



Josephine County

Solid Waste Agency

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS
SOLID WASTE AGENCY
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021**

Meeting convened at 3:01 p.m.

Agency Board Members Present:

Rob Brandes - Chair
Rick Riker – Vice Chair
Kyrrha Sevco
Justin Fimbres
Connie Roach - Late
Steven Bethke
Brad Clark

Agency Board Members Absent:

None

Others: Trent Carpenter, Southern Oregon Sanitation
Nick Fahey, Southern Oregon Sanitation
Garry Penning – Rogue Waste Systems
Steve Haydon – SWA Budget Committee, Online
Bruce Philbrick – SWA Budget Committee
James Lowe – SWA Budget Committee, Online

Staff: Jason Canady, Operations Officer
Dianne Phelan, Minute Recorder

1. Introductions (00:00 – 03:05)

a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting at 3:02 and took roll.

2. Public Comment (03:06 – 03:09)

a. None.

3. Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from February 23, 2021 meeting. (03:10 – 03:48)

Kyrrha Sevco made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from February 23, 2021. Rick Riker seconded the motion. There were no objections, Brad Clark abstained. Motion approved 5 -0.

4. Action Items (03:49 – 03:58)

a. None

5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

a. Agency Board Items (03:59 – 35:46)

- COLA discussion – Jason shared the tentative language that was sent from Julie Jackson of Republic Services. Trent Carpenter stated that there is CPI language in the franchise, but it isn't accomplishing the goals of what it was set out to do. Currently, it takes a two-year average. By the time you work your way out of the two-year average to be eligible for a CPI, you have rate increases in the 15% range. The idea was to look at an index that was specific to the garbage industry and use that along with the profitability range they are in to have an automatic index increase. Jason reiterated the language that was presented from Republic Services as a base for a starting point. (Inaudible 7:24 – 8:57) The initial data presented by Republic Services that tracked garbage services increases would put them in the same location if this was used years ago. Jason said Republic Services will discuss this with City Council at tomorrow's meeting as a potential option, not for adoption. If the total revenue is greater than 12%, the rate as determined by the GTC will be reduced by the percentage above 12%. The intent is to keep them below the 13% maximum. Chair Brandes asked if this was implemented and working well, at what point do we rebalance based on internal margins, so we don't get back to the scenario of residential supporting commercial or vice versa? Trent said this would not help any subsidies being done between residential and commercial, it is just a general rate increase number. If there are dramatic changes from DEQ, or landfill prices increase, they would explain to the agency the dramatic change that is taking place in this specific location that is not affecting the nation. They would then be asking for a general rate increase. In the past there was the China Sward where recycling turning 180°. This is not standard operations which is what that is intended to cover. The language we now have doesn't function as designed. Trent said they aren't currently breaking out the cost allocations between residential and commercial customers.
- Jason asked permission to stop the meeting so he could restart the online meeting and fix the audio issue. Chair Brandes temporarily stopped the meeting at 3:19. (18:14 – 21:28) Chair Brandes resumed meeting at 3:22.
- Discussion continued. Jason will email the Republic Services presentation to the Board members.
- Finalize Franchise Agreements – Chair Brandes said the Franchises are quite old and there have been several smaller changes, including name changes. Jason said they compiled all the resolutions they could find into the documents and submitted them to the franchisees for review. Then they were forwarded to the agency. The documents are now ready to move forward to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Chair Brandes mentioned a couple of small transfer station changes needing to be fixed. Jason said the intent was to incorporate Kerby into Josephine County's agreement or its own

agreement and that is not in these documents. Jason said these documents will be brought before the council once this agency approves them and recommends them for approval by the boards. He recommends sending the final version and the tracked changes version to the boards, so it is clear where the changes and edits have been made. Brad asked about the specific fee in the agreement in section 3.5.2 in Republic Services for the City of Grants Pass. Jason said the mark-up that Brad is looking at is in the version that was handed out last time. It is substantially different enough that he would want to ensure that this language gets captured. This language is the language that was implemented when they did the curbside vegetative waste instead of doing the bags. Chair Brandes asked if this needed to go before Council and the Board if there is no substantive change. Jason said he thinks they need to go before the boards for adoption because they do have all the changes that have been previously adopted, but they have now been incorporated into one document. Chair Brandes said he thinks they could have the City and County attorney's sign off on them. Jason said he will reach out to the City's attorney; Chair Brandes will talk with the County's attorney.

b. Managing Agency Items (35:47 – 37:24)

- Jason stated that next month we will have the Budget Hearing. Jason finalize the documents stating that the fund budget is looking very strong and the changes that the board and the budget committee made a couple years ago to put away more of the reserve to 20% is going to get us to our target of a \$2 million reserve in a shorter time period than originally anticipated. He hopes to adopt the budget at the May meeting. We will be sending the documents out before the meeting for review.

6. Agenda building for April 20, 2021 (37:25 – 40:50)

- a. Budget – Jason said at this point we only have items for the Budget Committee meeting. We may just convene as the board to approve the minutes.
- b. Call for projects – Jason reminded Chair Brandes to send the agency an invoice for the Public Health Code Enforcement Program. He suggested having them sent every July. Chair Brandes reported on the clean-up at 113 Forest Glen in Selma. He said it was a previous meth site with over 100 vehicles. The only bid for the site was \$1.2 - \$1.3 million. DEQ says they want to work with local businesses but anyone who works on site must have the full two-day training.

7. Adjournment (40:51 – 40:52)

Meeting adjourned 3:41 p.m.

Full meeting recording available at:

<https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18858/Audio-File-SWA-Meeting---10152019>

NOTE: Please use the times listed at the end of each agenda item to forward to the segment you wish to listen to by using the link to the full meeting recording above.