

Hamblen County/Morristown Solid Waste Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: January 17, 2025

Hamblen County Health Department Conference Room

Board Members Present: Tom Rush-Chairman, Patrick McGuffin-Vice Chairman, Chris Cutshaw- (Ex-Officio/County Mayor), Dennis Barnes-(Ex-Officio/Director), Mike Bell, Bob Garrett, Tim Horner, Matt Lacy, Ventrus Norfolk and Will Sliger.

Others Present: Amy Hemminger, Steve Bostic, John Burgin, Paul Brown, Joey Barnard, Andrew Ellard, Gary Chesney, Ron White, Chris Capps, and Stephanie Clonce.

Meeting Called To Order: Tom Rush

Mr. Rush called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment/General Public Forum: None

Approval of Minutes: Tom Rush

Mr. Lacy made the motion to approve December 20, 2024 minutes, and Mr. Horner seconded the motion with all board members in favor. Mr. Sliger stated that in the December 20,2024 minutes, under the Manager's report, number 3 that Mr. Lacy made a motion for up to 500 ft instead of no less than 500 ft which is different. Mr. Lacy made a motion to approve the December 20, 2024 minutes to be changed and Mr. Horner seconded the motion with all board members in favor.

Financial Report: Amy Hemminger and Tom Rush

1. Review of December Financials- Ms. Hemminger stated that the audit adjustments have been posted as of December 2024 as provided by Rodefer Moss. The new accounts on the statement of net position are the bond proceeds receivable of \$4.2 million through pay app #7 and in fixed assets for Ettl expansion costs \$11 million also through pay app #7 through the end of December 2024. Bonds payable have been recorded on liability side, both short-term and long-term; shredder debt to the county has been reduced by what was paid in the prior fiscal year. On the income statement, we received a check from the county for the tire disposal grant. The account 336 maintenance and repair has a credit balance due to return on a prior invoice from Stowers.

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2. Mr. Rush inquired about the past due amount from Casella and Mr. McGuffin stated that Quality Waste received their payment, so we should hopefully be getting payment on our account soon.
3. Mr. Rush stated that the First Horizon interest rate was at 2.15% and the LGIP interest rate was at 4.56%.

Manager's Report: Dennis Barnes

1. Mr. Barnes stated that the TDEC inspection has been conducted, and everything looks good. We have not received the TDEC inspection report yet but do not expect any problems.
2. Mr. Barnes stated that Barry Calfee at Morristown Utilities is going to need a plan regarding the stormwater related to the Class I expansion and how we are going to get rid of the rainwater that falls in it.

Engineer's Report: Steve Bostic

Mr. Bostic updated the board on the engineering projects going on at the Landfill (see attachment).

Mr. Barnes stated that the pump went down, kicked on and off, and had to be done manually causing the ammonia numbers to go down.

Mr. Bostic stated that he was working on pay app #8 with E TTL representative, Mr. Barnard, because of exceeding dirt instead of rock. Currently, the Class I expansion project is estimated to exceed the project bid by approximately \$2.6 million.

TDEC approved the permit for the Class III road, and we are getting guidance and direction from TDEC on one boring that had a void under it. The ground water monitoring includes one upgradient well and two downgradient wells. The old city landfill is impacting numbers because it is not lined. TDEC is saying it is leaking on the liner in the new cell. Ruben will be setting up a meeting with TDEC in Knoxville to get clarification on this.

Mr. Bostic stated that the recycling grant he looked into is for a piece of new equipment or a cardboard compactor for recycling. Mr. Barnes stated that we could use a new compactor to replace the one we have. The application would have to be sent in by the fall on or before October 15, 2025 with a list of repairs done on the compactor.

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Mr. Barnes asked if pinnacle rock is considered rock, and Mr. Bostic answered yes. Mr. Garrett asked if the pinnacle is more and stated that the bid was underbid anyway around \$7 million lower than the other bids.

Mr. Sliger addressed the deficiencies from the TDEC at the last board meeting. Then Mr. Bostic stated that he would have those done in two weeks, and Mr. Sliger requested an update on the deficiencies. Mr. Bostic stated that it was all done except for the karst and the ground water. One of the borings was at a 1.26 void, so TDEC stated in their comments that something would have to be done about the void. Mr. Bostic stated that Geotech would have to be contacted to address the void. They would have to drill more holes around it to find the extent of it, and then they would have to fill with grout, blast it and collapse it. We're waiting on TDEC to answer us and see if this will work. Mr. Robinson is trying to get another Teams meeting with them. Mr. Sliger asked if this void cannot be filled because of the new geologist. Mr. Sliger asked if this is an engineering or TDEC issue that is going to cost us more money that we were not expecting. Mr. Bostic stated yes it will be more cost to us if TDEC would approve the grout. Mr. Bell asked where the void was and Mr. Bostic stated it was on the side of the slope, 10' at the bottom. Mr. Bell said, so it could be as big as a 55-gallon drum or as big as this building. Mr. Sliger said this is the biggest hold up on the TDEC meeting and getting the permit. Mr. Garrett asked Mr. Bostic if his company (LDA) was responsible for the aerial being done. Mr. Bostic stated that it was contracted out, but LDA is checking all their work, getting the raw numbers, and re-calculating the measurements to alleviate concerns with the contractor's work. Mr. Bostic commented that the new Class III access road would eliminate \$120,000 from the total expansion cost. Mr. Barnard with Ettl stated that they still have around 120,000 yards of dirt to remove on the south side on top of the buffer. Mr. Bostic stated that a section of rock with dirt all around it can influence the volume estimates. We took the boring data and developed a rock surface topo per TDEC requirements and calculated the estimated volume of rock required to be excavated. Based on the boring data, some of the soils depth were suitable for the buffer, how long it takes water to run through. Those estimated volumes will be available next week. The buffer material does not have to be taken out; it can be reworked by disking it and letting it dry. Then it will be retested. Mr. Sliger stated that Morristown Utilities could be a hurdle for the expansion if we do not address their additional wastewater requirements and related costs. Mr. White stated that GFL has a rain cap on theirs, and they pump it out every time it rains. Mr. Barnes stated that the 15 acres we have should be rain capped because we cannot do anything with that land. Mr. Lacy stated that we need to get on this fast, and the boring needs to be done. He said to contact Geotech to get it drilled and move around it. Mr. Bostic stated that we

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would submit the Class I AER (volume calculations) in May and will fly the drone again in March to get the numbers. We have right at a year left if the permitting proceeds smoothly, six months if this continues for 9-12 months. Mr. Rush asked if construction and groundwater is the only thing left on the eleven pages we received back revised by TDEC. Currently, the soil excavation is at \$2.6 million above the bid amount (does not include the contingency that is \$450,000). If work pauses, then we will have to pay for moving equipment. Mr. Bostic stated that the city would have to agree to the variance on the right of way. Mr. Ellard stated that he would take the buffer zone variance request to the City Council for approval to fill inside the right of way, about 20ft from the road and sewer line.

Unfinished Business: Dennis Barnes, Chris Cutshaw and Andrew Ellard

1. Mr. Barnes stated that all the liner rolls would not fit in the GFL building offered by Mr. White, but we appreciate the offer.
2. Mr. Cutshaw stated that the County had close to \$400,000 in bond interest that they would give us to help with the Class I expansion overage, and Mr. Ellard stated that the City also had around \$400,000 that they would give us. Mr. Rush stated that we really appreciate that.

New Business: Dennis Barnes and Tom Rush

1. Mr. Barnes stated that we had a batch of bills that were mailed in December that did not start showing up until this week. We included some paperwork regarding ACH payment options from First Horizon, and they can put strict authorizations on our account. We want to look into paying some of our bills through the bank account and receiving payments through the bank account via ACH transactions also to avoid these lengthy delays with the postal system. Mr. Rush stated that we would have to have a policy in place that states the controls and regulations required by the State of Tennessee Comptroller and our auditors. Mr. Rush said to speak with the auditors, check with the Comptroller, and report back next month with their input on this before we can do anything. Ms. Hemminger advised not to use the drop boxes anymore and take any mail directly to the post office.
2. Mr. Rush stated that we have a big project going on, we need everybody's input, and we need to share input. We need to be proactive as we go through this project. We are over on this project by approximately \$2.6 million, and little pieces make big pieces. We need to manage our costs. If additional funding is needed for the project, we are already checking on the potential for additional financing. If additional design work is needed, it

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needs to be done in a timely manner to complete the expansion. We need to move quickly on issues needing a resolution. We have a Class III diversion rate of about 40% on the new GFL site that is helping to extend the current landfill during the expansion. On a positive note, although our project cost is over by approximately \$2.6 million, we are still approximately \$4 million under the next lowest bid. If additional financing is needed, we are in a favorable falling interest rate environment. If we have to increase tipping fees at some point, we are currently about mid-range for the state average. We are currently receiving good inspections from TDEC for our operation. Let's not borrow problems and just work through the solutions.

Adjournment: Tom Rush

Mr. Sliger made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Lacy seconded the motion with all in favor.

Mr. Rush adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Tom Rush-Chairman



Chris Cutshaw-Mayor


