



Whitley County Solid Waste Management District

701 S. Line St. Columbia City, IN 46725

Monday, September 11, 2023

Regular Meeting

Present: Theresa Baysinger, Jenny Middleton, Ryan Daniel, Chad Banks, Madalyn Sade-Bartl, and Rob Schuman

Absent: Thor Hodges

Public Present- Director Tara Meyers, Matthew Shipman, Jennifer Shinabery, Cami Hippenhammer, Kay Gatton, Tiffany Deakins, and Kim Erdly

Mrs. Baysinger called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Public Hearing Curbside Recycling Fee Increase – There was no advertisement done informing the public about the public hearing for the curbside recycling fee increase therefore the board was not able to hold a public hearing. The public hearing date will be moved to October 10, 2023, 9am. Mrs. Baysinger stated that she would advertise the public hearing that is now set for October 10, 2023. Mrs. Meyers with the assistance of Mrs. Sade-Bartl will also advertise the public hearing on the Whitley County website under Solid Waste department.

Previous Meeting Minutes- Mrs. Sade-Bartl made a motion to approve meeting minutes from July 24, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Daniel. Motion passes 4/2 vote with Mr. Hodges absent. Mr. Banks and Mrs. Middleton abstained from voting. Mr. Banks made a motion to approve meeting minutes from August 14, 2023. Motion seconded by Mrs. Middleton. Motion passes 5/1 vote with Mr. Hodges absent. Mrs. Sade-Bartl abstained. Mrs. Sade-Bartl made a motion to approve vendor payables. Motion seconded by Mr. Banks. Motion passes 6/0 vote with Mr. Hodges absent.

SW Director Report- Mrs. Meyers stated things are good at the Facility and there is nothing new to report. Mrs. Sade-Bartl asked Mr. Shipman if he intended to remain the Solid Waste Management District attorney. Mr. Shipman stated that he would like to remain as the Solid Waste Management District attorney if the board wants to retain him.

Old Business

Business Recycling – Mrs. Meyers stated that we are waiting on Mr. Shipman to draft a resolution for Establishing Business Recycling Drop off at the Solid Waste Facility. Mr. Shipman stated that he would have the resolution done before our next SW Meeting on October 10, 2023.

Citizens Advisory Committee- Mr. Daniel read through the committee member requirements I.C. 13-21-3-11 again to the board. Mr. Shipman spoke briefly about the requirements and representatives the board needed to look for. Mrs. Baysinger asked the board if anyone had any representatives in mind that would be able to serve on the committee. Mr. Daniel stated he had 1 or 2 representatives in mind. Mr. Daniel stated he would speak with them about the committee. No other board members had any suggestions for committee members. Mrs. Baysinger requested that each board member come to the October 10, 2023, meeting with at least 1 name of a potential committee representative.

Curbside Recycling Fee's – Mrs. Gatton representative of the treasurer brought forth concerns about the user fee increase. Mrs. Gatton asked if state law still mandated participation in curbside recycling? Mrs. Sade-Bartl along with



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Mr. Shipman stated that it is no longer a state mandate. Mrs. Gatton asked why the Solid Waste board still mandated participation in curbside recycling for the Whitley County constituents if the state no longer mandates it? Mr. Daniel stated that the Solid Waste Board, to his knowledge, has stated the need for the district is to promote a healthier and cleaner county. He also noted that no one wants to see recycling or other debris littering the ditches, which he thought occurred prior to the district being created. Mrs. Gatton informed the board that she was seeking legal advice on the Interlocal Agreement and how it pertains to user fee increases. Mr. Shipman informed the board that if we increase the user fee then we must update the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Shipman also informed the board that the Solid Waste District should have a Joint Board in place to provide feedback and information to the District and County concerning topics like user fee increases. Mrs. Gatton along with Mrs. Deakins brought forth concerns about some constituents not knowing what the recycling fee on their tax statements was for. Mrs. Gatton and Mrs. Deakins also stated that their office was funneling the calls with questions regarding recycling fees. Mrs. Sade-Bartl stated that if constituents had questions concerning the fee's they should be directed to the Solid Waste District. Mrs. Meyers agreed that if the questions were sent to the Solid Waste District, she would take them. Mrs. Deakins asked why the Director was budgeted to receive a 6% pay increase. Mrs. Sade-Bartl and Mr. Daniel both stated that there has been no discussion or decisions made concerning any type of raise for the Director. Mrs. Sade-Bartl stated the Directors appropriation for 2024 budget is only 3.9% increase not 6%. Mrs. Gatton requested that the auditor and treasurer be included in email communications concerning the Solid Waste Board Minutes and Agenda. Mrs. Meyers was not aware she was supposed to be including them and will seek legal counsel to determine what information the District is required to share with them. Mr. Shipman also asked to be included in communications to the board. Mrs. Meyers stated that Mr. Shipman would be included moving forward.

New Business

The next Solid Waste Board Meeting was scheduled for October 9, 2023 @ 9am. Mrs. Meyers informed the board that the Solid Waste Facility will be closed on October 9th for Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day. The board rescheduled the meeting for October 10, 2023. Mrs. Baysinger requested that Mrs. Meyers update the meeting date on Whitley County website under Solid Waste department.

Mr. Shipman currently represents both the Solid Waste District and the Treasurer / Auditors Office creating a conflict of interest. Mrs. Baysinger was looking for a motion to seek legal counsel for the Solid Waste District concerning the Interlocal agreement and IC 6-1.1-27. Mrs. Sade-Bartl made the motion for the Solid Waste District to seek legal counsel and Mr. Banks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6/0 with Mr. Hodges absent.

Mr. Daniel made a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Middleton seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am

Theresa Baysinger- President

Chad Banks- Secretary