

Hamblen County/Morristown Solid Waste Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: March 20, 2026

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, and Ventrus Norfolk.

Absent: Will Sliger

Others Present: Amy Hemminger, Steve Bostic, Ron White, Matt Davis, Larry Clark, Paul Brown, Mike Richardson, Landon Pyle, 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 February 20, 2026 minutes, and Mr. Horner seconded the motion with all board members in favor.

Financial Report: Amy Hemminger and Tom Rush

1. Review of February 2026 Financials- Ms. Hemminger stated that transfers to LGIP for the fourth quarter 2025 capital and debt service tipping fees will be made in March. On the income statement, debt interest expense represents the amount paid to the City of Morristown for the dozer just under \$10,000. Equipment maintenance and repairs made on the Cat 320 for the replacement of engine oil pump and to troubleshoot on the Cat 973 engine oil pump replacement.
2. Mr. Rush stated that the interest rates at First Horizon and LGIP are 2.15% and 3.65%, respectively.

Manager's Report: Dennis Barnes

1. According to the TDEC inspection reports for last month and this month, we have had litter issues and erosion repair issues in the old cell. Also, we were written up for not having enough equipment on site. Mr. Rush asked if the compactor was down when TDEC came and wrote us up. Mr. Barnes stated that we had a couple of machines down

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when he came. The engine oil pump did not fix the Cat 320, and a new motor was ordered for it.

2. Two employees quit, and one was the foreman. Another employee has been moved up to supervisor.
3. Mr. Barnes stated that Tim Hendrick and Barbara Horton talked about a grant that we may be eligible to purchase a new track hoe. Mr. Barnes has a meeting with them around 1:00 p.m. today. We will need a new compactor for Class I, but it will be a couple of years.

Engineer's Report: Steve Bostic

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

We have been asking TDEC about the status of the permit. We have been asking them for about 3 months. We are going to see if we can set up a meeting next week to go over everything.

Mr. McGuffin stated he talked to someone at TDEC and they told him at the rate we are going we would not have a permit this year. Mr. McGuffin asked if LDA can get us across the line or do we need to hire some help. Mr. Bostic stated that they would be hitting this at one hundred miles per hour. We have addressed their comments since day one and they are saying some of them have not been addressed. Mr. Bostic stated that he would be working on this all weekend to get it done and returned to the state. We meet with them to get directions and then TDEC says that we are not addressing the issues. We are going to try and get a meeting with TDEC representative, Rob Burnette, in Chattanooga. A lot of comments are coming from him. Mr. Lacy asked if he had tried to contact them before now. Mr. Bostic replied that he could not get ahold of him for a meeting. Mr. Lacy asked what we were going to do about ETTL. They are fixing to move equipment, and it is going to cost us a lot of money. How are we going to get ETTL to come back and finish our job? There is no way we have two years left in Class I. ETTL has been on idle for a year now, so what are we going to do? Mr. Rush asked how much air space we have left, and Mr. Bostic stated that he would let them know the totals next week. Mr. Rush stated that we need that right away, so we know what we are dealing with. Mr. Barnes stated that he thinks we have less than a year left. Mr. Lacy stated to Mr. Bostic that he needs to have that meeting next week and get this corrected. Mr. Bostic stated that he would if Mr. Burnette meets with him. Mr. Cutshaw asked why the items had not been cleaned up and turned in properly. Mr. Bostic stated that TDEC changed their

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minds on how they wanted it, and he had no idea why those things were still on there. TDEC was adding things, errors on arrows and typing errors. Mr. Lacy asked who was in charge of getting this fixed, and Mr. Bostic said it was his fault. Mr. Rush stated to Mr. Bostic that he would like an email telling the board when the meeting is set up in Chattanooga. Mr. Rush stated that this was a big report and at this point it is not what we were expecting this late in the game. We are just concerned. Two pages I could have understood, but not twelve pages.

Unfinished Business: Tom Rush

We are trying to get ready to work on the draft budget workshop and we are looking at the date of May 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., which will be at the landfill office with Dennis, Steve, Amy, Stephanie, and myself. Will that work for everyone? Everyone stated yes.

We will have a special work session with the board on June 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department. This will be to make changes or additions to our budget prior to approving the budget at the June 19, 2026 regular board meeting.

Mr. Rush stated that in the packet was a letter to the State telling them that we are not a regional authority board, so we would not have to vote on the SEI landfill. SEI will take their request to the city and county. Mr. Capps stated that there had been a misunderstanding with the state. At one time we were considered the Solid Waste Regional Authority, but we are not anymore. We cannot find any records; this board does not have any authority to decide if SEI can have a landfill. It will be up to the city and the county. Mr. Rush stated that we should be able to get information about how much SEI is bringing to us. Mr. Bostic stated that there were a lot of asbestos buried in that landfill, they may not want to pursue it.

New Business: Tom Rush

Mr. Rush stated that this board has no regional authority to vote for the Class III landfill for SEI, LLC. The letter from Nick Nytle of TDEC states that TDEC cannot find anything either. Mr. Capps stated that there are no documents or records that show TDEC has made us a regional authority.

Adjournment: Tom Rush

Mr. Rush adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

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Tom Rush-Chairman



Chris Cutshaw-Mayor


