



Recycling Committee

Thursday, October 6, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
1068 Cross Street
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Beachnau called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Members Present: Paul Beachnau, John Burt, Mary Sanders, Judge Pat Morse, Beth Dipzinski, Dave Smethurst

Others Present: Diane Purgiel, Rachel Koleda, Erma Backenstose, Mischelle Stone, Jim Akans, Rick Chelotti

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sanders to “accept the Recycling Committee minutes of September 6, 2011 as presented”. Motion carried unanimously.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Mattress Recycling

Rick Chelotti, the owner of the Gaylord Sleep & Sit Shop, updated the Committee on his program for recycling used mattresses. He plans on establishing a factory in Gaylord that would process used mattresses from around the state. He expects it to employ four people who dismantle the mattresses by hand. They are already doing it on a small scale. He has buyers for the foam, cotton and the steel. He is still looking for a buyer for the ticking. He is expecting to charge people approximately \$10 per mattress. They are currently working on the logistics of transporting mattresses from outside of Gaylord. He informed the group that it takes approximately 10 minutes to disassemble a mattress. Each person should be able to do at least 40 mattresses per day. He'll need to process about 24,000-25,000 mattresses per year to keep the factory active. He would like to have at least 1,000 mattresses backed up in the factory in order to keep the employees active.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recycling Plan Update

Burt updated the Committee on the input from the County Attorney on the proposed Recycling Plan from the last meeting. The plan called for a countywide referendum. The County Attorney advised that there is no mechanism in place for a countywide referendum involving P.A. 69 of 2005. If the voters in any municipality vote against collection of the funds under P.A. 69, then that municipality cannot be included in the recycling plan. Burt also brought up that three county millages will likely be on the August 2012 ballot at the same time as the referendum. Burt expressed concern that the referendum may hurt the chances of the millages, or conversely that the millages may reduce the chances of the referendum. The Committee discussed the merits of the timing for the referendum with an August vote compared to a November vote. Some members of the Committee felt that August was the best time for the referendum, while others felt that it is important to have the vote in November when the most number of voters would be included. Livingston Township will be doing a survey among their residents soon that will include recycling, as well as a countywide Quality of Life Study that will include a question on whether people are willing to pay for recycling. Results of those should be available early in the spring of 2012. The Committee will wait on more information before making a decision on when to

hold the referendum. Burt went over the process for the plan. The local municipalities must first agree to allow a referendum and decide on common language for it. Once the referendum results are known, the Committee will have to see whether enough municipalities voted in favor of it to proceed with a viable plan. The County would then have to enter into Interlocal Agreements with each municipality to collect the fee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Saturday Recycling

At the September meeting, the Committee had asked Burt to find out information on the possibility of Arrow Sanitation opening on Saturdays for recycling. Burt updated the Committee on his findings. Dave Matelski spoke with the owner of American Waste on the issue, who offered to keep Arrow Sanitation open three hours each Saturday (9 am until noon) for \$150 per week, which would cover their overhead. The Committee discussed the need to keep the cost down and to do a pilot project to see how much usage there is on Saturdays. The Committee members proposed having Arrow Sanitation open two Saturdays per month for six months, which would cost \$1,800. It would be important to make sure that we carefully consider the timing of the days to make it easy for people to remember when it is open. The fear is that if someone comes to drop off recycling, and it is closed, they may not come again. This pilot would be a vehicle for testing need for recycling as well as an opportunity to poll people on the need for the larger program and to find out which municipalities the users live in. The Committee is concerned that the current layout of Arrow Sanitation is not good enough to allow people to easily drop off their recycling. They would want improvements done to better allow access and ease of use. They are also concerned about grading of the road, which would be a Road Commission issue. Arrow Sanitation/American Waste stand to profit if a larger program can be in place, so the hope is that they will be willing to do what is needed to establish this pilot. The Committee discussed going back to their original idea of establishing their own recycling program if they cannot establish this pilot project. The Committee asked Burt to approach the owner of American Waste to discuss the pilot and improvements to layout.

B. Tri-Township Pilot Project

Smethurst brought up the idea of a recycling pilot at the Tri-Township Transfer Station shared by Dover, Chester, and Charlton Townships. Residents can currently drop off a bag of trash for \$1.00. The cost is subsidized by the municipalities. The site is open and manned two half-days per week. The Committee discussed the possibility of having a recycling bin left at the site and allowing people to drop off recycling at the same cost as trash. Burt stated that he thought that Arrow Sanitation hauls the trash from the site. The Committee asked Burt to look further into the idea and report back.

III. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Beachnau at 6:40 PM.