rachel Koleda and Patricia Osburn from the Otsego Conservation District updated the Committee on their recycling efforts from 2010 as well as their new program. The programs include newspaper articles and inserts, live radio interview, 30 second commercial spots on the radio, website updates, recycling information flyers, and presentations. They have received a grant for \$5,500 from the Otsego Community Foundation for the new program, which is approximately 75% of the funding needed. They are applying to the Great Lakes Energy People Fund for the remaining funds.

The Committee discussed teaching the educators to provide the recycling education.

B. Recycling Plan

Burt went over the proposal for a countywide recycling program that was drafted by the Recycling Subcommittee. The plan includes four locations in addition to the current one at Arrow Sanitation. The four new locations would be unmanned and available 24 hours per day. The locations would include a site west of Gaylord at one of the stores along M-32, one in Vanderbilt, one at the Charlton/Chester/Dover transfer station, and one south of Gaylord along S. Otsego Avenue, likely near McCoy Road. Recycled materials would generally include paper products, plastic containers, metal/tin cans, glass containers, and cardboard. The Plan will include an option to have Arrow Sanitation open one Saturday per month for recycling, and will also include a household hazardous waste drop-off once per year at the Arrow Sanitation location with a charge of \$1 per pound of material dropped off.

American Waste estimated that the cost of the program would be approximately \$240,000 since the program would be similar to the program in Antrim County, which is a similar population size to Otsego County. The

addition of Household Hazardous Waste drop-offs would add some cost the program. Ignace informed the Committee that it is difficult to give an exact cost since much of the cost is based on usage, which is unknown until the program is underway.

Burt estimated that since there are approximately 14,000 households in the County, the program would cost approximately \$17-\$18 per household. Public Act 69 of 2005 allows counties to impose a surcharge of up to \$25.00 per household per year for recycling via resolution. The county would then have to enter into an interlocal agreement with the local municipalities to have them collect the surcharge.

Residents in Otsego Lake Township have an assessment of \$7 per month per household for trash pickup. Residents using the Charlton-Chester-Dover Transfer Station pay \$1 per bag to dispose of trash. The cost for curbside trash pickup using trash bins is approximately \$300 per year through either Arrow Sanitation or Waste Management. If household using curbside bin pickup switched to paying by the bag along with using a recycling program could save 50-75% of their yearly cost. Even those paying \$1 per bag through the Charlton-Chester-Dover Transfer Station would realize savings. Matelski will seek information on the average cost per customer using the per bag pickup.

The Committee asked Burt to distribute information on PA 69 to the local municipalities. Several members of the Committee will attend the July 19 Township Officers Association meeting to provide information on recycling.

The Committee also discussed the fact that there are many more options for recycling now than what existed when the Committee started a few years ago. Continuing recycling education is needed to let people know about the options.

III. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Beachnau at 2:15 PM.