

Blue Hills Environmental Association, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2015

In Attendance:

Paul Ramsey
Delwin Wengert
Barry Weller
Robert Mackenzie
Spence Udall
Steve West

Tami Ryall
Ferrin Crosby
Betty Smith
Gail Golden
Ray Davis

Item #1 - Welcome

Paul Ramsey welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m. on February 24, 2015.

Item #2 – Approval of Minutes

Delwin Wengert made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2014, board meeting. Spence Udall seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #3 – Election of Officers

Paul asked for election of officers. Ray Davis stated currently Paul is the President, Delwin is the Vice President, and James Nelson is the Secretary. Robert Mackenzie made a motion that the officers remain the same. Delwin seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #4 – Managers Report

Ray reported the customers were staying consistent for residential and commercial. Ray also reported on the inspections from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and stated all went well. Ray reported the Blue Hills Environmental website now offers an online bill payment system. It has some issues, but the Blue Hills Environmental staff are working to resolve these issues and people are now utilizing that option. Barry asked if Blue Hills Environmental tracks tonnage that goes to the landfill and if so can he get a copy. Ray reported he would get a copy for everyone interested in seeing tonnage. There was a discussion on the Landfill size. What does Blue Hills Environmental do with the tires it takes in as well as the scrap metal? Ray discussed money in the savings account. It was suggested he meet with Tim Hinton to discuss options. No motion.

Item #5 – Discussion of New Scale at the Landfill

Ray reported that the scale at the landfill was in need of replacement, it has been in place since 1991. Ray had received three bids on scales. The three scales are full truck scales, which will accommodate the trucks Blue Hills Environmental is weighing currently. Robert asked if one was better than the next. Ray stated the Southwest Scale at the landfill has been reliable and he has been pleased with them and the service. Paul asked what the staff recommended – Ray stated Southwest. Steve made a motion to approve the bid from Southwest. Tami seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #6 – Discussion of Commercial Equipment

Ray stated at the last board meeting a discussion was held on moving forward to start replacing the Blue Hills Environmental Rear Load fleet and moving ahead to Front Load Trucks. Ray reported he had three bids on Front Load Trucks as well as containers. Ray reported that some of the current 2 and 3-yard containers can be modified, but all of the 4, 6 & 8-yard would need to be replaced. Ray stated the 2013 Peterbilt Demo had about 30,000 miles and no warranty on the chassis. Warranty work becomes an issue because of the four-hour trip to the valley. Ray reported on the number of cans Blue Hills Environmental would need to convert the Alpine, Nutrioso, Greer, Springerville and Eagar areas, and suggested if Blue Hills Environmental goes this route, to start in Alpine and work down. Blue Hills Environmental would need to purchase some 2 and 3 yards to start the process. Blue Hills Environmental would move the best Rear load trucks and containers to St. Johns and finish utilizing the life left in the Rear load equipment. The surplus trucks and containers would be sold if there were a market for that equipment. Robert asked if Blue Hills Environmental could do a portion of the routes. Ray responded it would need to be a big enough portion to make it worthwhile. Paul asked how many trucks are needed to do the conversion. Ray stated two. One new or demo and one backup truck. Paul and Ferrin asked the benefits of going Front load. Ray stated it is safer, faster and more efficient. Steve stated how labor intensive the Rear Load was. He also reported he had talked to McNeilus about financing options and state there are numerous options as far as low down payments to skipping 3 months to leasing it. Delwin asked if there was an option for guaranteed buy back. Ray stated he did not think so. Empire does have the option on equipment, but he has not seen that option on a trash truck. Spence stated to convert all the Rear loads in that area was about \$80,000, but if we can save and use the 2 and 3 yards, it cuts it down to around \$65,000. There was a conversation on purchasing one truck and waiting on the second. Paul stated if we go this direction, Blue Hills Environmental should buy both trucks. Staff recommends moving forward with the Front Load option. Paul asked if the board wants to have another meeting to discuss financing options. Steve said he is good with the executive committee moving forward with the financing. Robert made a motion to proceed with Front Load with the executive committee to help. Spence seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #7 – Discussion of Salaries

The board discussed the options of a salary schedule for Blue Hills Environmental employees. Ray reported he would like to give Blue Hills Environmental employees a 3% raise. Barry asked what the turnover at Blue Hills Environmental was. Ray reported the last employee to leave was over one year ago, so not a very large turnover. Ray commented on the good employees on staff. How committed they are to doing their jobs and providing customer service. Delwin stated a 3-5% raise was in line. Tami thought a firm number should be in place because when an option is given, it usually goes to the higher end of the percentage. Barry recommended he would like to see the impact of a 4% of the salaried budget and bring that to the executive meeting. Tami would like to see how the raises if implemented would affect the budget. Paul stated that Ray could get that information to everyone once details on the trucks are worked out. Paul stated that executive meeting would need to be posted to stay in compliance and anyone that wants to come can. Barry made a motion to approve raises for Blue Hills Environmental employees from 2-6% based on the salary and wages numbers Ray brings to the executive committee. Robert seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

There was a discussion on Ray and his salary and his performance review. Barry made a motion to give Ray a \$500 increase and a 3% raise after the salary & wages are delivered to the executive committee. Spence seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Item #8

Discussion of Clean-Up Dates

Ray led the discussion of clean-up dates. Springerville and Eagar will be held May 16th. St. Johns will be held May 2nd. There was a discussion of what was to be charged. Whether it was a \$5.00 flat fee or give the citizens a free pick-up load with a water bill. Ray discussed handing out a punch card to replace water bills in the outlying areas. Ray will set dates for Alpine, Nutrioso, Vernon and Concho. There was a discussion on area clean-ups. Ray stated that Blue Hills Environmental is always willing to help out. Ray referenced a couple of clean-ups where communities have had a main street clean up and Blue Hills Environmental disposed of the refuse with no charge. Blue Hills Environmental is always willing and looking for opportunities to help our areas clean up debris. Barry discussed the need for cleanups throughout the county.

Item #9

Discussion of next board meeting which is set for July 14, 2015. The executive committee will meet as soon as Ray gets the information.

Item #10

Adjournment – Spence made a motion to adjourn. Delwin seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.