



Josephine County
Solid Waste Agency

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS
 SOLID WASTE AGENCY
 MEETING MINUTES
 August 18, 2020**

Meeting convened at 3:07 p.m.

Agency Board Members Present:

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

Agency Board Members Absent:

Others:

Trent Carpenter, Southern Oregon Sanitation
 Nick Fahey, Southern Oregon Sanitation – (Teams)
 Chris Wilson, Republic Services
 Garry Pennington
 Cathy Brown, DEQ – (Teams)
 Tino Barreras, Republic Services
 Julie Jackson, Republic Services
 Dan DeYoung, BCC

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

1. Introductions (00:00 – 00:57)

- a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting and took roll.

2. Public Comment (00:58 – 01:07)

- a. No comments from the public.

3. Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from July 21, 2020 meeting. (01:08 – 1:44)

Rick Riker made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from July 21, 2020. Kyrrha Sevco seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 6-0.

4. Action Items (1:45 – 4:29)

- Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Josephine County/City of Grants Pass Solid Waste Agency Approving a Managing Jurisdiction Agreement with the City of Grants Pass. Rob explained that this was an annual resolution between the City and the County approving the City as the managing entity for this agency. Jason pulled this item from the last agenda because he was waiting to hear back from the auditors on the revised language in the Resolution. Jason hasn't heard back from the auditors, but he would like to take action today so the resolution can be adopted.

Connie Roach made a motion to approve Resolution 043-SW acknowledging the City as the Managing Jurisdiction. Kyrrha Sevco seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 6-0.

5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

a. Agency Board Items (4:29 – 1:05:01)

- New Landfill Feasibility Discussion. – No discussion.
- Southern Oregon Sanitation Annual Report. (16:11 – 33:39) Nick Fahey presented via Microsoft Teams. He reported that for Solid Waste their Capital Expenditures came to \$758,000.00 for 2019. For Grants Pass Capital Expenditures last year, they came to \$193,342.00, Josephine County was \$262,069.00, Cave Junction was \$34,568.00, Redwood Transfer Station was \$239,782.00, and Kerby Transfer Station was \$29,104.00. He said that companywide they had a Capital Spending budget of \$1.2 million and they expect that to be around \$1.4 million for 2020. For customer contact, they had a 2.4% increase in overall customer phone calls. He talked about the use Sansera software in their vehicles. This program is a Vehicle Telematics Program including GPS and cell service. It improves safety scores to 99%. It helps with reporting weight mile taxes to ODOT, has a vehicle diagnostic while on route and will mesh with their other Mobile Software. He talked about the amount in tons they received in recycling materials, commenting that they are close to what they used to be in commingled. He showed the totals for the Franchise Fees and Environmental Program Fees. He stated that they had a 1.8% increase in customer count from 2018 to 2019. They also had an increase in customers at their Solid Waste Transfer

Stations. He showed the profitability for the municipalities and transfer stations noting that they are significantly below the 9% to 13% profitability. The events they had in 2019 include Household Hazardous Waste Event, Spring clean Up, Florescent tube disposal, Booth at the County Fair, Josephine Countywide Recycling, Yard Debris for City of Grants Pass, and Construction of SOPAC completion in February 2020. This year, the Household Hazardous Waste Event will be on September 18th & 19th at the SOPAC. There is a contractor coming in that currently is holding these events, so they are used to dealing with the Covid issues.

- Republic Services Annual Report. (33:40 - 1:05:01) Chris Wilson shared the goals, donations, and awards the company has received nationally. They are rated as one of the top ethical companies for 2018 and 2019 as well as one of the top 100 sustainable companies. He said their reliability goal is 99.9% pickup and they are globally recognized as a leader in sustainability. People are the heart of their organization and they have been able to keep everyone employed over the last few month during the Covid issue. He talked about their Republic Services Charitable Foundation which sponsors programs locally and partners with nonprofits and charitable organizations. They have upgraded their website and sent out flyers intended to answer frequently asked questions. He introduced their new recycling coordinator, Tino Barreras. He is the co-facilitator of the Master Recycling Program and is an Oregon Green Schools Coordinator. Chris explained the changes in recycling and the reincorporation of plastics. He showed the landfill tons and rates for 2018 and 2019. He explained their financial documents and showed the last two years performance. He broke down the allowable 10% stating 9.5% for 2018 and 10.9% for 2019 with a two-year average of 10.2%. The total Franchise fees paid to the City of Grants Pass and Josephine County totaled \$444,000.00 in 2019. He said they retired one of their older fleet trucks that had a couple thousand miles on it with 3 engine replacements. He discussed fleet safety's focus and stated that they have a training for their employees on a monthly basis with a different goal each month. They have Focus Together, Together for Safer Roads, Retreading Tires, and Oil recycling programs. He talked about a new Rise computer platform on their trucks. This is a Windows-based program. They will also be getting tablets for all their trucks with GPS data. They did not ask for any Federal funds for Covid, but they did support their families locally by providing 1 meal at work for all the front-line families and 1 meal to take home for the first 8 weeks. Republic gave each of their front-line employees a \$100.00 gift card every other week for the eight-week period. The employees were given a list of local businesses and they were encouraged to spend the money with those businesses.

- CPI Discussion for Franchise Rates (4:29 – 16:10) Rate setting is something that happens every couple of years. If the board was to consider a CPI increase, that would eliminate the need for two- and three-year windows on adjustments as well as keeping the two franchises closer to market. Julie Jackson from Republic Services stated that they are finalizing the contract language in the franchise agreement. She stated that one of the changes they would like to see is the rate setting section. Julie said they currently have a two-year average within a certain margin to ask for a rate increase. She stated that when they ask for a rate increase, they are typically playing catch-up and they tend to be larger increases. Julie stated that they like to tailor increases to the community, not just the CPI. Jason said this is more of an introduction to the topic. If the board wishes to discuss the issue further, they can move it forward to another meeting. Trent suggested whatever CPI parameters they use, use it for both franchises. Jason stated that we will come back with specific language that can be included in the franchise and bring it back as an Action Item for discussion. He mentioned that when the board approves this, it will have to go to both governing boards for discussion and approval afterwards. Rob stated that it would be helpful to see the last 10 years of rate to see what has happened versus what the CPI's actually were.
- Transfer Station Rate Increase Discussion. (1:05:02 – 1:12:04) Trent stated that the Kerby transfer station hasn't had a rate increase in 27 years. In 2019 Kerby had a -11%, loosing \$45,000.00. Right now, they are looking to have a \$100,000.00 loss for 2020. He would like this to be an ongoing discussion. Jason talked about a potential clean-up site in Selma. One of his concerns is the more difficult we make it for people to dispose of trash in rural areas, the less likely they are to dispose of that trash. He suggested keeping this a discussion item every other month and bring that forward as we look at language for a potential CPI. Rob stated that the County Commissioners have been receiving complaints about the volume of trash being dumped in the forest. He suggested the board consider a change in the Environmental Program Fee to look at more aggressive enforcement or more clean ups. Rob asked if they raised the Environmental Program Fee to \$6.00 what would it look like. Jason will get that figure to him. He stated that they are also looking at the possibility of opening another landfill in the area.
- SWA Tote Bags – (1:12:05 – 1:15:40) Jason showed the quote for additional bags as well as color options. He asked if the board would like us to proceed with the purchase of the 5,000 tote bags. The board agreed to purchase 5,000 of the green bags.

b. Managing Agency Items (1:15:41 – 1:31:50)

- Rob stated that the revegetation of the Kerby Landfill is doing well.

6. Public comment from Commissioner DeYoung. (1:16:31 -1:31:50) Commissioner DeYoung talked about the dumping issues on Spencer Creek. He stated that this is a popular place for people to shoot guns, burn pallets and drink beer. Residents are concerned about a stray bullet getting into the canyon below and starting a fire. People are dumping items like refrigerators, mattresses, couches, televisions, car bodies, and tires. Commissioner DeYoung stated that most of this land is BLM. He said if we have a landfill that is inexpensive to get rid of the refuse people won't haul it out to the woods. He suggested having BLM and the Forest Service subsidize the landfills. He said if we can put the pressure on somebody upstream to keep their land beautiful it can help keep the cost down for our residents. Jason agreed saying he would like to hear back to see if there is any interest from them. Rob suggested having the Board of County Commissioners and the City Council draft a letter stating that we are hearing continuing complaints about trash in the forests and it has gotten to a point where it has become a load for the local haulers as well as the public.

7. Agenda building for September 15, 2020 (1:31:51 – 1:34:04)

- a. Solid Waste Clean-up in Selma.
- b. History on Rate Increase

8. Adjournment (1:34:05)

Meeting adjourned 4:41 p.m.

Full meeting recording available at:

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

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