

Members Present: President Joe Krapohl, Secretary Bill Lucas, Commissioners Jeff Wright, Cloyce Dickerson, Ron Winters, Ted Henry, Mike Keeler and Archie Bailey, Patrick Gleason arrived at 10:40 a.m.

Members Absent: Vice President Jim Washington,

Staff Present: Amy McMillan, Director; Ron Walker, Deputy Director; Leisa Gagne, Finance Officer; Nancy Edwards, Program Specialist, Hilda McShane, Marketing Specialist; Deborah Wilkes, Secretary

Others Present: Brian Barkey, Legal Counsel; Joe Madore, Richfield Twp. Supervisor

Call to Order. President Krapohl presided over the meeting and called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1) Opportunity for the public to address the commission. President Krapohl asked if there is anyone wishing to address the Commission. Per commission rules each person shall have three minutes in which to address the commissioners. No one addressed the commission.

2) Consent Agenda. Discussion: President Krapohl asked if any commissioners wished to remove any items from the consent agenda. No items were removed.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Lucas

Supported by Commissioner Henry

Motion and support for approval of consent agenda items A-D as listed.

Roll Call

Yeas: Bailey, Dickerson, Henry, Keeler, Krapohl, Lucas, Winters

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Washington is absent; Commissioner Wright arrived late and Commissioner Gleason is out of the room. Both missed this vote.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0

4) Report from Legal Counsel. Mr. Barkey reported about the Richfield Landfill. The issue originally came up in 2008 to significantly expand the landfill and a proposal for a corrective action plan (CAP) regarding the existing cells of the landfill. A CAP was adopted and a consent agreement was entered into the court system in Ingham County confirming the CAP. The issue raised during the last meeting was whether or not the CAP required a public sewer to carry away water off that site or if it also contemplated whether an onsite processing and disposal into the Reservoir was permitted. Mr. Barkey has done some investigation and has had some contact with the DEQ who is in charge of enforcing and monitoring the landfill operation.

He learned from the consent decree and CAP that there is a 5-yr plan outlined. It was contemplated that once the new cell was opened the operation would create the need to somehow process and carry water off the site in some way. In the CAP and consent it was contemplated that by the year 2013 that would be taken care of by a public sewer system, a line brought out to the landfill to process that water. The DEQ is concerned that 2 yrs have passed and with only 3 yrs until that date they want to know what the status of that is. They asked the landfill to tell them what the status is and, in the event the public sewer is not available, what the plan is to take care of the water. In the analysis for the CAP and consent judgment, two other alternatives were identified (besides the public sewer) one was to pump the fluid off – which is what they are doing now - and the other was to process it onsite. The option of the public sewer was the preferred means to take care of the water. The state is asking the landfill to report the status and re-evaluate those three possibilities in light of the current status and the response is due by August. There is currently no proposal to the State to process on-site. Now is the perfect time to become involved in this process. A full written report will be given to the commissioners at the next meeting with more detail. Mr. Barkey said he is very grateful to the township for bringing this to our attention and allowed us to do this investigation and we will recommend that a proactive stance with a response to this.

Commissioner Henry: And is it at their expense to bring the sewer line down.

Mr. Barkey, Yes and No, it will be brought down as a public sewer and available to people along the way to tie in to the public sewer and would involve an assessment depending how it is financed, against local landowners, it may require they tie in. It is a significant undertaking.

Commissioner Wright said it would be significant, involving millions of dollars. The township got on the hook to put the water line in and they (the landfill) haven't been the best payer of that debt and one of the things required to put the sewer line in is for the full faith and credit backing of the township to sell the bond and the township is concerned and has reason to be.

Commissioner Bailey asked if Mr. Barkey sees a lawsuit in the future.

Mr. Barkey: There is an existing lawsuit pending since 1991 in Ingham County and yes it is possible for future lawsuits.

Commissioner Keeler: Is there anything in the papers that says what will happen if these things are not done by 2013?

Mr. Barkey: In the CAP there is a financial assurance built in, to make sure the landfill funds the plan. Whether that is going to prove adequate or not is yet to be seen. The landfill cannot just walk away and not have these items funded.

Mr. Wright: The landfill needs another cell to be permitted. This is the only place we or anyone else, have leverage to get these things done that haven't been done yet. He doesn't know if they have started that process yet, short of that I don't think there is a penalty.

Commissioner Henry: The growth rate of the current cell, does that play into this? And, in the event they ask for a new cell, would the growth rate be brought up?

Mr. Bailey: Yes, because one of the things that caused the state to inquire now is the growth rate the landfill projected when the 5 yr plan was created, and what is actually happening now.

Commissioner Henry: Is Republic Waste Services, the dumpster company, is that the same waste company?

Mr. Madore: No.

Mr. McMillan said she has shared the information with the Holloway Lake people and will share the written report with them when it is completed by legal counsel.

5) Director's Report.

A. Rock Crawl Phase III. Construction of this phase is funded by a State of MI Department of Natural Resources Off Road Trails Division grant. The first two phases are activities that anybody with basic stock trucks can use. This phase would require a modified vehicle. Park staff bid the project through the County's Purchasing Department and 4 bids were received. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Pete's Contracting of Falmouth, MI. Although they are not a Genesee County firm they do purchase their materials (rocks, gravel) from Genesee County sources.

Commissioner Lucas: Are they union?

Ms. McMillan: I don't know.

Commissioner Henry: Are there requirements for pay scale? Did we do a best and final offer?

Ms. McMillan: Prevailing wages are required and yes, we met with the two lowest contractors.

Mr. Wright: Was Agrosaping disqualified because they didn't have a bid bond?

Ms. McMillan: That was one reason, plus a couple other.

Commissioner Bailey: Where are they from?

Ms. McMillan: Falmouth, MI. Their gravel pit is located in Grand Blanc and stones will come from west of the Chesaning area.

Mr. Wright: Are these flat surface rocks? Do you have a rock cost and labor cost?

Mr. Walker: No, they are large round. We have a per/rock price and separate labor costs.

Mr. Wright: The Drain Commission has some rocks at the maintenance facility on Beecher Road. There is a rock pile the size of this conference room and they are very large rocks. If you get the opportunity to get there and take a look we could offer them for 1/2 price.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Henry
Supported by Commissioner Bailey

Motion and support to award Rock Crawl Phase III contract to Pete's Contracting, Inc in the amount of \$123,295.00

Roll Call:

Yeas: Lucas, Gleason, Dickerson, Wright, Winters, Bailey, Keeler, Krapohl, Henry

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Washington

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

B. Morel Mushrooms. Ms. McMillan said she received a telephone call from a gentlemen living in the Grand Blanc area who confessed to picking mushrooms in the parks for the last 40 years, and being unaware that it was against park rules. He was inquiring about the part of the rule that waives the rule with the written approval of the director or parks commission. It was a combination complaint/request, but clearly the most elegant complaint she has ever received. He stated his love for the parks and picking mushrooms and asked if perhaps the parks could grant permission to pick them.

She told him that as a director, she never feels comfortable granting a single person permission that is not extended to everyone. The state permits morel hunting on state owned property. The staff requests the commissioners lift out from the rule to allow mushroom hunting on park property with the exception of For-Mar, starting immediately. She would like to ask for a pilot program for next year that would put into place a permit process. The public would call or come into the office and register for a free permit, providing name and address so we can see where we are drawing people from for this activity and we can measure the economic impact of this activity as well. This activity could also lead to some educational programming opportunities.

Commissioner Lucas: What about hunting for certain mushrooms in the fall as well? The button mushrooms are found in the fall. If you open for one mushroom, it should be for all mushrooms.

Ms. McMillan: She hasn't had that request, but we could leave it at all mushroom picking. Mushrooms are not primary forage for woodland animals. Their decomposition, however impacts the soil quality supporting other plant and animal life but no forms of wildlife actually eat mushrooms.

Commissioner Wright: Can they pick asparagus?

Commissioner Keeler: (jokingly) Can they have the report include where they found the mushrooms?

Ms. McMillan: Absolutely not! (laughed) Everybody has their spot!

Commissioner Henry: He'd support the asparagus under a separate motion too because once it grows you can't get rid of it. Critters never eat asparagus either.

Action Taken:

Motion by Commissioner Wright

Supported by Commissioner Henry

Motion and support to allow mushroom hunting on park property with the exception of For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum.

Roll Call: Wright, Dickerson, Henry, Lucas, Winters, Bailey, Gleason, Krapohl, Keeler

Yeas:

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Washington

MOTION CARRIED 9-0

C. Cancellation of Bridge Dedication. Ms. McMillan apologized for the cancellation, but it will be rescheduled.

D. Park Status. Last week Davison Roadside Park road was washed out completely. Gravel has been brought in and it looks really nice now. The grass is really shaggy right now in several parks, we are mowing where we can, but it is still very wet and the machinery is heavy and we don't want to damage the machinery or the turf. If people are patient, they will get mowed.

E-coli counts are extremely low so the beaches are open for the weekend.

Wolverine had a couple campsites that were flooded and some campers were moved around. One spot at Elba is not suitable for camping.

Commissioner Wright asked when the water sample was taken because that is a really good reading after the rains and runoff we've had.

Ms. McMillan: Monday, but she isn't sure what time they were taken, but yes it was after the weekend rains. Maybe it's the sheer volume of water.

Sunday we have the fireworks and summer celebration at Bluebell Beach.

Crossroads opens on Saturday.

Senior Power Day, despite the awful weather, about 1300 people showed up. No incidents or medical emergencies were reported.

Friday, June 3 until Sunday, June 5 the director will be out of town, however, available by phone or text.

6) New Business. President Krapohl asked Commissioner Winters to serve on the budget committee. We will have a budget sub-committee meeting after the next meeting on June 9.

7) Opportunity for Commissioners to address the Commission.

Commissioner Bailey asked if, in general, it is this easy to change a park rule.

Ms. McMillan: This is not changing it is suspending that part of the rule. Park rules do give permit to the park commission to give certain permissions. We have, in the past asked permission to do pilot programs regarding hunting, bowfishing, waterfowl hunting that are contradictions to the park rules. Typically when we ask for a pilot program we check back every year with the commission to report on the activity and ask to extend the program.

Recently, if you remember, we asked permission from the commission to approve swimming outside of the designated swim area at Clover Beach and launching of non-motorized boats for the 1st Try Triathlon event.

Commissioner Henry: When the mushroom conversation came up to Commissioner Gadola, he (the Grand Blanc resident) told the commissioner he needed a pass to get into the park.

Ms. McMillan: No, he doesn't need a pass to enter a park unless it is to enter a boat launch area and he wanted to park at Walleye Pike or Bluegill boat launch area. There are many parking areas where you don't need a permit to park.

Commissioner Wright: Is anybody here joining the Warrior Dash?

Ms. McMillan: Nancy Edwards, Deb Wilkes, Teneisha Calhoun, Brian VanPatten, Nate from the Planning Commission. About 22,000 are entered. Ms. Edwards said capacity is 26,400 participants. Ms. McMillan said we've been told we are one of the fastest registration locations for this event. The economic impact to the area is expected to be in the area of 5 million dollars. We are being courted by some other events right now.

Commissioner Henry: He got the memo about the sand for the horse stalls. Blue clay is something the vendors are always trying to get rid of it and he can talk to Ms. McMillan about that.

8) Opportunity for the public to address the commission.

Joe Madore commented that he doesn't want to get off on the wrong track on the landfill issues. He knows Holloway Reservoir Lake Association is doing a great job to protect the area and keep an eye on things out there. But some of them, not all, have an agenda and live and die to see the landfill closed. So please verify the information and "facts" that are presented to you before you proceed.

To back up: are they paying us promptly on the water line, no, but they do pay, the slurry wall, they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars doing that, they contain the water, the haul it off, the water between the landfill and the reservoir he would venture to say is less contaminated all the time. Look at some of the positives the landfill has done and if they had never been there we would be worse off, he believes, as far as the environment out there. So don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Yes they have some issues, but look at the whole thing, collect all the information and look at it correctly. Several communities count on them daily to pick up their trash so actions could have a ripple affect. By all means hold their feet to the fire, but he would like to see it is all done in a good fashion and everything handled rationally. What they are trying to do, there are some positives, but they do shoot themselves in the foot quite a bit.

Commissioner Wright: Just to be clear, the township is not interested in building the sewer line for them.

Mr. Madore: No, we've told them we are not interested any more in bonding this project. He's glad the commission is talking to the DEQ for all the water quality issues.

9) Adjournment. President Krapohl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 with no objections.