



Rome-Floyd County Solid Waste Commission



Tuesday July 26, 2022, 8:30 AM
Sam King Room

PRESENT: Commissioner Bony Askew, Rome City Commission
Commissioner Allison Watters, Floyd County Commission
Commissioner Mark Cochran, Rome City Commission
Commissioner Larry Maxey, Floyd County Commission
Mr. Sammy Rich, Rome City Manager
Ms. Meredith Ulmer, Rome Assistant City Manager
Mr. Jamie McCord, Floyd County Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Rome Public Works Director
Mr. Justin Messer, Rome Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Toni Rhinehart, Finance Director
Mr. Bruce Ivey, Floyd County Special Projects Manager
Mr. Lee Stone, Walker Mountain Landfill Director
Ms. Emma Wells, Floyd County Solid Waste Director
Mr. Doug Walker, Public Information Officer

GUEST: Ms. Chloe Greer, Berry College Mary Bonner Intern

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Rear Compactor Discussion for Recycling Center

Ms. Wells reported that in October 2021, she requested a rear loading compactor truck for the Recycling Center since the current trucks are very old and require constant repair. She requested \$150,000 for the purchase of a used compactor truck, to be split three ways between the Solid Waste Commission Fund, and the City and County's general funds.

Mr. McCord added the current trucks are 2002 or 2003 models. Mr. Skeen noted they are borrowing parts of one to keep the other running. Mr. Jenkins added Solid Waste Collection's compactor trucks are rotated out to the mulch yard until they are unusable, then they are used spare parts on the working compactors.

Commissioner Watters moved to approve the request for \$150,000 for the purchase of a rear compactor truck for the Recycling Center as presented. Commissioner Maxey seconded. The motion carried. Not to exceed \$150k

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recycling Center

Operations Report

Ms. Wells presented the operations report. She noted year-to-date for June, curbside is back up above pre-covid numbers. A lot of volume from is coming in from the City curbside. She noted that since material is no longer coming from Polk County, that line item will be removed from these reports. We have shipped 948.53 year-to-date as compared to 537.08 at this time last year. She added that she has been able to sell items, such as pallets, that we didn't previously have vendors for this year. Ms. Wells introduced the Berry College Bonner Scholar, Ms. Chloe Greer, who is handling all the media information for the Center. She distributed some of the marketing materials she has produced.

Ms. Wells noted that online event sign-ups are going very well now. In January, online appointments constituted 47% of the total, while in May it was 60%, and in July 82%. She added that this has greatly reduced total call volume and has been very helpful to the staff and convenient for the public. Mr. McCord asked if appliances with freon can still be brought to the Center. She replied, indicating the Center can handle items with freon and is also still offering shredding, although the public is not allowed to enter the building to view this.

Financial Report

Ms. Wells presented the financial report for review. She noted the Center is on budget across the board but noted that additional funds had to be transferred to the supply category so \$12,000 of bale wire could be purchased. The decision was made to buy in bulk while before the costs increased since the Center can't run without it.

Walker Mountain Landfill

Operations Report

Mr. Stone gave the landfill operations report for June. He noted that garbage is up by 120 for the month over last year but is down 533 for the year. C&D is down 427 for the year. Inert gained 50 tons for the month and is up over last year by 2199. He noted that we are not grinding in the inert area. We took in 13 tons of tires for the month, which is high, but we are only up about 2 tons for the year. Overall, we are up 172 tons for the month and 12,038 for the year.

He noted there has not been a significant reduction in BFI's volume. In May they paid \$100,000 bringing in 4700 tons, and in June, after the price increase was implemented, they paid in \$173,000 for 4,568 tons, which was only 134 tons down. The price increase did not cause a drastic drop, but they have been steadily declining over the last year. They are down almost 1400 tons year-to-date. Mr. Skeen said he has received notice that BFI is increasing their customer's fees since the price increase at the landfill.

Mr. Stone researched tipping fees in our surrounding areas and presented his findings as follows:

Walker Mountain Landfill - \$38/ton
Cartersville/Bartow County - \$45/ton
Calhoun/Gordon County - \$42/ton
Cedartown/Polk County - \$40/ton
Piedmont/Cherokee County, AL - \$42/ton

Mr. Jenkins noted our tipping fees will probably have to go up by 2023 once we receive our 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan from consultant, Abby Goldsmith. We had been holding off on that until we knew how our current increase would affect BFI. He added that historically we have also never included the Recycling Center in the 10-year Plan. Mr. Stone reported the credit card machine is catching on and its use has been steadily increasing. Currently cash makes up 40% of our revenue, cards are at 35% and checks make up 25%.

Mr. Stone reported that EPD inspected the landfills in May and scored Walker Mountain 100% while Berry Hill received a 95% score due to grass that needed to be cut and trees that need to come down. Crews are working to make those improvements. He noted that the new scales have been delivered and are much better and stronger than the previous ones. The life expectancy of a scale is 10-years, and we were able to get 19 years out of the old one with constant repairs.

Financial Report

Ms. Rhinehart presented the financial report for June. She noted that all the operating revenues are up from last year, except for *Residential City Collections* and *Water & Sewer Department*, *mnjhy*. Interest earned went from \$2300 at this time last year to \$12,400. Total Revenues are up about \$147,000, some of which is from BFI. Under expenses she noted that *Personal Services* is up about \$48,000. She noted the payment for the inmate crew is included in payments to Floyd County. The transfer to general fund for retirement has increased from 15.5 % of payroll last year to 17%. Expenses are pretty much in line with last year. The cash balance has increased from \$9,183,000 to \$10,923,296.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary