

## Minutes for November 2018

### White River Alliance Solid Waste Board November 14, 2018

**Those in attendance** Moe Brigham, Robert Young, Chet Brown, Grace Adams, Sandy Conrad, Joshua Powers

**Absent** Jenn Bartleman

**Call to Order** 7:04 pm

**Minutes for October 10, 2018** Moe moves to accept October minutes as written. Motion seconded by Joshua. Minutes approved by vote.

**Financial Report** Overall in a good place. Dealing with payment confusions with Casella from 2015-2017, regarding 5 checks that went to wrong accounts. Cassella looked into it as a payment problem; Teresa looked into it as a computer problem. Turned out to be somewhere in the middle. Payments were made, but somewhere during the transactions, the money went to wrong accounts. It went to Bethel instead of Transfer Station. \$24,390 is missing. Question on whether other accounts are involved arose. Chet assures it was more a communication problem than an accounting problem. Accurate payments from Cassella were showing up on Bethel's computer and not ours. The accounting in Bethel was right, but it was not communicated with Transfer Station. The debt is getting paid off. There are other accounts to check.

Teresa & Richard from Casella were able to identify where each of the checks went, and a letter explaining the differences was written.

Concern about how this situation affects audits was raised, since the Transfer Station has already completed audits. The problem will probably not affect the current status report because it all took place in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Corrected itself in 2018.

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Payments on debt service coming up Dec. 1. Station will lose about \$58,000 paying off excavator and bucket loader. Last bid for used Bobcat is expected Wednesday (Nov. 21). Have had bobcat for 9 years and bought it used; can't do anymore repairs. Found plow for bucket loader for \$3,800 from Luckys, which has the advantage of being close. This price is right on the edge of what the board has authorized to spend on a plow. Joshua moves to approve cost of plow. Motion seconded by Moe. Motion approved by vote. Will be paid Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

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Station has been doing about 12M lbs. of trash per year. About 20% of trash comes from walk-in bag trash. Station gets about 60 bags per dump-truck trip, 2-3 trips per day. There was about 2M lbs. of trash going across the scale in Quarter 3 (July, Aug, Sept). Chet would like to raise \$0.072/lb to \$0.08/lb. This would raise per-ton fee to \$160/ton, which would represent almost \$17,000 extra revenue per quarter or \$66,877 extra per year. Only people who will notice is

Casella since they do business by the ton. Station will send a letter to Casella and copy the letter they just sent us regarding this issue. Chet would like to notify big customers of price increase in January. Doesn't have to go into affect until the end of February/early march, when the Station picks up business. Motion to raise cost of trash to \$0.08 as of March 1 was made. Motion seconded by Grace. Motion approved by vote.

**Manager Report** Randolph charges for recyclables now, so Randolph people are coming to Station. They can't just bring recyclables without bringing any trash. Roger is stopping people from doing this, but Roger is retiring.

Lawyers don't want to get involved in Roger's debt because there's municipalities and employees in the same situation. Station's lawyer won't take on case because he's known Roger forever. If it goes to court, the Station has to consider how much it's going to get in comparison to the expense of going to court. Can't prove any deals he had with former manager – it's the Station's word against his.

Concerns about Roger moving were raised. Payment plan is set up, and he is paying it. Many payment plans are needed, but the current plan must be completed before starting the next. Roger owed \$50,000. Once his current payment plan for \$10,000 debt is paid off, Station will have to re-negotiate.

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Got a new light for scale, incredibly bright. Very happy with it.

**Budget Review** Getting close to deadline for budget, which has changed from last month. Health insurance is a high cost – will be just shy of \$60,000. There is uncertainty on whether that number should be raised or stay where it's at.

Wages are up – actual expenditures for wages will be around \$170,000/yr. Going from \$20 to \$15/hr once Roger retires. Auditors called, asking why hours went up but costs went down in labor. First year we haven't been paying \$20/hr for a temporary September-February. The money saved from reduced wages will go towards hiring a good bookkeeper.

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Question on reduced facility maintenance cost arouse. Cost was reduced in budget because Chet is trying to get the maintenance done before the year is up. Excavator & bucket loader were two big expenses for this year, and Station will potentially replace compactor this year as well (in the next month or two). Everything should be in good shape for next year.

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Questions on whether uniform rental will be removed after Roger leaves. Chet wants to give the option for a uniform for the next person. Cost savings from lower wages will cover uniform rental.

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Joshua moves to pass the budget. Motion seconded by Grace. Budget approved by vote.

**Job Descriptions** Will wait until next meeting.

**Other Business** Joshua suggests that when Roger retires, the Station recognize it in some public way. Bethel Mills did something for one of their employees - a picture of the employee with how many years he's been with the company and some of the things he did. Chet will decide how to honor Roger. Board will meet once more before his retirement.

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Sandy passed out 5<sup>th</sup> progress report of solar project. Goal to have it completed by Dec.

Moe moved to adjourn. Joshua seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.