

# **Hamblen County/Morristown Solid Waste Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes: July 18, 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, Matt Lacy, Ventrus Norfolk and Will Sliger.

**Absent:** Bob Garrett and Tim Horner

**Others Present:** Amy Hemminger, Steve Bostic, Matt Davis, Andrew Ellard, Joey Barnard, Mike Richardson, Jeff Wisecarver, Drew Robinson, Stephanie Clonce and public.

### **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 the June 20, 2025 minutes, and Mr. Norfolk seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

### **Financial Report: Amy Hemminger and Tom Rush**

1. Review of June Financials- Ms. Hemminger stated that these are the preliminary financials as of June 30, 2025, and we will still have adjustments before the audit is conducted. We transferred the first quarter of 2025 capital shredder debt service tipping fees and excess of \$250,000 from the First Horizon sweep account to the LGIP general account on July 1, 2025. The statement of net position reflects the tire grant receivable for \$18,503.99. A debit balance in direct deposit liabilities shows the payroll processing to cover the July 1, 2025 payroll. On the income statement, as I mentioned, in revenue is the tire disposal grant. In maintenance and repair-equipment are the Cat D6 repair to final drive of approximately \$26,500, and transmission repair for just around \$1800 as well as the 816-compactor turbo replacement for \$5,145.
2. Mr. Rush stated that the interest rates at First Horizon and LGIP are 2.15% and 4.28%, respectively.

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### **Manager's Report: Dennis Barnes**

1. The TDEC inspection has not been done yet. We are getting a new inspector this month, but I am not sure who it will be.
2. Mr. Lacy asked Mr. Barnes if he had any fires this month. Mr. Barnes stated that we did not and stated that the camera is up, but it is not running yet.

### **Engineer's Report: Steve Bostic**

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

1. Mr. Bostic stated that the pump station needed to be cleaned out to keep the suspended solids down. Mr. Barnes stated that he would clean it out.
2. Mr. Bostic stated that the first semi-annual well-sample report had been sent to TDEC for review. Mr. Lacy and Mr. Cutshaw asked Mr. Bostic for a timeline for the expansion permit after all the sampling had been finished. Mr. Bostic stated that it will be spring of 2026 or longer. Mr. Bostic stated that he expected comments back in a couple of weeks from TDEC to go over, and he would expect a meeting with TDEC to go over the results and proceed with the response. Mr. Lacy asked Mr. Bostic after the third sampling to set up a meeting with TDEC to be ready to get the permit. Mr. Cutshaw stated that we are shooting at a moving target. Mr. Bostic stated that you have about nineteen people that are reviewing the permit, so hopefully in a couple of weeks we will hear back from them. The response to the permit submittal was submitted on June 13, 2025, and they have 60 days to respond. Hopefully, we will hear from them before the next board meeting. Mr. Sliger stated that the reports looked good, and TDEC said they were. So, nothing is wrong with the report.
3. Mr. Bostic stated that he had the expansion change order from May to be signed for ETTL. Mr. Rush will need to sign for HCMSW.
4. Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic if there had been any movement on the PFAS potential? Discussions with MUS indicated that PFAS is not on the EPA's immediate radar. The treatment system would be located at the downstream end of the leachate system.

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Storage is expensive if we must have storage bins to store the leachate volume, which is proposed to be a 14-day tank to hold 220,000 gallons, from the existing and new cells. Mr. Sliger stated that with operating costs and tanks, there are other options to hold on site or pump and haul with a backup. Mr. Bostic stated that the MUS lift station is 2.5 miles away and we could potentially rent pumps. If the existing force main were suitable, pumps could be rented to temporarily pump the leachate to the MUS Turkey Creek plant. Mr. Lacy stated that we need a tank now instead of waiting. We need to stay on top of this. Mr. Sliger stated that we could potentially spend up to \$500,000.

5. Mr. Sliger asked if the berm with rain flaps would be at leachate pump location in the new cell or higher on the site. Mr. Bostic stated that there will be a temporary system to catch and transport the stormwater to a detention pond. Mr. Barnes asked if TDEC would want another pond up front. Mr. Bostic stated that it will be phased in the project later. Mr. Rush asked what else we need and for the board members to be proactive and ask questions about this permit. Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic if it was possible to have the permit by spring or sooner than expected. Is ETTL being updated on what is going on? Mr. Bostic stated that we would see what kind of comments we get back from TDEC and talk to ETTL on those and get moving forward. The second test for well sampling will be in August. Mr. Lacy asked Mr. Barnes to call TDEC and ask about doing three samples instead of four and report back to the board.

### **Unfinished Business: Tom Rush and Andrew Ellard**

1. Mr. Rush stated that he would need a motion to approve and sign the Expansion Change Order for ETTL in the amount of \$3,014,450.40 from May which increases the adjusted Class I Phase 3 expansion contract price from \$15,474,406.50 to \$18,488,856.90. Mr. Lacy made a motion to approve and sign the Expansion Change Order as presented, and Mr. Sliger seconded the motion so we can move on. All board members present was in favor.
2. Mr. Rush stated that the board approved purchasing a new Caterpillar D6 dozer last month subject to exploring other financial options. Since then, we have been looking at different financing options for the purchase. Mr. Ellard, City Administrator for the City of Morristown, presented the board with a proposal from Cumberland Securities for a \$590,000 Capital Outlay Note. The proposed terms of this note anticipated to be dated August 29, 2025 would include an average coupon of 3.95% and additional issue costs estimated at \$9,309.45. Financing for the new dozer in the amount of \$580,690.55 and total issue costs are estimated at \$590,000.00 excluding interest. Annual debt service for

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this Note is estimated to be less than \$97,000.00 with a final payment due on June 30, 2033 as outlined in the proposed debt repayment schedule provided by Cumberland Securities. The total outlay of principal and interest over the life of the note is estimated at \$684,922.89.

3. Mr. Rush stated that the annual debt service payment on the Capital Outlay Note would be much lower than the three-year lease/purchase option offered by Caterpillar. Annual debt service for the lease/purchase option was estimated at \$210,382.20 while the Capital Outlay Note annual debt service is estimated not to exceed \$97,000.00. Having a lower debt payment on the dozer allows more financial capacity in the event the board needs additional financing in the future to complete the landfill expansion. Mr. Rush stated that he would need the following resolution approved which was included in today's packet:

"RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND A PROMISSORY NOTE RELATING TO A LOAN BY CITY OF MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE CITY'S GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000 TO FINANCE THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HAMBLLEN COUNTY/MORRISTOWN SOLID WASTE."

Mr. Rush needs a motion to approve this resolution and sign the loan paperwork so the new Caterpillar D6 dozer can be ordered. Mr. Lacy made a motion to approve the resolution and get the dozer bought, and Mr. McGuffin seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

4. Mr. Rush asked the board if they wanted to amend the fiscal 2025-2026 budget for the purchase of the D6 dozer, which would remove \$120,000 in capital expense and add \$10,000 in debt services. Mr. McGuffin made a motion to amend the 2025-2026 budget accordingly, and Mr. Lacy seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.
5. Mr. Rush stated that the ACH Policies have been approved by the Board, and the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has provided a letter included in today's packet acknowledging receipt of our pre-implementation statement for these new policies. Also, the bank will charge a set-up fee of \$150 and a monthly charge of \$55. The ACH policies will need to be changed to reflect these costs. Mr. Rush stated he would need a motion to amend the ACH policies to reflect the charges. Mr. Lacy made the motion, and Mr. McGuffin seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

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### Adjournment: Tom Rush

Mr. Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Lacy seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

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

Tom Rush-Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Rush", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Cutshaw-Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Cutshaw", written over a horizontal line.